WREN Community Benefit Fund – environmental and sustainability projects

Report of Grants round 1 – 2019

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A. Background

1. £10,000 for the Fund is kindly provide by Clean Earth Energy who are based in Wadebridge. Clean Earth agreed that WREN can use £10% of the fund to run it, leaving £9000 for grants to projects. Wren thanks Clean Earth for the funding which will help local projects take their environmental and sustainability agenda forward.

2. the fund will be publicly advertised (press, posters, websites, social media etc) and applications invited. Applicants will be required to fill out a standardised application form. Decisions made by a panel chaired by WREN , and made up of local people with an interest in sustainability.

3. Criteria for the fund : open to not-for-profit organisations, which hold a bank account in the name of the organisation, and which operate in the Wadebridge and Padstow Community Network Area.

4. The fund will support environmental / sustainability projects, or projects that aim to inform and / or educate on environmental and sustainability issues. This can include projects about energy, biodiversity, pollution, climate change, food, transport, food, recycling, the natural environment, wildlife ….

5. Funded projects will provide a short completion or progress report. These reports will be used to report back to Clean Earth.

B. WREN Community Benefit Fund (environmental & sustainability projects) panel Constitution

1) Purpose – this paper provides the terms of reference for the establishment and operation of the WREN Community Benefit Fund (environmental & sustainability projects) panel which will distribute funds according to the criteria established by this constitution.

2) The role of the Committee - to oversee and distribute the funds allocated to the WREN Community Benefit Fund (environmental & sustainability projects)

3) Scope of funds – to support environmental & sustainability projects, or projects that aim to inform and educate on environmental and sustainability issues. This can include projects about energy, water, soil, river and ocean, biodiversity, pollution, transport, climate change, food, recycling, the natural environment, wildlife …. etc

4) The Committee will each year agree in advance the dates of meetings sufficient to enact the distribution of funds.

5) Committee membership

Up to 3 WREN Board members, one of whom will chair the panel meetings. Three invited panel members – in the first instance Nicky Gilmour, Andy Lyle (Concern Wadebridge) , Trevor Renals (Environment Agency)

6) The quorum for the Committee shall be four.

7) The decisions of the Community Fund Committee will be made by simple majority. In the event of a tied vote the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

8) Community Fund Committee Members shall declare an interest in any contract or matter in which s/he has a personal material or financial interest, whether directly or indirectly. They may be present in any discussion of the matter but shall not vote in respect of such contract or matter.

9) WREN will keep appropriate records, agreed by Panel Members, of the proceedings of the Fund Panel

10) The Committee's decision on the awards of funds is final.

Constitution agreed March 2019.

Tony Faragher, Chair, WREN

C. WREN Community Benefit Fund 2019

Panel meeting 11th March 2019, The Goods Shed, Wadebridge.

Present: Tony Faragher, (WREN - Panel Chair), Kevin Smith (WREN), Nicky Gilmour, Andy Lyle, Trevor Renals, Leonie McGregor,(WREN, administrative assistant / minutes).

Declarations of interest:

- Nicky Gilmour: Camel CSA (volunteer & occasional grower)
- Andy Lyle: Wadebridge School (friend of Lee Bateman & married to a teacher at the school)
- Kevin Smith & Tony Faragher: Camel CSA & ARTiculate (on WREN board with Chris Coonick and Wadebridge Creative Hub board with Laura Martin)
- Trevor Renals: CINNG (has working relationship with the charity and been invited to sit on board).
- Leonie McGregor: CINNG (married to charity trustee).

Tony Faragher welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for agreeing to be panel members. The panel constitution was agreed. The following awards were made:

Organisation/Project	Amount requested	Amount awarded
Beach Guardian: school educational activities	2250	0
St Issey in Bloom: raised metal bed for school kitchen garden	771.85	771.85
ARTiculate: Wild Bird Words and Dawn Chorus	1401	0
CINNG: community wildlife conservation through social prescribing	1190	1190
Camel CSA: relocation and refurbishment of off-grid solar PV	2921.89	2921.89
Polzeath Marine conservation: improve and enlarge educational space	1770.41	1770.41
Friends of Wadebridge Primary: environmental and wildlife projects for playground	2120.96	1251.85
Wadebridge School microplastic education and recovery	1094	1094
Total	**13520.11**	**9000**

Notes: **Beach Guardian**: There were three inter-related applications concerning marine plastics and the panel decided to fund two of the three. Whilst Beach Guardian's project was not funded it was felt that the other two funded projects would benefit Beach Guardian's work. **ARTiculate**: It was felt that the project was more arts focussed and did not fit the environmental & sustainability criteria as well as the other applications to the fund.

