

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Walking for Health – Communities Team Partnership
Committee : Community Services
Date : 5 October 2022
Author : Sarah Gregson, Communities Manager

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report provides details of a proposed partnership between the City Council Communities Team and the voluntary led Walking for Health group, operating in the parish of Salisbury and chaired by volunteer, Pam Rouquette.

2. Background:

- 2.1. In summer 2021 Walking for Health approached the Communities Team for support in securing funding to cover their affiliation with the Ramblers Association. Walking for Health subsequently applied for, and were granted, a £700 Community Development Grant from the City Council for the year 2021/22.
- 2.2. Walking for Health reach around 60 mainly older adults per week offering volunteer led walks from sites in the city easily accessible by bus.
- 2.3. Walking for Health have struggled to access Ramblers Association Training for volunteer walk leaders in our region and in early 2022, Sean Saunders (an SCC Communities Team Activity Leader), became a cascade trainer for the Ramblers Association. Since that time he has provided update training for 13 existing volunteer walk leaders, and Initial Training for 8 new leaders.
- 2.4. The Communities Team have also been working with the Group's Chair this year to identify areas of need for walking for health activities. As a result a new walk begins this September in Harnham with a new walk in Bemerton Health planned for later this year. Resident response to the new groups has already been positive with 10 people engaged at Harnham including 2 wheelchair users.
- 2.5. With the closure of a specific strand of Sports England Funding, Walking for Health has limited options for funding their core Rambler's Association Membership which provides insurance, training and a framework for delivery.

3. Formalised Partnership:

- 3.1. In the financial year 2022/23 Communities Manager proposes that Walking for Health becomes a formal partner but remains a volunteer led group.
- 3.2. This would involve including the Rambler's Association Membership and some marketing costs within the Community Development Budget, to a total of £1000. This would be funded from within the current delegated Community Development Budget.
- 3.3. Walking for Health Volunteers would become a City Council volunteer group and would operate under our safeguarding policy.
- 3.4. The group's activity would be insured via the Rambler's Association membership.
- 3.5. The Communities Team will continue to provide the cascade training annually to ensure a sustainable group of volunteers is available to provide the service.

3.6. The Communities Team will meet with the group chair regularly to co-produce a plan for development and to support the development of new volunteers and volunteer leadership and coordination responsibilities.

4. Rationale:

- 4.1. The activity of walking for health delivers on two key community priorities for the Communities Team, and as such contributes to work in the city to address health inequalities, placing this activity at the heart of the Council's ambition to improve the wellbeing of City residents.
 - Improving Access to Active Lifestyles
 - Supporting People on Low incomes
- 4.2. This work is beyond the capacity of the Communities Team without volunteer support. The reach of the project, for the small financial cost, is significant and can be grown with the support of the Communities Team. In 6 supported sessions this year, SCC's Team has already enabled 216 instances of participation. This figure will grow as new walks are added.
- 4.3. There is a significant risk that this voluntary service will cease to operate without a sustainable source of funding. There is also a significant risk that without volunteer development support the service will cease to operate when the current Chair, Pam Rouquette, is unable to fulfil her significant duties as Group Chair and Coordinator.
- 4.4. By formalising this partnership the Council is able to ensure that a community asset is sustainable and are able to work to ensure that it develops to support communities that need it the most in the parish of Salisbury.
- 4.5. This partnership will significantly increase the reach of our Community Activities Leaders across the city.

5. Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- 5.1. The Committee approve this partnership for the financial year 2022/23.

6. Wards Affected: All

7. Background papers: Nil

8. Implications:

- 8.1. **Financial:** £1000 of the delegated Community Development Budget to be allocated to this partnership.
- 8.2. **Legal:** None in relation to this report.
- 8.3. **Personnel:** This work forms part of the existing Communities Team activity.
- 8.4. **Environmental Impact:** This promotes active low carbon travel.
- 8.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** An equalities impact statement will be undertaken before the commencement of the formal partnership.