

Grant update report

Recipient: The Fermain Club
Amount issued: £2,000
Date Issued: 22nd November 2021
Issued for: Feasibility study

The feasibility study is coming to a close. Sadly the response to both the Youth Survey and local business survey has been pretty poor – despite Youth Fed, MTC, The Pledge and North Cheshire Chamber pushing this. We will be attending a number of networking events in Macclesfield. But we will just have to run with the data that we have.

In reality we have decided that the most cost effective option is to utilise the site that we have at Fermain and work with the school to open a Youth Club for Young People utilising the school building and developing the land behind (owned by The Fermain Club charity). The idea is to build an all weather sports pitch on the site and ultimately put in a sports centre.

A pre-planning application was submitted to Cheshire East Council in mid December. We are still waiting to hear back from them.

We have some interest from local businesses in helping us to fundraise and we have a supporter on board who has undertaken large fundraising campaigns in the past and is willing to open up his network.

As soon as the feasibility study is finalised and signed off by the trustees – we will send through a copy.

Recipient: Macc ladies FC
Amount issued: £2,000
Date issued: 8th March 2022
Issued for: Replacement kits

The grant was to help with the rebranding of Macclesfield Town Ladies FC following the dispute over ownership of the old badge and specifically to help with the cost of playing and training kit replacement. To date we have:

- * Redesigned the badge with the approval of Macclesfield Town Council
- * Redesigned our playing and training kit for next season (begins September 2022)
- * Launched our new website www.macclesfieldtownladiesfc.co.uk incorporating the new branding. The home page includes the 'Supported by Macclesfield Town Council' logo.
- * We are currently in discussions with potential sponsors for the next two seasons. Once sponsorship deals are in place we will finalise the kit designs for next season. I am looking at ways on incorporating the Macclesfield Town Council logo in that.

* We have sent a short press release to Macclesfield Express regarding the website launch etc including reference to the help from the Council. We have a very good working relationship with the newspaper and hope this will feature next week.

Recipient: St Peters Church
Amount issued: £625
Date issued: 6th September 2021
Issued for: Wildflower planting project

Wildflowers for Macc! *Growing, distributing and promoting wildflower seeds and plants*

Update on Grant: 7th April 2022 (Further actions since February update highlighted in bold)

Objective of project (from the grant application)

'Wildflowers for Macc' is a small scale local project which is nevertheless important as it is only by mobilising local initiatives across the country that we can make a difference. As well as the production and distribution of wildflower seeds and plants the project will give away seeds to homeowners as gardens are an important habitat, and build public support for restoring biodiversity.

The grant is requested to support the following activities:

Production and distribution of wildflower seeds and plants.

Promotion of wildflower seed planting including information panels at the gardens, information leaflets and website.

Progress to date

- We received grant approval on 8th September
- Colleagues from St. Peter's Community Gardens and Macclesfield Wild Network Trust have had several meetings to plan the programme.
- An initial list of wildflower species for which seeds will be produced has been agreed.
- We have obtained species which we can source from our current gardens, allotments etc
- We have purchased other species which are not locally available
- We have developed a method for preparing raised beds to avoid weed encroachment and to provide a low-nutrient medium, based on blending leaf mould with sharp sand
- We have met to start the spring programme, with volunteers working the beds from 21st February
- Text has been produced for initial promotion and for interpretation signs
- A series of community workshops are being planned for April-October 2022 which will include information and promotion of wildflower planting

- **Artwork has been prepared for interpretation boards in the gardens, an explanatory booklet on making use of wildflower seeds, and seed packets, and print quotes have been secured.**
- **Volunteers including Rossendale residents have started working the gardens, preparing the seedbeds and preparing compost.**
- **A new roof has been fitted to the gardens workshop after the storms damaged it!**

Next steps

- **Complete preparations of raised beds**
- **Complete production of interpretation boards**
- **Finalise and print information leaflet and seed packets**

Plan further promotional and distribution activities

Recipient: Macclesfield College

Amount issued: £2,000

Date issued: 6th September 2021

Issued for: Community garden project

The next stage of the project is underway. Our community garden plan has been finalised and our construction students are busy building planters and a brick well as a centre piece. We wanted to get the students involved in this transformation as this will also be a space for them to enjoy in the future. Our 110 anniversary garden planning is also underway with work on that to commence during May half term. Our benches remain very popular with the students and staff and the flowers are just starting to bloom.

Recipient: Friends for Leisure

Amount issued: £1,380

Date issued: 22nd November 2021

Issued for: Social outings

We have spent £316.22 so far, broken down as:

- Pizza delivery at Macclesfield 15UP (requested by the disabled young people themselves and undertaken while many of our vulnerable individuals were still trying to minimise their contact with the general public earlier in 2022) - £50.00
- Meals at Macclesfield Superbowl for both Macclesfield youth groups - £128.92
- Holiday activity for PALS (ordering own meal, socialising with friends, paying for own meal) -The Cock Inn, Henbury - £137.30.

A meal out at the Picturedrome is scheduled for 25/5/22 and further meals in the late spring/early summer but still to be confirmed in conjunction with our young people.

Everyone has enjoyed the meals hugely and have been thrilled to start getting out and about again after the pandemic. Some are still nervous, especially now that people don't have to wear masks, but their confidence is growing and they understand more how they can manage their own hygiene and safety whilst enjoying socialising with friends. We have had 27 young people so far take part in these meals, along with 3 young volunteers and our usual staff.

END OF REPORT