



Finance Strategy and Management Committee

21 September 2021

Proposal for the Workshop at the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre

Report of	Chair
Contact officer(s)	Mrs Sarah Haydon, Chief Officer

What is the report about? How will it fit with the Council's priorities?

1.1 The Town Council has been approached in relation to the use of the workshop at the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre.



1.2 Following the successful opening of 'The Hideaway' café, the Town Council had aspired to provide other community opportunities within this facility. An possibility has been provided by a local artist, for consideration.

What is the proposal?

2.1 To turn the workshop at the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre into an artist consortium offering a selection of workshops, suitable for various abilities:

- Pottery sculpture and modelling
- Glass fusion
- Enamel jewellery making
- Lino design and printing
- Bead jewellery making
- Fabric lampshade making
- Macrame design and making
- Felting wall hanging
- Textile weaving design and making
- Mosaic design and making
- A selection of painting and drawing. classes covering various techniques
- Screen printing fabric and paper
- Seasonal flower wreath making
- Terrarium bottle gardens
- Crochet
- Embroidery
- Garden design
- Candle making
- Soap making
- Wooden doll making
- Soft toy making
- Seasonal woodland crafts and activities
- Junior bushcraft sessions
- Storytelling and creative writing sessions

In addition, the following workshops will be available:

- Mindfulness, meditation and breathing workshops.
- Journaling for wellbeing.
- Nature wellbeing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladies menopause support sessions. • Family and children mindfulness and meditation sessions. <p>Within the local Biddulph/Congleton artist community, artists would also like to offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple woodworking • Felt animals • Painting and Drawing • Contemporary Crafting • Life Drawing • Photography
2.2	<p>Information provided:</p> <p>All materials will be provided and most sessions will take advantage of the woodland environment.</p> <p>We would like to offer some subsidised spaces if we are able to seek grant funding.</p> <p>All sessions and materials are sustainable, environmentally friendly and ecologically sound.</p> <p>All health and safety standards will be adhered to, an accident log book will be used.</p> <p>Each session will start with a safety induction.</p> <p>Each session will have an aims, objectives and outcomes log .</p> <p>Each session will take a contact register.</p> <p>PLI public liability insurance will be provided as will general insurance for contents. Nothing of high value will be left in the building. It would be nice to have some shelves in the office for general equipment.</p> <p>Each session can be tailor made for various ages, abilities and goals.</p> <p>The organisers would like to attract visitors to the area and work in partnership with the Town Council and local community groups to provide fun, recreational and educational</p>

	opportunities.
2.3	The proposal is that a trial rent-free period is offered (until April 2022) in order to facilitate the establishment of the centre. Beyond this, the Committee should consider a lease in line with the current Town Council lease to occupy the workshop space.

How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

3.1	Some refurbishment of the workshop space (including access) would be necessary. Workshops would be chargeable, unless the group can attract grant funding. Some rent could be charged by Biddulph Town Council to cover management costs, from April 2022.
3.2	Biddulph Town Council would promote the events and incur expenditure associated with this activity.
3.3	The organisers would support the Town Council by managing bookings of the space, allowing access to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, as required. In addition, groups such as the U3A have expressed an interest in holding some gardening sessions in the workshop area (no formal request has been received to date).
3.4	Activity in the workshop may potentially provide mid-week business for the café, which would help to make this sustainable.