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| Newchurch Village Community Association  Charity number 1194179. Company number 12027719 |

**Application from Newchurch Village Community Association Rossendale**

Newchurch Village Community Association Rossendale (NVCA) is a charity based in the Rossendale Valley in East Lancashire. Following the decline of the cotton and footwear industries the old mill towns became run down, looking somewhat dreary in places, and uncared for. NVCA was founded in 2010, its gardening and litter picking teams work in all weathers and seasons to enhance the appearance of the village and bring back a sense of community pride.

NVCA volunteers are well organised and hardworking and have undertaken various community projects which have enhanced the village and surrounding area. These projects include the regular upkeep of a small community park, bulb planting, the installation and maintenance of 3 defibrillators applied and raised funds towards the creation of a children’s playground on the local estate, improve local footpaths rights of way and the repair of dry-stone walling and stiles (enabling residents to access their countryside and walks. In addition NVCA has raised and donated money for local and national charities. We have also held events at the local schools and churches e.g. Bird of Prey and walking nativity. **(Please see attached photos)** The businesses and residents of the village frequently and openly express appreciation of the work which we do. The volunteers work as a team which has multiple benefits for the volunteers themselves and the wider community, adopting previously neglected community spaces and turning them into gardens and colourful landscapes. The work is therapeutic and, for many of the volunteers, prevents social isolation.

Volunteers also go out picking litter, either on their own or as part of litter picking exercises when we also involve local residents and businesses.

Our work has the permission and support of the Local Authority but is not funded by the Authority.

NVCA wish to improve another section of the area by creating 2 flower beds on the village green which presently looks barren and in need of some attention. This will enhance the appearance and enable people both young and old to sit/look out onto a colourful and relaxing area, ultimately improving mental health and well being whilst providing food and homes for the local insects thus enhancing the environment.

Work can start on the project ASAP with the aim being to complete after the last frost.

**The cost for materials is estimated at £900 and this is the amount we are requesting from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund.**

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Heppleston

NVCA Chair email fionaheppleston@yahoo.co.uk