D. Project reports

CINNG (Community Invasive Non-Native (Species) Group - Community wildlife conservation through social prescribing

CINNG sought funding, kindly provided by WREN with match funding from CINNG, to hold two workshops in the Wadebridge area. The aim, to create the collaborations and expertise necessary to link members of the community with volunteering opportunities through Environmental Social Prescribing (ESP). The first workshop brought together volunteers, conservation organisations, Volunteer Cornwall and NHS staff to discuss the issues and identify solutions to barriers which individuals with mental health issues face when trying to access ESP.

Barriers include lack of: -

- transport in isolated rural communities
- qualified mental health support on-site
- knowledge of individual's situation
- tools and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- funding
- support for carers and those needing care
- knowledge of existing opportunities

- social prescribing for young people

Solutions to barriers include: -

- transport through Volunteer Community Transport Scheme/local community buses/car sharing
- create volunteering opportunities in areas of need to lessen transport issues
- support from dedicated mental health care practitioners with knowledge of individuals needs
- funding opportunities (e.g. Princes Trust, Tesco Bags of Help, Community Chest scheme, Tools shed Project) for equipment and PPE
- public events to publicise volunteering opportunities

In addition, we organised a practical conservation day between workshops to demonstrate how supported ESP placements might work in practice. The day involved volunteers, a mental health practitioner, NHS, Volunteer Cornwall and hosts South West Lakes Trust. Clear benefits to individuals were supported by positive feedback.

"It was a great day and we all thoroughly enjoyed it." ESP volunteer.

A wrap up workshop (Volunteer Cornwall, NHS and CINNG) evaluated the pilot project. All parties agreed that the project identified a real need for environmental social prescribing volunteer placements supported by a qualified mental health practitioner, not currently part of any existing role.

Funding opportunities to roll out the project are being sought.

Dear Tony,

On behalf of CINNG and our volunteers I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and WREN for their very generous funding which enabled us to carry out a successful pilot project. I have

attached a report, including images, and we are now seeking funding to roll out the project with the full support of NHS and Volunteer Cornwall as well as conservation charities and volunteers in Cornwall.

This would not have been possible without the funding so kindly provided by WREN. We are delighted that the project has allowed us to identify the issues and, more importantly, solutions to barriers and we hope to soon be offering Environmental Social Prescribing opportunities so badly needed for those with mental health issues in Cornwall.

Thanks again. Your support is very much appreciated.

Many thanks

Nicola

Nicola Morris BSc (Hons) ResM MRSB
Chair Cornwall Invasive Species Forum
Chair South West Invasive Species Forum

Love Your Veg

Camel Community Supported Agriculture

Camel CSA was awarded £2921 for the relocation and refurbishment of off-grid solar pV from St Kew Highway to our replacement veg growing site at Treraven Farm, Wadebridge.

ZLC Energy moved the solar panels to Treraven in August 2019 and installed them on the roof of our tool storage container. They returned in March 2020 just as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold to install the solar storage battery that we purchased

with part of WREN's grant. Unfortunately they were unable to complete the work before the lockdown.

ZLC came back in early July to complete the battery installation. We are now using the LED spotlights we used at St Kew in the container.

We're very grateful for the opportunity to store electricity as we're also in urgent need of interior lighting in the new packing shed a few hours a week in the winter months. Our old packing shed didn't have any and on dark days we struggled - sometimes with the aid of head torches!

On behalf of Camel CSA I'd like to extend our grateful thanks for WREN's continued support of our community vegetable-growing scheme.

Charlotte Barry

On behalf of the volunteer core management group

Camel Community Supported Agriculture

Facebook/CamelCSA
Instagram/LoveYourVeg
Twitter/LoveYourVeg

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Polzeath Marine Centre

Wren Community Benefit Fund 2019 Report

Donated: £1770.41

Report deadline: 30th Sept 2019

The aim of the WREN donation was to renovate the inside of the Polzeath marine centre, increasing capacity and safety for visitors.

The kitchen area was removed along with un-necessary shelving, which could be accessed by children and was not very stable.

The floor was concrete that needed painting with no slip paint every year, at vast expense. This was taken out and replace with laminate flooring which made the surface more stable and continues up the skirting board to prevent salt water carried in by the visitors getting into the building.

The kitchen was removed as well as the shelving, replaced by a bespoke cupboard with enough depth to keep all of our resources hidden. We also have a lock to so little fingers cannot get to anything making the centre safer.

