

## Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Impact Report



The Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund supports charities and community groups who operate within a ten-kilometer radius of their wind farm, based around the Dungeness area. Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are given to support environmental, educational, community and charitable activities.

The fund was established in 2009 and made its first grants the same year. In total, the fund has given out 191 grants amounting to £479,699. The information below has been taken directly from the monitoring reports of these groups.



### Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) - £4,000

#### What activities were funded by the grant?

HARC provides specialist welfare benefit advice and representation to people of all ages in East Sussex. Your grant paid for a part-time specialist welfare benefits advisor and trainer for six months. They will deliver online/telephone specialist advice and a representation service to the people of Rye, Camber, Playden, Iden, Peasmarsch, Beckley, Rye Harbour, Winchelsea, Winchelsea beach and Udimore by way of direct referral from Rye foodbank. It will also deliver training aimed at upskilling organisations and front line staff.



#### Real lives

Family A were referred to a HARC advisor at the Rye Food Bank. They are a couple with a young adult son with learning difficulties. They had recently moved to the area following Mrs A's discharge from a mental health unit.

Their son was in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) but not

Universal Credit (UC). They had tried to apply before but had been put off by the complexity of the

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benefit system relating to adults with learning difficulties, and the attitude of DWP staff. Our advisor supported them to make a UC claim on the basis of his Limited Capability for Work Related Activity (LCWRA). As a result of further appointments (both at the Foodbank and via home visits), the UC claim was finally processed and a Limited Capability for Work (LCW) assessment was carried out.

The client was found unfit for work and his financial situation was stabilised. Our advisor also identified that he was socially isolated, so she signposted the family to a number of support services and social groups but made a referral to Little Gate Farm (LGF). He is now enjoying attending LGF 2-3 days a week, where he has made new friends and gained new skills.

Beyond this, Family A were struggling with another issue; a non-dependant deduction was being incorrectly applied to their UC, resulting in them receiving less money than they were entitled to and thus made them struggle financially. Our advisor supported the family to alert UC to the situation and so that they may have the deduction removed. They are awaiting a decision on arrears that are due.

### The difference your grant has made

The work funded has directly benefited 190 people or 105 individual households. HARC have relieved poverty for some of the most geographically and socially isolated residents of East Sussex. So far, they have raised a verified £54,222.40 in increased or previously unclaimed welfare benefits for these individuals. Their predictions indicate that the total gains (when all cases have been fully resolved and closed) will be £235,244.97.

Furthermore, they have provided 26 training sessions aimed at up-skilling a total of 117 front line workers to better enable them to provide basic welfare benefit advice and recognise and refer specialist cases to HARC.



### 18 Hours Ltd - £500

#### What activities were funded by the grant?

18 Hours delivers community projects, education programmes and cultural events in and around some of the most deprived wards in Sussex. It focuses on community, environmental responsibility and diversity, working in partnership with community organisations and local schools, to create opportunities to engage with accessible arts and culture. Your grant went towards a new, outdoor, free-to-attend street theatre-style event to bring customers to local cafés in Rye and to promote the newly-regenerated 1066 Country Walk.

#### Real lives

After a tumultuous and difficult year for local artists, national performers and freelancer event professionals, this event provided much needed employment, networking and development opportunities for the arts and cultural sector. As part of Puddings and Pathways, linked to the 1066 Country Walk regeneration, the wider project has helped artists (illustrator, graphic designers, printers for leaflets, maps of the walk, a sculptor, street theatre performers, event producers, project managers and local eateries). A local theatre company, Inside Out Theatre,

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with an international reputation for excellent quality, fun outdoor performances visited the Puddings and Pathway Festival in Rye and were inspired by one of the acts in particular.



The style and nature of the performance helped with their own artistic development, which they will carry into their own work they do with local charities such as Mencap and bring street theatre to disadvantaged children in and around Rother towns. This includes their work with students at Glyne Gap Faculty which they have been doing for three years now. The programme has been so successful with participants commenting on how it has helped them to be more confident, to want to help others and to return to mentor new participants in the programme.

Puddings in Rye's aim is to incorporate a similar outreach programme with disadvantaged children in Rye and to create an opportunity for them to create, develop and perform a short piece of street theatre as part of the festival.

### **The difference your grant has made**

The feedback from Kino Digital staff and customers, visitors to the event, artists and local shop keepers was overwhelmingly positive. Audience members were highly entertained by the variety and 'cheekiness' of the performances, stopping to interact with the shows, visiting the craft show in St Marys Centre and have coffee/desert at the Kino Digital. Feedback gathered from audience members confirms a mixed age range of visitors, coming from regional towns such as Battle and Hastings and further afield (Lancashire) as well as Rye. The variety of acts, the quality and family focus of the event were of particular note to audiences. Artists were pleased to be working after so many COVID restrictions, and enjoyed bringing street theatre to Rye for the first time.

Kino Digital confirmed that they would like to do the event again in the future, as it had been a different experience to their usual Saturdays, with a wide range of customers. Informal conversations with local shopkeepers and the tourist information office indicated an appetite for more of these types of events and a positive response to the impact on the town's tourism offering. The tourism information centre valued the link with the regenerated 1066 Country Walk and confirmed that visitors had been asking about the event, giving them the opportunity to talk about the walk as well as the event.

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### Music Well CIC - £2,500

#### What activities were funded by the grant?

Music Well CIC provides music therapy in schools and the community to adults, young people and children. Your grant supported the expansion of their work in and around Rye, as they have been unable to conduct fund raising activities, owing to the pandemic but have therapists and musicians providing valuable work to clients online.

