**HENFIELD YOUTH CLUB**

DEER PARK

HENFIELD

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**HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**HENFIELD HALL**

**COOPERS WAY**

**28/08/2023**

Dear Elaine and Henfield Parish Counsellors

**Funding Henfield Youth Club**

During henfield parish Council’s year of the youth, we ask you to consider providing funding, which includes enabling us to open for an additional evening. We have not approached the Parish Council since 2018 where a sum of £6000 was granted.

Henfield is unique as we are now one of the few youth clubs in operation throughout West Sussex.

Our youth group, which has been operational since 1962 and has served Henfield young people through many generations. Debbie has been our manager since 1996 and before that ran the after-school club, which started in 1991. Debbie was trained through WSCC youth service and has undertaken many roles during her time with them. Many of our staff were once members themselves and have trained as youth workers to give back to a service that they have had the benefit of.

The youth service withdrew their support, both financial and staffing in approximately 2012 and since then we have been reliant on the funds raised through hall hirings, fundraising and the goodwill of our village.

We are currently open 3 evenings week, welcoming young people from age 7- 18 years. We welcome all young people within these age groups. Many of them present with additional needs and some are within the care system.

Our current total membership is more than 100 young people.

Our offer is very diverse, and our aims are to provide a safe and fun environment for all as well as support them through their transition into adult hood. This is through providing information and support around life skills, job hunting, CV writing, sexual health services and encouraging conversations around current issues, enhancing their knowledge of the world, and encouraging lively debates.

We enjoy taking part in community events and encouraging the young people to volunteer and appreciate the need to be part of the wider community and what it offers.

As you may be aware we operate at the youth club on a lot of goodwill. This is through dedicated volunteers the families of the staff members, as well as voluntary time given above paid hours from the manager and staff.

This will continue to be the case as it is amongst most organisations in the village, but we are now in a situation where we need to secure our future and through discussions, we have agreed that we would greatly benefit from employing a second more substantial part time worker to work alongside our manager.

This person would provide management cover to enable us to open for an additional evening each week and enhance our services to our local young people. It will also relieve the many additional voluntary hours that the manager is working (currently paid for 15 hours a week) and train this second person as an assistant manager which would form part of a succession plan.

We have agreed that this role would need to be for 10 hours a week, which would be to lead and cover two sessions during the evening, relieve some of the managers roles and to make grant funding bids which will contribute to the sustainability of the role.

We are asking for £6000 for the first years’ salary for this role. In addition, £2000 for maintenance of our building, making a Total of £8000.

We have attached the job description for your information and our business plan and ask that you to consider our request for funds to secure this role for a year.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards

**Debbie**

**Debbie Slaughter**

**On Behalf of the Trustees and Committee**

**Encs: Job Description and Business plan**