
From: Helen Drake <ceo@caeasthants.org.uk>

Sent: 26 February 2019 12:15

To: Clerk East Tisted

Subject: Application for grant funding from Citizens Advice East Hampshire

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to ask your parish councillors to consider a request for a grant donation towards the work of Citizens Advice East Hampshire. We are a local charity, and a member (although independent) of the national Citizens Advice network across the UK. We help the people of East Hampshire overcome their problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice.

In the last year, we have supported nearly 5,800 local residents, with over 12,000 different issues. The main areas of concern were benefits, debt, employment and housing, but we also helped people suffering from domestic violence, helped those with mental and physical ill health remain in their own homes and supported the public on a wide range of other issues. We also use evidence that we collect to work with local and national policy makers to make improvements to peoples lives. With access to free legal advice locally being extremely limited, Citizens Advice is often the only place that people can go to seek help with legal, financial and other issues.

Our service is primarily funded by East Hampshire District Council. However, in order to deliver our services effectively and fully in all main towns and parishes, we do require continued financial support from parish councils and other local supporters.

I attach our most recent annual report as well as the statistical report for residents living in East Tisted in the Ropley and Tisted Ward, where we have helped approximately 50 clients last year with 128 different issues. The attached report gives further details on this, but to summarise, benefits, employment, and then housing issues were the most frequent advice requests from local residents. Over a third of these were disabled or had long term health issues, so we have helped some of the most vulnerable residents who live in the parish.

The coming year looks challenging from a client perspective, not least because of the roll out of Universal Credit in East Hampshire but also the high cost of living being a serious problem for local residents exacerbated by insecure employment, increasing debt and resultant relationship issues. We would welcome any support, however, small the parish is able to provide to our organisation to continue helping people in these areas. To give you some guidance, the smaller parishes that do fund us tend to donate between £100 - £300 per annum to support our organisation.

Best wishes

Helen Drake

Helen Drake

Chief Executive

Citizens Advice East Hampshire

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Citizens Advice East Hampshire

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Charity Registration Number: 1129850

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OBS.