

Midhurst West Sussex

Lead Organisation

Midhurst Resource Centre Ltd.

Project Objectives

- To raise the profile of Midhurst as a service centre for residents, outlying communities, visitors and businesses
- To enhance the role of the Midhurst Resource Centre as a local hub for economic and community initiatives within the town
- To assist the Midhurst Chamber of Commerce develop it's services and increase membership
- To develop an Action Plan for the town partnership including updated SWOT analysis and update the Business Plan for the Resource Centre
- To increase number of users from outlying communities by 10%
- To increase number of young people using the Resource Centre by 25%
- To provide 8 outreach sessions with outlying communities

Achievements

- The establishment of "Midhurst in Partnership" and strengthening links with Midhurst Town Council and Chichester District Council. An action plan has been prepared with priorities for the future
- The Resource Centre has acted as the business office for the Chamber including administrative duties and newsletter publication and distribution. Membership has increased by 5%
- Presentations have taken place to publicise the services available at the Centre and an attempt has been made to open an outreach centre at Petworth although this is being reviewed following a bad start and renewed activity will include a more attractive package involving support from a wider range of agencies.
- Mail shots to local residents and businesses have increased the use of the Centre by 10%, particularly for IT training and internet access
- A Youth Information Point was set up but had to close due to poor take up and reasons outlined in lessons learned



Funding

Most of the money came from the SRB grant with the rest as an in kind donation

Those involved

Midhurst Resource Centre Ltd.
Midhurst Town Council,
Midhurst Chamber of Commerce,
District Council,
County Council,
Cowdray Estate (largest employer in area),
Midhurst Senior Youth Wing and
Sussex Rural Community Council

Lessons learned

A number of projects have been delayed such as the establishment of a farmers' market due to issues over location and size. Furthermore there was a change in management and a lack of producers. This was resolved by working in partnership with the District, a neighbouring town and market organisers to share existing resources. The Midhurst exhibition to promote

Midhurst *continued*

the town as a working and leisure environment is also underway but has taken longer than expected. Unfortunately, opportunities to encourage young people to use the centre, such as IT and internet access have been abandoned due to the behaviour of some young people required increased supervision and evening opening was no longer practical or affordable. Any further provision would require substantial rethinking.

Main Contact

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