

Holme Valley Parish Council

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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	Holmfirth Tech Ltd
Amount of award	£ 5,000
Purpose for which the grant was awarded	Renovation of the Rock Room.

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you*
- *Attach a few photos*

The funding was used to renovate the Tech's basement Rock Room; this included installation of a suspended ceiling (to cover unsightly pipework between the basement and ground floor) and the new ceiling has improved soundproofing incorporated, together with new LED ceiling lights which are more energy efficient than the old strip lights. Three walls have also been damp-proofed and replastered with the remainder of the funding.

The new plasterwork has only just dried, so walls are now ready to paint and for the room to be deep cleaned. New flooring tiles will also be laid to further help with soundproofing. The room is already used by a variety of hirers, who provide drum and piano/electronic keyboard lessons, music and animation sessions, and weekly Café Orchestra sessions. Once completed, the room will be more appealing to a wider range of musical activities and a wider age range, including band rehearsals. For example, Holmfirth Man Club have recently set up a new band and are using the Tech's Rock Room facilities to rehearse; this group was set up primarily to help men's mental wellbeing and members of the Club already love the Rock Room space and all it has to offer.

The Story of Your Project contd.

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?

We are already seeing the benefits that our Rock Room facilities provide to those who use the room, e.g. Arts for Health CIC teaches young people who are either disadvantaged or have learning disabilities, to play music and produce accompanying animations. Our facilities are providing a distraction from their day-to-day health issues, including lessening their depression and anxiety issues. The young people have become more focused, and it has aided their self-expression of emotions; after a music session at the Tech, they leave with more self-esteem and their confidence has been boosted.

Other groups see the Tech as their home (including Holmfirth Man Club, as mentioned earlier). Before this grant and the work it has funded, the Rock Room was under-utilised and its state of repair made it the most unattractive room in the building. There was also sound drift into the rooms above the Rock Room, which acted as a disincentive to other potential hirers. With better soundproofing and an improved look and feel to the Rock Room, the room is now far more appealing to a wider range of existing and would-be musicians and animators.

Who benefited from the project?

The Tech, Kirklees Council Community Plus Team, the local PCN and a number of Community Interest Companies (including Arts for Health CIC and The Nest CIC – both based at the Tech) are all working together to promote practical skills, such as music, to help improve mental health and anxiety, without the need for people to go to their local doctor's surgery. Mental health and anxiety cases are extremely high within Holmfirth and the wider Holme Valley, and are on the increase; the use of our Rock Room musical facilities would help alleviate and highlight these issues from a practical side to reduce the dependency on the GP surgery. We are working closely with one of the practices to explore how the Tech, including its music facilities can help improve the wellbeing of local people.

We are also aware that investment for music in schools

	<p>has reduced and more older people are seeing involvement in music-making as beneficial for their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Being able to promote the Rock Room more and increasing its use, we will be helping local people of all ages, as well as contributing to the Tech's financial viability.</p>
<p>How many people benefited?</p>	<p>The majority of our Rock Room hirers are local people, of all ages. Music tuition is provided to young and old, able-bodied and disabled people (we have excellent disabled access). Some musical activities are for groups, other activities are on a one-to-one basis (e.g. piano and drum tuition), and the Arts for Health CIC sessions involve small groups (two or three young people).</p>
<p>Was the project inclusive? How were marginalised groups (elderly, disabled, young people etc) able to participate?</p>	<p>Totally inclusive; as mentioned above, all our facilities are totally accessible to young and old, able-bodied and disabled people. We have excellent disabled access.</p>
<p>Reflecting on climate change, did the project address any aspects of the climate emergency? How?</p>	<p>The new lowered, suspended ceiling includes LED ceiling lights which are far more energy efficient than the old strip lights they replaced. This will help to reduce our energy costs but, overall, the ceiling will also provide better soundproofing which will be beneficial to other hirers in the building and our neighbours.</p>
<p>Did you achieve what you were trying to do?</p>	<p>Absolutely. We now have a more appealing and fit-for-purpose Rock Room, with a ceiling that provides better energy efficiency and walls that are no longer damp.</p>

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	£ 5,000
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Date	Description of expenditure	Amount
26/11/23	Supply and fit suspended ceiling including Thermatex and vinyl tiles for extra acoustic value	£ 3,159.88
19/12/23	Fitting of new LED ceiling lights	£ 1,063.23
12/1/24	Damp proofing and re-plastering, including insulated plasterboard (for improved soundproofing)	£ 4,150.00
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	Total expenditure	£ 8,373.11
	Amount of grant remaining (if any)	£ 0
	NB The difference has been made up from Tech funds.	(3,373.11)

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

Person completing this form	Sally Barber, Manager	Date	19 Feb 2024
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