



August 2008 Issue 2

Welcome to the August edition of Amber To Gold

Recent News:

New Funding Webpage

April saw the launch of our new and updated funding web pages. The site is up and running with access to information and advice that will help you to complete funding applications. You can access information about our services, send us information about your project so we can search for funding for you, get advice on completing application forms and learn more about the potential funding that Amber Valley Borough Council has to offer. You can also register to receive Amber To Gold electronically. Please log on to www.ambervalley.gov.uk and click on Funding Advice & Information on the 'quick links' to the right of the page.

Amber to Gold Funding Roadshow

Tuesday 22 July saw the first Amber To Gold Funding Roadshow at Heanor Town Hall, where 35 community groups heard from major funders including: The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, BIG Lottery Fund, WREN, Bridging The Gap, Awards For All and The Derbyshire Environmental Trust.

Each funder gave a short presentation about their fund and gave advice about some of the common mistakes that are found on their applications.



Matthew Rowe, Funding & Monitoring Assistant, who helped organise the event commented "It's great to see so many groups benefit from up-to-date information and be able to discuss their projects with potential funders. We'd hoped to offer the opportunity to get advice and tips from the funders themselves to try and give our local groups a better chance of success, and from the positive feedback so far I think we've been able to do it!"

The Funding Roadshow programme will continue in October when Amber Valley Borough Council's Funding Team will deliver another event in partnership with Amber Valley CVS. Funding Officer Wendy Burrige said, "By working with Amber Valley CVS we try to provide the best level of funding advice to our local communities." For further information about this event please contact Wendy or Matthew on 01773 841493.



Funding success

The Funding Team has been in contact with over 50 groups since our last edition, with the aim of identifying potential funders and helping them through the application process. As a result of working with these groups a total of £365,495 has been awarded through successful applications.

One of the groups we have worked closely with over recent months is the Ambergate Carnival Committee. The 2007 event suffered greatly from the weather and as a result additional funding was required to enable this year's carnival to go ahead.



Claire Sutton contacted us with the plans for the event and told us what they needed funding for. From our initial meeting we were able to identify a number of potential funders using our Grantfinder database. Claire started to contact the organisations highlighted in the report, as well as talking to local businesses to get support through sponsorship or contributions on the day. We met with Claire again to discuss a number of applications that she had completed and gave our feedback on them before they were submitted. From this meeting Claire commented "The funding team checked through my bids and gave advice where it was needed."

The first piece of good news came from Amber Valley Borough Council's Arts Enabling Grant. It was Claire's first successful application and she said "It was not enough to pay for everything by any means but it was a huge step forward." There was more good news to follow; Claire was in touch soon after - Awards for All and Amber Valley Housing Ltd had both agreed to fund the carnival. In total £11,040 was awarded, with each funder paying for specific activities on carnival day.

The lead up to the carnival saw the involvement of many groups including local schools and playgroups. They made costumes and learnt dance routines at a number of workshops run by carnival artist Chris Lewis-Jones and dancer Noel Moore.



With the theme of Motion the parade was brightly coloured in 'digger' yellow and sky blue, with mini vehicles modelled by Ambergate Playgroup. Cresswell Band marched in costume with sculptures and banners along the length of the parade. There were two shiny new diggers supplied by J.C. Balls, a Hummer and vintage car to carry the carnival queen. After the parade there were stalls, dancing and music displays, self-defence demonstrations and the J.C. Balls dancing diggers mesmerised the crowd. Following the prize draw the day was brought to a close with a disco.

Claire has told us "First reports are that everyone had a fantastic day and are looking forward to taking part next year".

Funding Focus:

The following grant schemes are open for applications and will potentially fund a wide variety of projects to help local communities.

Biffaward's Small Grants Scheme

Is aimed at groups that need small amounts of funding to improve the quality of life in their community. Between £250 and £5,000 can be awarded for projects that are within 10 miles of a Biffa operation and a landfill site (not necessarily owned by Biffa). There is no official deadline for applications, however assessments take place approximately every eight weeks in 2008.



Biffaward seeks to support access and improvements to amenities e.g. furnishing community buildings (e.g. tables, kitchens, staging), cycle paths, recreational facilities, playground equipment, park improvements, access improvements to nature reserves.

Community Spaces

Is a £50 million open grants programme funded through the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative and is managed by Groundwork UK on behalf of a group of environmental organisations. The programme will make grants of between £10,000 and £49,999 with some limited grants of up to £450,000. It responds directly to people's aspirations to have better places on their doorsteps more interesting places for children to play, safer places for people of all ages to sit, greener spaces where people and nature can grow and flourish.



The Football Foundation

Is the UK's largest sports charity funded by the Premier League, The FA, Sport England and the Government.

As the country's largest funder of grass roots football, the Foundation has funded thousands of facility and community projects, as well as free kit and safe goalposts, since its launch in July 2000.

The Football Foundation is a partnership with the Premier League, The FA, Sport England and the Government, each of whom invest £15m every year.



Funding is offered to community groups and football clubs to help them to use football and sport to contribute to educational attainment and closing the skills gap, tackling health inequalities and social exclusion, ensuring that supported projects increase participation and consider equality of access.

For more information on these schemes please contact us.

How we can help?

In the last edition of Amber to Gold we highlighted a number of important questions that you will need to address in order to gain funding. The information that you provide will enable us to carry out a search for you using Grantfinder. This is a database of potential funders that is constantly being updated to enable us to provide the most accurate information we can. We will send you the report of suitable funders which contains a summary of the fund, the scheme and who can apply. Once you have the report we would advise you to consider the following:

- Contact the funding bodies to see if your project is eligible and learn of any deadlines for applications. Checking eligibility before you apply can save you time and effort if you are not eligible or cannot meet the deadlines.
- Get copies of guidelines and criteria for the scheme. You will be able to find out what work will need to be done to complete the application and how the funding body will want you to monitor the work.
- Who is going to complete the application? Within the group who has the most experience or knowledge of applications?
- What information will you need to collect to complete the form? Will you need to source quotes for building work or equipment?

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