

Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum

March 9th, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes

Welcome

Donna welcomed those attending and explained the Forum would focus on Community Gardening

All presentations can be viewed the RVS Website: <https://www.rvs.org.uk/group-support/voluntary-sector-forum/volunteer-forum-notes-and-presentations/voluntary-sector-forum-march-2022/>

1. Helen Ellis, Resilience Garden, Aldershot Military Museum

Helen gave an overview of the Resilience Garden setting out the development, funding and longer terms plans for the garden.

Questions to Helen

Q. Which Men's Shed is supporting the project?

A. Church Crookham & Fleet

Comment: Juliet interested to talk to make Helen to make links with bee keeping and areas for wild pollinators

Q. Has a poppy corner been considered? –

A. We are thinking of doing something under the War Horse and would like to use the Tommy Silhouette on information boards and hang 3D poppies around the garden.

Q. Do you need more volunteers?

A. Yes, we would welcome more able bodies volunteers to help with heavier manual work.

Helen can be contacted at garden4resilience@gmail.com

2. Blooming Marvellous – Hazel Chant, Rushmoor Voluntary Services

Blooming Marvellous is a supported gardening group for adults with or recovering from mental ill health. The group of 25 volunteers work on several projects across Rushmoor, including two allotment sites, the Peace Garden in Manor Park Aldershot, garden maintenance for local residents, support for Farnborough Abbey and local growing projects in the town centre.

Questions to Hazel

Comment: Colin Slatter recognised the benefits Blooming Marvellous gives to the mental health of those benefiting from the garden maintenance work.

Q. What is the capacity to take on more volunteers and do they have to live in Rushmoor.

A. They don't have to live in Rushmoor, but they do need to be able to get to the meetings.

3. Hart Minding the Garden, Caroline Winchurch.

Caroline set out the vision for Hart's Minding the Garden project, located within Eden Brook Country Park. Whilst still in development, a lot of work has taken place to get the project up and running.

Questions to Caroline

No questions raised.

4. Hawley Community Garden, Bob Kiteley & Purna Gurung.

The garden is run by local volunteers with membership open to all residents of all ages and abilities. The site includes areas for growing produce and education areas with a wildlife pond. The group also enjoy family workshops and community events.

Questions for Bob and Purna

Q. Lucy Crockford – Grainger – what do groups do about a cup of tea?

A. Resources are on site to accommodate or take a big flask of hot water and refreshments.

Q. Is there a geographical restriction for members?

A. No, have a limit for 30 households to be engaged in project and have capacity to take a few more.

Q. Could you explain the model?

A. It was agreed that members are household members, and they pay a membership fee for the whole household. At harvest time, whoever is at the garden can harvest 'pick and grow' produce such as spinach. Larger crops are weighed to keep a record of the crop and divided between households by weight.

Q. Will there be a harvest festival open day this year?

A. Yes there will be an open day, date to be confirmed.

5. NEH&F Social Prescribing Project, Family Action (Frimley), Laura Gilbert

The project takes a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, open to anyone aged 18 years and over. Laura set out who the project supports, the Partner organisations involved in the project and how they work with clients. Laura spoke about Green Prescribing which recognises the benefits of nature-based interventions and activities.

Questions to Laura.

Q. Can you explain how your team works alongside SP in GP surgeries.

A. Social Prescribers are based in GP surgeries and work directly with the NHS. Referrals come directly from the GP surgery where they are based. Our referrals come from anywhere in the community.

Q. What gaps do you feel there are in the delivery of social prescribing in our local communities?

A. Transport is one of the biggest issues along with volunteer drivers enable wheelchair users to access the activities.

Q. How many clients are you dealing with in Aldershot and Farnborough area?

A. We have a team of 4 Social Prescribers and would have a caseload of 80 people at any one time.

Q. How do we get on the Social Prescribers books for the activities we deliver?

A. Our community directory is vast and covers a large area. Welcome to join SP team meeting to highlight projects.

Q. Where are you based?

A. Our office is in Fleet, which is our team base.

Comment: if you want to learn about social prescribing - regular webinars you can join <https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/thriving-communities/>

Closing notes – Donna Bone CEO Rushmoor Voluntary Services

1. RVS has secured funding to appoint a Community Gardening Co-ordinator. The postholder will create a network group for those involved in Community Garden projects to share learning.

