



Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Friends of Honley
Amount of award	£ 1,500
Purpose for which the grant was awarded (Maximum 20 words)	Seasonal ground level planting across 43 locations and 10 hanging baskets, sourced locally, with volunteer opportunities for all ages/skills

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you (Maximum 500 words)*
- *Attach a few photos*

1. Local sourcing:

We started our project in February, by checking local supplier sourcing for our project. Going local underpins everything we do. We risk-assessed our hanging basket brackets, which resulted in 22 needing to be replaced, which were installed by Honley DIY for a very marginal fee. This year whilst we again used First Impressions from Wakefield to plant our hanging baskets, they could not maintain them or supply our normal 2,000 plants due to their closure. We therefore worked with Fitzpatrick's Fuel & Garden centre, again in Honley, to source these and found a new supplier, Stephenson Landscapes of Honley, to water and feed all the containers/baskets. Without these new local suppliers, the project would not have been feasible. As well as excellent pricing and support from each, we negotiated the extra benefit from Fitzpatrick's of local storage at zero cost of each of our empty containers at the end of season in October.

2. New locations:

This year we included the HVPC stone bus stop at Southgate/Westgate junction in the 40+ planting locations. The newly planted bus stop, used by many local residents, has attracted loads of positive comments and queries from other villages as to how this has been achieved. We plan to replant the bus stop in autumn with evergreen grasses and trailers to provide all year colour for our bus users, and hopefully encourage use of the service.

3. Volunteers & Partnerships:

-We advertised and attracted 2 new vitally important groups of volunteers; "a man/men with a van" to collect our hanging baskets from First Imp in Wakefield, and a group of sturdy chaps to install all 37 hanging baskets and 2 other flower towers (10 of the hanging baskets were funded by FoH and 27 by local businesses). Both of these services had been provided by First Imp.

-We partnered with 18 pupils from Honley High school, to help support their Citizenship qualification, by planting up 5 large barrier planters together.

-In addition we worked with 49 volunteers who prepped, cleaned and planted all of the many locations. We were delighted to see existing and new volunteers, ranging from 5yrs to 84 yrs.

-Aside from our volunteers, feedback on social media and that given directly by village users, shows that the scheme has instilled a sense of pride in where we live, work and socialise.

The Story of Your Project contd.

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?
(Maximum 500 words)

We have cemented the “one community” “one Honley team” belief by bringing together suppliers, volunteers, our young people at Honley High and businesses to create a seasonal planting scheme for the benefit of all in Honley. .

Feedback from suppliers and volunteers showed that they learnt new things from our RHS gardeners, enjoyed “giving back” and also made new friendships, whilst some of our more isolated volunteers opportunities to interact.

We strengthened the bond between community and business to shop local

We provided important sustenance with drinks and food to our volunteers, especially important for those with diabetes or for those in food poverty.

We have also found that where we plant, we are experiencing minimal social misbehavior

	Our businesses believe that the planting scheme has helped attract much needed footfall The project has instilled a pride in where we live Bus users have commented on the improved environment as they start or finish their journey at the newly planted bus stop.
Who benefited from the project? (Maximum 200 words)	Friends of Honley volunteers benefited from extrinsic and intrinsic benefits of volunteer opportunities and knowledge from our 2 RHS gardeners Obviously 6,500 residents have enjoyed the results of the project. Our businesses have benefited from additional footfall and new supplier relationships, alongside potential future business income. We've helped those with social isolation issues either to volunteer or to enjoy what has been achieved. Eg We have a group of residents in the early morning or late, sit quietly on their own different benches in the village, to observe the displays. Pupils from Honley High school have been helped to support their citizenship education, whilst our community has seen our young people invest in our community. The cubs and scouts approached us asking to help and whilst dates did not align, they are now aware of opportunities for later this year or next. We've instilled a pride in our community as FOH, Honley residents and those from Holme Valley social media groups have posted photographs and comments on facebook as to what has been achieved. This included celebrating what we've achieved together, despite the loss of First Impressions. The post attracted feedback, commenting on the fact that the latter demonstrated our emotional resilience. We hope that HVPC has benefited as we have promoted it as our benefactor and enabler in making this happen.
How many people benefited? (Maximum 200 words)	Our seasonal planting has been enjoyed village wide, so approximately 6,500 folk of all ages and abilities. We've also attracted interest and traffic from other locations by bus, car or on foot. We've provided business opportunities for a number of local businesses and heavily promoted their generosity in offering excellent commercial terms and going above and beyond.

Was the project inclusive? How were marginalised groups (elderly, disabled, young people etc) able to participate?	Volunteers of all ages and physical abilities have been catered for. We believe that the quality of the volunteers' planting experience is as important as the number of volunteers involved. Therefore, we made allowances for the socially less able by encouraging people to choose what they want to do, with whom, when and where, and provided opportunities for refreshments, breaks and social interaction as preferred. Similarly in working with Honley High school, we took account of pupil needs, by selecting the right volunteers to work with them and adapting our planting schedule to meet the needs of their curriculum. As regards physical abilities, volunteers chose planting locations (height, size, colour, location) thereby optimising access for as many volunteers as possible. We also select planting locations that are as easily seen/accessible by passersby as possible.
Reflecting on climate change, did the project address any aspects of the climate emergency? How?	Yes, through increased awareness of the issue and in making the right decisions as a result. 1. Sourcing: Careful choice of plants and plant material: We sourced locally grown and locally sold plants to offset miles, and to reduce the risk of ex-country plant disease 2. We used peat free compost, and recycled plastics from plant containers where the container was of appropriate material 3. We separated all our green material from grey, taking both to Meltham recycling centre. (Note: we wish that Kirklees would support us by collecting green material when they empty and collect grey material from public bins. Currently we have to drive to Meltham, using a volunteer's trailer to do so). 4. Our RHS gardeners provided excellent tuition on climate change and how to plant and garden to protect our environment and address the climate emergency 5. As regards water utilisation to maintain the planting, Stephenson landscapes is undertaking this for us efficiently and effectively.
Did you achieve what you were trying to do? (Maximum 200 words)	Yes. As well as hitting our previously established goals for the project, which have been outlined above, we are very pleased that we managed to overcome the loss of a critical supplier in First Impressions, which they announced in January . Thanks to the support of local businesses and our determination to succeed, we

	successfully created new local supplier links of which we are really proud and also this supports our local economy. Without these newly negotiated arrangements and their help and support, the project could not have continued. We have also therefore de-risked for future years.
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Finance and Expenditure

We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

Grant awarded	£ 1,500
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Date	Description of expenditure (use another sheet if necessary)	Amount
16/6/26	Plants and compost (Fitzpatricks)	£ 1377.35
13/6/26	10 hanging baskets	£ 740
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	Total expenditure	£ 2117.35
	Amount of grant remaining (if any)	£ 0

Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form		Date	31/7/26
Position in organisation	Chair, FoH		

Send the completed application form, together with all supporting documentation, preferably in PDF format to: deputyclerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send the paperwork to: Holme Valley Parish Council, The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.

Have you considered inviting a Member of the Parish Council to come and see your project and how your grant money has been spent? Why not give the Parish Council a ring and arrange a visit 01484 687460?

