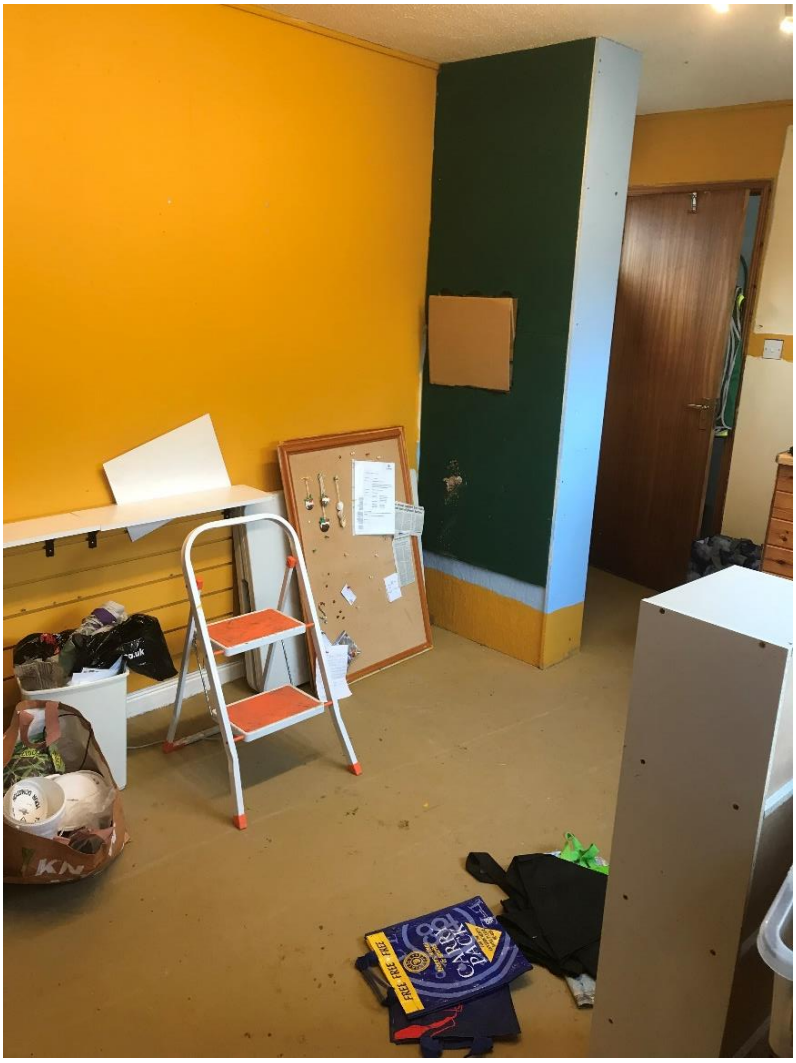
Removing these enlarged the space allowing us to reach a higher capacity of people excellent for rainy day visits.

So far this year we have had approximately 4700 visitors to the centre which is already more than the previous 12 months and the comments from the visitors have all been very positive about the work that we have done to the centre, none of which could have been done without the funding and support we received from WREN.

Image descriptions.

Page 2: Before photos showing the inside of the centre

Page 3: After the remodel, with flooring and bespoke cupboards



POLZEATH
MARINE CENTRE
VOLUNTEER

FUNDRAISER
QUIZ!
BEACH
CLEAN

Wadebridge Primary Academy (FOWPA) thank WREN for the grant f £1251.85 from the Wren Community Benefit Fund for our sustainable environmental and wildlife project for the Key Stage 2 Playground.

The plan is to transform an unused part of the school playground with planting and habitat installations, to encourage and nurture nature and wildlife and to create an 'outside classroom' with a storytelling chair and seating.

The project is underway with 100 school children creating an environmental themed tiled mural with the help of local artist, Paul Jackson. These beautiful tiles will be displayed in the environmental garden. We have also erected fencing at the top of the slope to of ensure the environmental garden and outside classroom will be protected.

We hope to recommence works in September 2020, preparing the floor, installing the seating, planting, and bug/wildlife habitats. Unfortunately, we have not been able to complete this project to date because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

When completed, these improvements will make a significant difference to the whole school community, providing a wonderful green area giving extended learning opportunities, as well as the obvious benefits to the natural environment and wildlife. On behalf of everyone, FOWPA thank you again for the very generous grant.

Disused play ground

Fenced off area leading to the environmental area.

Wadebridge School

We have received the Trommel on Weds this week and have already used it with over 100 of our pupils taking part in an Environmental project regarding plastics. It will now be hosted by PMCG (Polzeath Marine Conservation Group) and used daily on the Polzeath beach.

Many thanks, it looks great.

I have asked PMCG to write a report at the end of their summer work to feedback to WREN.

Regards

Lee

Mr Lee Bateman
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www.wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk

From: Polzeath Marine Conservation [mailto:polzeathmc@gmail.com]
Sent: 19 July 2019 11:07
To: Bateman, Lee <LBateman@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk>
Subject: Trommel

Thank you so much, can't wait to get it out on the beach, I'll keep you updated on amount of plastic we collect over summer
Best wishes
Vickie

MARINE
CENTRE
OPEN