

Debbie Kennard
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4 July 2018

Councillor Billy Blanchard-Cooper
Manor House
Church Street
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5EW

Dear Councillor Blanchard-Cooper

West Sussex County Council Community Initiative Fund

West Sussex County Council have adopted Spacehive as a fundraising platform in order to empower local community groups to achieve success with much larger projects than previously, bringing together various fund sources in one place. The CIF currently sits at £330,000 available to projects across the West Sussex area, however with Spacehive an additional pot of £360,000 has been made available from local and national organisations. This has effectively doubled the amount of money available for local causes. A 5% fee for hosting the projects on any crowdfunding website is the market average and West Sussex County Councillors felt this displayed value for money. The transaction fees associated with the project are the maximum fee that can be attracted if pledges are made through Paypal. If pledges are made offline or via gocardless, these fees are reduced. Any funds pledged by West Sussex County Council funds will not receive any fees as they are made Offline.

Through Spacehive a total figure of £29,765 has been pledged to West Sussex projects from other organisations that have registered their funds. We have so far seen 5 separate projects achieving success through the Spacehive Fundraising platform, one of which did not receive any contribution from the County Council yet was able to reach their fundraising goal. In addition to this there are a number of projects fundraising that do not meeting the set CIF criteria, however are still able to crowd fund via Spacehive, another added benefit of the Crowd Funding approach.

Officers from West Sussex County Council are available to provide assistance and advice to Community Groups and individuals pitching to CIF. We would encourage project managers to engage with Community Officers, their Local Member and representatives from Spacehive in order to achieve success.

As with the majority of Council initiatives this process will be subject to a review 12 months after implementation subject to the agreement of the Environmental, Community and Fire Select Committee.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Kennard', written in a cursive style.

Debbie Kennard
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West Sussex County Council