

Mid-project impact report

Grant Awarded: £4,883

Date Awarded: September 2018

Organisation Details

Name: Selby District Disability Forum CIC

Address: Community House, Portholme
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Project Details

Project Title / Description: Tadcaster and Villages CEF Disability Action Group

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IMPACT REPORT FOR PERIOD September 2018 TO May 2019

Q1 In no more than 500 words please outline the key outcomes of your project.

Our Tadcaster Action Group really is going from strength-to-strength. We now have 12 people signed up as members of the group, from different villages and areas within and around Tadcaster. Here are some of the main areas we are currently focusing on:

- Promoting disability services already available within the Tadcaster villages area. We have been working with the Tadcaster town council who have agreed to allow us to have a page on their new website.

Our 'Doorbell Project' is currently under way. The group have written to all local shops and businesses to ask if they could take steps to make their premises more accessible. The SDDF 'Top Tips for Businesses' has been included. As a number of shops have issues with the Landlord, or with being in a listed area, the doorbell project is hoped to provide one simple option that businesses can opt in to, to be more accessible.

Also utilising the Tadcaster access survey, carried out by a member of the town council (who is now a member of the Action Group) as a great starting point.

- Working with the local events committee to maximise the potential of the UCI Road Races and paracycling events coming up in September. Looking at promoting disabled sports. As well as other opportunities throughout the year. The group are being asked for thoughts and ideas on making these events accessible, including taking part in a very recent street audit of Tadcaster with Highways. The group are also looking at ways to promote SDDF and the Action Group within this fantastic event, as well as maximising the potential for celebrating disabled sports.

- In conversations with the local Tadcaster Sainsbury's, to look at the option of providing a proper 'Changing Place' for people with Disabilities.

- Future work planned may include:

- mystery shopping in and around Tadcaster

- developed use of the Town Council website, to promote disabled services in the area such as:

- parking

- disabled toilets

- accessible community groups

- Working with the Southern Action Group and SDDF main committee, to carry out a public transport survey, to look at supporting public transport providers to improve access and staff attitude.

Q2 In no more than 500 words please demonstrate how the project has met the Community Development Plan objectives that were identified in the original application for funding.

- **Environment, landscape and streetscape**

One of the biggest issues facing people with a disability can be access and accessibility.

An example of how this project is already challenging and informing the development of the local environment, landscape and street scape can be seen in our very recent street audit, carried out with the Highways agency. Identifying areas which could benefit from improvement or change and backing this up with suggested options for access enhancement. We walked the town streets and mapped out areas for improvement, to enhance the soon to be happening UCI Road race events and for the longer-term improvement of the area.

- **Economy, retail and tourism**

Our Action Group is now right at the heart of the conversation around access issues and their direct impact on the local economy, retail and tourism. By communicating directly with all local businesses, and providing a simple solution to start making Tadcaster more accessible – our ‘Doorbell Project’ is working to have a marked impact and improvement on the local economy. We have attended the Tadcaster Business Forum to discuss our ideas and suggestions for improvement. And through our open letter, we have provided information on the untapped ‘Purple Pound’ spending power of those living with disabilities.

- **Community, leisure, culture and education**

One of the ways the group is trying to directly support improvement in this area is by looking at current provisions for those with disabilities in the area. If people are unable to access suitable changing facilities when coming into the Tadcaster area, or being a part of local life, then they simply will not do so. Our discussions with the Leisure Centre, Swimming Pool and now Sainsbury’s, are all looking at ways of making local provisions more accessible and usable for those with disabilities.

- **Community Safety, health and well-being**

Everything the group is currently working on comes back to the safety and well-being of those within the community. Specifically those with disabilities, but as such, for the benefit of all. Access issues effect everyone and improving this only aids all members of the community.

Q3 In no more than 250 words please give details of any additional benefits or objectives that the project has met that were not anticipated/ outlined in the original application for funding.

This project has been particularly successful in working closely with the local events committee and other community groups. Although it is always our intention to work with other agencies, the Tadcaster Action Group has been especially successful in bringing together a wide and varied cross section of the community, to benefit the work of the group.

We have members from the local town council and district council, from the education and business sectors, from community groups and events management committees. We have people from villages and the main town, those with personal experience of living with disabilities and those supporting family members or children who do so.

This wide and varied group of individuals has brought together a wealth of local information, as well as experience, expertise and passion. All of which is showing itself in the success and speed that the group has been delivering real 'action', to support change and improve the local area.

Any other comments on the project and its success:

We are exceptionally excited to see just where this Action Group will take their work and how much of an impact they will continue to have.

We have arranged a meeting with a possible future funder, to try and ensure the sustainability of the group and see that it can become a permanent fixture, and asset, to the local community.

We continue to take on new members regularly and will be making the funding from the CEF last as long as possible.