



Daventry & District Housing, Daventry, Northamptonshire

Daventry and District Housing (DDH) funds 100k per year to the Environmental Improvements Budget* for residents to decide and allocate how the money should be spend in the local area.



The Environmental Improvement Budget, set up by Daventry District Housing (DDH) in 2007, sets aside 100k each year for a community budget in which a group of tenants, known as the 'Projects Committee', decide what the money should be spent on.

David Marriott from Holcot in Daventry is a member of the Projects Committee and a DDH resident. He became involved with the Projects Committee after learning about it through another community led initiative he worked with.

David said: "I retired several years ago and to keep myself busy I decided to do some voluntary work. I've been part of DDH's tenant group for some time so the Environmental Improvements Budget project team seemed like a natural progression."

The residents have used the Environmental Improvements Budget to support a range of schemes and organisations in the area. A local sixth form was given a small budget to transform a disused classroom into a common room for year 11 students; a former bus shelter in one of the villages had fallen into disrepair and was replaced using the funds; Brixworth Christian Fellowship (BCF) Care was awarded with money to help update equipment such as blood pressure monitors as well as to pay towards transport and staff training costs.

David continues: “The residents are given the authority to decide which projects to support and how much funding to award each one. Residents feel a sense of empowerment as they can control what changes are made to the community and can feel the positive effects the funding has collectively. We are involved in the process right through to completion and often visit sites once projects are complete to follow up and get feedback. It’s very satisfying to allocate money and see how it is put into use by improving the local environment.”

“All tenant run initiatives help establish a strong sense of community, but on a personal level I’ve found it a great way to make friends who I wouldn’t have met otherwise and put expertise and skills I’ve picked up throughout my life into good use.”

Sarah Sims, Daventry District Housing Support Officer, comments: “The Environmental Improvement Fund is available to local groups who are able to make suggestions about the changes they would like to see. The staff at DDH and the tenants work very closely together; there is no divide between us, we are like a big family. Funding is confirmed until 2012 and we are all looking forward to completing more exciting projects during this time.”

Results

- Allocated 300K to the Environmental Improvement Budget
- The project is scheduled to receive a further 300k over the next three years.



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