



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation

MILLS & REEVE

June 2011

Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund

A fund established by Mills & Reeve managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, offering grants to local charities and community groups.

Introduction

This newsletter introduces The Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund. The Fund was set up in December 2008 and has benefited from matched funding to allow a doubling in value of the Fund. As initially planned, the Fund is now ready to make small grants to support small, local voluntary and community groups and organisations that are undertaking charitable work in Cambridgeshire. Grants are given to those projects helping people that face disadvantage and to those that engage and support local people, and therefore build stronger, healthier, inclusive and sustainable communities. The Fund focuses around five core themes... children; young people and families; adults facing a life crisis; the natural environment; community development and engagement, and health.

The Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund is managed, along with a range of other community funds, by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (www.cambscf.org.uk).

Homeless people in Cambridge, elderly residents of a South Cambs village and children of separated families will all benefit from the first grants made by the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund

Chris Belcher, Jonathan Hamilton, Julie Mortimer and Amanda Roberts ("The Mills & Reeve Cambridge Grants Panel") met on 10 June 2011 at Francis House to discuss and consider eight requests for funding that had been assessed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Projects included a request for an adapted wheelchair to enable disabled elderly people to play bowls, a series of music workshops for parents and toddlers in a low income area of Cambridge, an art project for adults with a learning disability and a talent contest for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people. After much discussion, three projects were selected (unanimously) to receive grants and details are set out below and overleaf. In future editions of the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund newsletter, the impact of the grants made will be illustrated.

The **Cambridge & Ely Child Contact Centres** provides a neutral place where children of a separated family can enjoy contact with one or both parents and sometimes other family members in a comfortable and safe environment when there is no other viable alternative.

The panel was very supportive of the important service/support that the contact centres provides - noting its close interaction with some of the legal work that Mills & Reeve is involved in. A grant of £1,000 has been awarded to help with running costs of the centres.

The Papworth and District Day Centre offers elderly people, who are socially isolated, a day each week of company with others, to include activities such as games, exercises, music and crafts. In addition, the Day Centre serves a hot lunch. As well as the facility providing for the needs of the elderly that attend, carers are given a 'day off' from their roles as carer and this welcome respite is also a significant benefit.

The panel was very supportive of the important role day centres provide for the elderly, especially in village settings where other services offered may be limited. A grant of £1,000 was awarded from the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund to enable the centre to continue to offer lunches, transport for outings and to pay the organiser's salary.

Freedom Club Timebank supports the local community by facilitating residents to share skills with each other and to get things done that they cannot do by themselves.

Working in partnership with Winter Comfort, FCT brings together small groups of 4/5 homeless people in Cambridge, mixing members with experience of a trade (such as building) with less experienced members. The team then do painting, decorating, carpentry, landscape gardening and patio building jobs for vulnerable and elderly members of the Timebank who have 'earned credits' with the Timebank through less physically demanding activities. Through this project the employability of homeless people in Cambridge is increased through learning new skills , training others, regular work sessions, group working and access to references (personal and job); the confidence of homeless people is built; and projects are undertaken for other vulnerable Cambridge residents who, in the process, reduce the prejudice associated with homelessness and create ongoing mutual support between the resident and homeless worker.

£500 from the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund will provide more tools for the project.

(extract from email from the group on learning of grant "...this has made my day! Angie and the chaps will be 'over the moon' We've now got a waiting list for their services...)

Get Involved

You can get involved in a number of ways:

1. Encourage local community groups to apply for a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund or any of the other funds that CCF manages.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Mills & Reeve Community Fund.
3. Make a tax efficient gift on a monthly basis through a Payroll Giving Scheme.
4. Find out more about the projects that have received a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund and offer to volunteer.

The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, an independent charity (1103314), makes grants to local grass root community groups. Individuals, families, business, public sector organisations, and other charitable trusts make this possible by setting up Funds with us.

Our purpose is to provide a grant making and fund management service to our donors, while supporting projects that make a real difference to the quality of life for local people. Since set up in early 2004 the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, working in partnership with local and national businesses, charitable trusts, local government and individuals, has distributed over £4.5m to over 2000 groups across Cambridgeshire.