RVS and Hart Voluntary Action are partners in the Community Infrastructure Partnership. The CIP has secured Lottery funding to support groups to reduce the carbon footprint generated from voluntary sector service delivery. A Hampshire Environmental Network will be developed to support this work. Information will be circulated. Please contact your local CVS if interested.

2. RVS still has places available on its one day First Aid training course on March 24th. Please see the RVS website if you are interested: [RVS Training opportunities – Rushmoor Voluntary Services](#)

3. Please update Louise Plummer with any changes to membership information.

4. Donna thanked everyone who has been involved in the response to Covid over the last two years.

5. The RVS website has details of National and International organisations supporting the Ukraine Crisis. <https://www.rvs.org.uk/support-for-ukraine-2022/>

6. Donna thanked the speakers for their valuable and insightful presentations and thanked those attending for joining the Forum.

Date Of Next Meeting: Wednesday June 8th, 2022

For Information

Hampshire Disabilities Day Opportunity Model (HDDOM)

Details about the Hampshire Disabilities Day Opportunity Model (HDDOM) are available for organisations to view once they have registered with the Hampshire In-tend procurement portal. The opportunity for an organisation to apply to join the list of approved providers is on a rolling basis, and the current programme runs to August 2028 for new registrations.

Step 1- register with Hampshire In-tend and wait for confirmation that you organisation is eligible from HCC Procurement (this is usually very quick). Step 2 - click on the Tenders tab and view open tenders - select AS08331 Hampshire Disabilities Day Opportunity Model (HDDOM) and then click on Express Interest. Again, wait for a message via email to confirm the Expression of Interest has been approved and then you will have access to a set of documents detailing the specification for the service and in this case a spreadsheet with a set of questions to complete which is not a lot of information. You will need a description of your service, the sessional cost, costs for additional support workers if required. Once ready - you upload the document via Hampshire In-tend and press submit. The link to see top-line information is here <https://intendhost.co.uk/hampshire.aspx/Tenders/Current>

2. Together for our Planet

A National Lottery grant funded through the Together for the Planet programme has been awarded to the Community Infrastructure Partnership (CIP) to enable them to co-ordinate a piece of community-led research during the year, on how to respond to climate change challenges.

Across Hampshire there is a wide and varied voluntary, community and social enterprise sector providing all kinds of community activity. When it comes to tackling climate change, they all face two major challenges:

- Reducing the carbon footprint of their service delivery
- Protecting communities from impact of climate change

The CIP (comprising 7 Councils for Voluntary Service across Hampshire) will create and coordinate a series of Action Learning sets (ALS) involving local community organisations to generate ideas and priorities for the local charities and groups.

They will also develop a Hampshire Environmental Network (HEN). HEN is designed to help the charities and groups to share ideas and learning and to take action to respond to green and environmental issues.

Hampshire County Council has a strategic priority to be Carbon Neutral by 2050 and they are preparing to be resilient in case of temperature rise of up to 2°C. HEN will work to bring likeminded organisations together to take an active part in changing the way we work and to consider the impact that climate change will have on our local communities.

If your organisation is interested in being involved with the HEN, please contact a member of CIP:

Action Hampshire www.actionhampshire.org

Basingstoke Voluntary Action www.bvaction.org.uk

Gosport Voluntary Action www.gva.org.uk

Hart Voluntary Action www.hartvolaction.org.uk

One Community www.1community.org.uk

Rushmoor Voluntary Services www.rvs.org.uk

Unity www.unityonline.org.uk