

Case Study: Supporting Community Projects



At DR we support the rural community to be competitive. When the Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) needed money to build a Pavilion to enhance the services available to the local community, we were able to help them apply for the Communities Facilities Fund.

OCRA is a charity that aims to maintain and develop recreational opportunities and facilities for Okehampton and the surrounding area. Set up in 1990 the charity made a range of sports, art and leisure activities possible for the local community. As it grew however, the need for on site changing rooms, toilets, meeting spaces and offices were increasingly vital. OCRA put together a project plan for a HUB Pavilion, a custom designed building which would provide the facilities and services needed to support the growing recreational needs of the community. Not only would the sports and leisure users be supplied with sufficient changing rooms and toilets, but the meeting rooms and offices would provide an income that would allow the eco friendly HUB Pavilion to be largely self sustaining. However funds were needed to create the HUB Pavilion in the first place.

The DR Company were running the Communities Facilities Fund, a delegated funding programme specifically designed to support community projects to improve their facilities. OCRA approached DR and Project Advisor Sophie Price supported the Charity through it's application. *"As a DR Project Advisor I have supported many community projects to apply for funding and to achieve their goals. OCRA is a great example of how DR can help communities to develop and grow in practical ways that have positive, long lasting and wide reaching effects."*

OCRA had already secured funding from other sources so they were applying for additional money to secure the future of the HUB Pavilion building project. Sophie guided them through the application process and they were granted £20,000.

The HUB Pavilion now called Pavilion in the Park was completed in 2013 and consisted of changing rooms, toilets, meeting spaces, office area, and linked with several parks and pathways. However the Pavilion then needed further funding to complete the interior. The DR Company were again able to help through the Communities Facilities Fund and the project was granted a further £20,000 which it match funded with money from Sport England. In particular this money went towards creating the bar and catering area, a vital component to the financial sustainability of the Pavilion. In September 2013 the Pavilion was opened to the community and is continuing to thrive as a recreational service and facility for the local area.

"It was great working with DR and Sophie as they could really see the positive impact of the local project. The Pavilion has now become a key part of community life, offering diverse opportunities for all" Stuart Lord, OCRA Manager