#### Real lives

One member of Music Well's online singing group, who had recently lost his wife, said that Music Well gave him a reason to carry on living. He felt desolate during the pandemic and utterly alone. His regular sessions with the Music Well reintroduced fun and laughter into his life. He could fully participate and importantly could give to others as well as benefitting himself. He is delighted to be out the other side of his suicidal thoughts.

#### The difference your grant has made

The Music Well was described as a "Life Line" by the majority of beneficiaries during lockdown. For many who were self isolating, their therapists and the groups they led were the only human contact beneficiaries had during the pandemic. The online singing sessions became a means of regular contact and ensured that members who were isolated felt connected. They worked with an autistic child in a refugee family who had recently arrived in the UK. Due to lockdown, they could not make social connections and their world had become increasingly frightening. Music therapy not only supported him but his whole family.



### Family Support Work - £5,000

#### What activities were funded by the grant?

Family Support Work exists to help vulnerable families living in Sussex who are facing difficulties in their lives. Following local consultation, funding is to help establish a new Family Support project in Rye. A part-time support worker will provide intensive support to over 15 vulnerable families and 40+ children to help them overcome multiple and complex difficulties and prevent crisis.

#### Real lives

*The following message was written by a volunteer at Family Support Work.*

"During lockdown, a young single mother was referred to Gill, our Rye practitioner by the local church. She lives in a very isolated part of rural Rye. One of the main problems is public transport, which is very



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sketchy and expensive. Her GP surgery is quite a distance away from where she lives and although it is in a small town, there are no direct routes by public transport that can get you there.

To make matters worse, her mobile phone network signal is very poor. She has to leave her flat and walk down to the local P.O to get a good signal, which is very inconvenient. So, for a while, Gill was making a lot of phone calls on her behalf. Moving forward, Gill and the church worked together to find a solution to the lack of transport and discovered the parish offered a free taxi scheme in that she could join.

She can now access free taxi's to and from any doctors or hospital appointments. Lastly, living in such an isolated spot has impacted her mental health. Prior to living in the area she and her partner were living in a large city where they had friends and family, easy access to shops, transport and so on. They have since separated and as a result she is even more isolated as a single parent. Gill is helping her to make connections in the local area by linking with child and baby groups to reduce her isolation. This summer, the family will be having a much needed break at the MU caravan in Selsey and we have even found a volunteer driver to take them there and back.”

### The difference your grant has made

The grant from Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm has made a profound difference on the lives of 14 marginalised families living in Rye. The families that Gill is supporting were vulnerable before the pandemic and have been disproportionately affected. Rother is one of the most disadvantaged districts and is amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK. With funding, Gill has helped families cope better with their daily challenges and help her families to navigate difficulties without falling further into crisis. She has helped people with benefit applications (especially those who have seen reduction in income/redundancy and are navigating the system for the first time), advocacy at health appointments, assistance with housing issues and school attendance.

Emotional support has included parental support; managing children's behaviour and supporting parents through family relationship difficulties. She has provided food and clothing for those in dire financial need. Gill has helped these families by offering vital links into the community and helping parents and children access services, playgroups and specialist support of all kinds and helping the family to grow resilience. The wider community has benefited from Family Support Work's work because most other support services have stopped. We have taken on more referrals than we would under normal circumstances, and because we have still been active in the community we have been able to engage with other groups and share information and ideas that have helped more people.

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## Pett Level Preservation Trust - £1700

### What activities were funded by the grant?



Pett Level Preservation Trust's (PLPT) purpose is to preserve 24 acres of land at Pett Level for the benefit of public amenity and the conservation of wildlife. Part of the PLPT land is within the Hastings to Pett Level Site of Special Scientific Interest. Your grant was used to increase roosting opportunities for the local bat population through the purchase of a variety of bat boxes and to raise awareness amongst local residents and visitors of the importance of caring for green space and its wildlife.

### The difference your grant has made

Your grant has been used to increase roosting opportunities for the local bat population through the purchase of a variety of bat boxes. It is also being used to raise awareness amongst local residents and visitors of the importance of caring for green space and its wildlife. The leaflet and information board inform the public of the importance of the trust land and how they can benefit from using it.

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### Little Cheyne Grants Since 2020:

Organisation	Grant Awarded	Grant Amount
Rye Rugby Football Club	25/03/2020	£5,000
Rye Flower & Veg Show	25/03/2020	£850
Winchelsea Millennium Artefacts Society	25/03/2020	£3,000
Sussex Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus	25/03/2020	£1,800
Encompass Care (Rye) CIC	25/03/2020	£1,700
Peamarsh Chamber Music Festival Trust	25/03/2020	£3,000
Peamarsh Recreation Grounds Committee	25/03/2020	£5,000
Family Support Work	21/10/2020	£5,000
Rye and District Community Transport	21/10/2020	£5,000
Camber Community Group	21/10/2020	£1,000
Hands of Hope	21/10/2020	£2,000
Arts of Prescription CIC	21/10/2020	£3,000
Pett Level Preservation Trust	21/10/2021	£1,700
Rye & District Day Centre	20/03/2021	£1,500
Sussex Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus	20/03/2021	£2,323
Hastings Advice & Representation Centre	20/03/2021	£4,000

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Rye Wurlitzer Academy	20/03/2021	£500
Rye Rugby Football Club	20/03/2021	£5,000
Encompass Care (Rye) CIC	20/03/2021	£3,000
18 Hours Ltd	20/03/2021	£500
Music Well CIC	30/03/2021	£2,500
Family Support Work	27/10/2021	£5,000