

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Building resilience for Pathmakers
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact NCC and trust/charity working strengthens partnerships. As an independent charity, Pathmakers can raise income, allowing the NLAF to be more proactive in its approach to countryside access improvements.	

Executive summary

Pathmakers (CIO) is the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum and is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk.

An Expression of Interest made by Pathmakers to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Resilient Heritage) to improve resilience for the organisation has received positive feedback from the HLF, and development of the full bid is now underway, using further ideas generated during a workshop held on 21st November 2018.

A successful application was made to the Geovation fund on behalf of Pathmakers ("Community Friends' Walks") which could develop into a business for Pathmakers.

1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1. Work is ongoing by Pathmakers to develop a full bid to the HLF to improve organisational resilience.

The bid will draw upon 5 UEA undergraduate student projects arranged through Jenni Turner (a UEA lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Pathmakers trustee) to increase understanding of path useage, benefits and user need.

In the meantime, further funds for Pathmakers have been explored, resulting in a successful bid to the Geovation Fund (Ordnance Survey) by Sarah Abercrombie on behalf of Pathmakers.

The proposal/recommendation is that the Norfolk Local Access Forum offers continuing support for the Pathmakers bid to the HLF and supports the development of the Pathmakers "Community Friends" Geovation project.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. Pathmakers held a workshop on 21 November 2017 develop ideas in preparation for a full bid to the HLF.

An audit of trustee skills identified some skill gaps including campaigning, fund-raising and marketing which will feed into the training programme within the full bid.

Funds for Pathmakers were discussed at the workshop (Geovation; Bright ideas Fund; Parish Partnerships Fund; Place-based Social Action Fund. Sarah Abercrombie went on to develop a Geovation bid for Pathmakers.

Geovation Fund Bid “Community Friends’ Walks” was successfully submitted by Sarah Abercrombie for Pathmakers (subsequent to the workshop):

“Norfolk has some of the most lovely coast and countryside in Britain with fantastic wildlife and historic sites and is well used by confident active people. However, it also has many health challenges, particularly people from an increasing older population, deprived communities and those with mental health issues, many of whom are isolated and inactive. They need to get out more but are not confident, do not know where to go and have no-one to go with. Our idea is to set up a walking group scheme including dementia walks and companion walks and match people with local knowledge about where to walk and what to see with people who have inactive lifestyles using geographic information on populations, resources, mapping and availability. We would work with carers, gp surgeries, care homes, community groups, Age Concern and other to identify individuals and then offer support to get them out walking; train local people how to provide support for vulnerable people and match them with people in their area who need the service with geographic information on walks in their area. The scheme could be funded from social prescriptions, Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) or from individuals themselves.”

The prize is fully funded attendance at a 3 day “Camp Geovation” in London in February for up to 4 Pathmakers trustees to develop a business model from the idea with the opportunity to pitch for further funding and business partners.

The HLF bid to the Resilient Heritage Fund “Paving the Way for Pathmakers” focuses on the heritage of the Public Rights of Way (and Trails) network itself, and ensures that Pathmakers market niche is well understood by establishing user (and geographic location) need. Overall, the project will enable Pathmakers to develop long-term organisational resilience. The application will be made by Pathmakers to the HLF.

The Expression of Interest submitted in November received a positive response, and development of the full bid is now underway:

- (i) A part time staff co-ordinator will be recruited to manage activities within the project. Experts will be recruited for specific tasks
- (ii) A business plan will be developed which will include the design and costing of 5 case-study pilot projects which will help formulate the approach to project development.
- (iii) Feeding into the business plan will be the results of 5 UEA undergraduate student projects (running separately to the project) which are investigating the use of paths to deliver improved mental and physical health, improved awareness and appreciation of the landscape, safe and enjoyable access to the countryside and sustainable and healthy commutes to work, across 5 specific user classifications : classifications (peri-urban; ‘saga’; market towns; educational; recent housing). The students’ time has been arranged by Jenni Turner (UEA lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Pathmakers trustee).
- (iv) Pathmakers trustees will be upskilled through a mix of training, facilitated workshops and visits to local projects. Training will be staged so that it is appropriate to the stage of the project – for example, training in income generation will follow development of the business plan so that appropriate funding models can be used to tackle income needs of specific projects/areas
- (v) Stakeholder input to Pathmakers will be strengthened to improve governance

and widen reach through a facilitated workshop.

(vi) volunteer and user group input to Pathmakers planning and governance will be strengthened through a conference

(vii) further trustees will be recruited to address skills gaps

(viii) user need will be investigated through survey and workshop

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. There are opportunities for Pathmakers to develop an income stream through the Geovation 'Community Friends' project.

The Resilient Heritage project does not require any match funding (if under £100,000 is sought).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. "Community Friends" (Geovation Fund project) is highly innovative, and if successful at the next stage (following the Geovation Camp event in February) could develop into a business for Pathmakers.

5. Background

- 5.1 Pathmakers (CIO) – the NLAF's charitable arm - is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk. Pathmakers can bridge the gap between the NLAF's aims for improvements to access and what is feasible (given restricted capacity in local communities and the limitations of the public sector to make improvements on the ground). For example, Pathmakers will seek to make the countryside more accessible to benefit rural communities by securing resources to make this possible.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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