

Resource Centre support for East Brighton groups doubles in 2018

Resource Centre support work with volunteer run community groups in East Brighton area has almost doubled in the last year. We have continued to provide essential support with our Accounts Examination and Design & Print service. In addition, demand for one-to-one support and consultancy, in all aspects of running a group, has more than doubled. It has been inspiring to see so many new groups, run entirely by local people, emerging and finding their feet over the last year. This adds to the many groups that continue to do what they do so well, understanding the needs of their community and taking action to support local people and bring them together.

One-to-one support and consultancy

We provided 56 one-to-one support sessions (compared to 22 in the previous year) to 20 different groups. Seven of these groups are either new or had never used the Resource Centre before.

Collectively, they help and improve the wellbeing of a wide range of local people from 'the cradle to the grave' and lots of people in between.

They help improve the local woods, parks and outdoor spaces; provide lunches for children, families and older people; organise events that are free to local people; provide art and dance activities; run community buildings; investigate local history; create newsletters; and provide a hub where local people can come together to build networks and friendships.

We supported groups to draft constitutions, policies and procedures; think about legal structures and report to the Charity Commission; keep their accounts and prepare their budgets; improve their communication and use of social media; apply for funding and evaluate their projects.

All the groups we support are run by local volunteers for local people. Those involved have a commitment to their community and a vision of how they can improve it. But often they have no experience in running a group and need to develop lots of new skills to do it effectively.

In our support sessions we work with people in a way that they feel comfortable. We ask them how they run their groups, what things they find difficult and get an understanding of their confidence levels and skills. We then help them to move forward in a way that suits them and their group, working good practice into their existing systems.

Feedback from groups

We ask groups for feedback after each package of support is completed. Out of 16 requests for feedback we received 11 responses. All of those who responded said the support they received was excellent, they felt more confident and their group would be able to work better as a result.

In the words of *Brighton and Hove Filipino Community*

“Mireille has been very helpful and accommodating to us. She has been very specific with what requirements do we need for the submission of our application. She has guided us all throughout and has been so patient with us meeting the deadline. We are so grateful as a community that there are people who are there to help.”

Moulsecoomb Chomp said:

“The work Resource Centre does is imperative to supporting community groups of all shapes, sizes and persuasions.”

Account examinations

We carried out 17 Accounts Examinations for 16 different groups. This provides groups with an accurate summary of their accounts to share with members and funders. It also gives Treasurers the opportunity to check the procedures they are using and get some advice and support if they need it.

Feedback from groups

We received feedback cards from 69% of these groups.

They all said the service was excellent.

East Brighton Bygones said:

“Thank you so much for doing our accounts. It's good to know we always have someone friendly and reliable to help us. If it wasn't for you, it would be a lot harder for us!”

Metamorphosis and Splatt Art Group said:

“Very good explanation & suggestions and advice given. Very fast turnaround - just a week. Very well presented accounts which has already helped us in sending funding bids for our small groups. The Resource Centre enables our small community groups to function even better and removes some of the problems we encounter. Ongoing training will be taken up shortly to tidy up and streamline the accounts.”

Design and print

We did 26 different design and print jobs for ten different groups. This included production of newsletters, flyers and posters.

Thank you to East Brighton Trust

We would like to thank East Brighton Trust for supporting this work with a grant of £3,000. This grant supports just under half the work done in 2018, with the remainder (£3,130) being funded from Resource Centre reserves.

EBT group support sessions 2018

Group Name	No of sessions	Type of Support	Description	New group
Aqua Seniors Whitehawk	1	Communications	writing letters	
	1	Fundraising	evaluations and reports	
Bevendean Bulletin	1	Communications	newsletter	
	1	Policies and procedures	quality systems	
Bevendean Chomp	1	Finance	bookkeeping advice	✓
	2	Finance	setting up accounts	
Bevendean Community Garden	3	Finance	bookkeeping advice	
	1	Fundraising	evaluations and reports	
Brighton and Hove Filipino Community	1	Communications	reports	
	2	Finance	Budgeting	
	5	Fundraising	applications or letters	
Due East Neighbourhood Council	1	Communications	social media	
	1	Fundraising	evaluations and reports	
East Brighthon Bygones	1	Communications	Publicity	
East Brighton Park Campaign	1	Communications	campaigning	✓
Fledglings Outdoor Play	1	Structure	legal structures	✓
Friends of Bevendean Down	1	Computers	technical support	
Friends of Bevfest	1	Communications	publicity	
	1	Finance	bookkeeping advice	
	1	Fundraising	applications or letters	
Friends of Moulsecoomb Woods	1	Introduction to the Resource Centre	introduction to Resource Centre	✓
Metamorphosis and Splatt Art Group	1	Finance	bookkeeping advice	
Moulsecoomb Chomp	1	Direct support	referral	✓
	1	Introduction to the Resource Centre	introduction to Resource Centre	

EBT group support sessions 2018 cont.

Group Name	No of sessions	Type of Support	Description	New group
Moulsecoomb Hall Community Association	2	Direct support	legal advice	
	4	Finance	bookkeeping advice	
	1	Finance	charity reports	
	2	Running a group	working in a committee	
Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove	1	Communications	assistance communicating with other organisations	
	1	Computers	technical support	
	1	Fundraising	applications or letters	
	1	Fundraising	evaluations and reports	
Park Life Brighton	1	Finance	bookkeeping advice	✓
	1	Running a group	treasurer's role	
	1	Structure	constitution	
Salaam FC	1	Finance	bookkeeping advice	
	3	Fundraising	applications or letters	
Sunflower Group	1	Finance	setting up accounts	✓
	1	Introduction to the Resource Centre	introduction to Resource Centre	
	1	Structure	constitution	
Tantrums Community Dance Group	1	Fundraising	sources of funding	

EBT group accounts examinations 2018

Action for Bevendean community
Aqua Seniors Whitehawk
Bevendean Chomp
Bevendean Community Café and Food Bank
Bevendean Community Garden
Bevendean Local Action Team
East Brighton Bygones Local History Society
Friday Friends Community Group
Friends of Farm Green
Metamorphosis and Splatt Art Group
Moulsecoomb Local Action Team
Robert Lodge Project
Saint Georges Hall (16-17)
Saint Georges Hall (17-18)
Saunders park Rise Tenants and Residents Association
Tantrums Community Dance Group
Vale Community Centre, The (was Shed Management Committee)

EBT design and print support 2018

**New
group**

Bevendean Bulletin	1	
Bristol Estate Community Association CIC	1	
Due East Neighbourhood Council	1	
East Brighton Bygones Local History Society	11	
East Brighton Park Campaign	1	✓
Moulsecoomb and Bevendean Concerns	1	✓
Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove	4	
Park Life Brighton	4	✓
Save Whitehawk Hill Nature Reserve	1	✓
Tantrums Community Dance Group	1	
