

National Lottery and large funder tips

It doesn't much matter whether you are seeking large or small amounts of money, the National Lottery and other major funders will be looking at what you are offering to the community. The 'in' words today are things like youth, disadvantaged, vulnerable, social wellbeing and possibly environment. You need to try to target some aspects of your project outwards to those in need. Remember most funders are not religious organisations so you may need to emphasise the secular aspects of the project. You probably won't end up paying for most of this because the idea is to ask the funder for say £50,000 of which £10,000 is paying for the "community" aspects and £40,000 for the bells.

Things you might consider as objectives or outcomes:

- Raise awareness or profile of ringing in the community, as a leisure activity with fitness and social benefits. Raise awareness amongst young people through talks to schools and community groups and visits to see the bells. Increase the training of new ringers. Extend the ringing experience of elderly ringers to allow them to remain physically and socially active.
- Develop resources for schools and the community eg build a new website maybe about one of the following
 - Bell ringing - how to do it, history, walks to local churches with bells, STEM material (the mechanics or mathematics of ringing)
 - Local area – history, wild life, walks in the area
 - Something for children or better still teenagers (maybe one of the above)
- Improve community engagement through visits to the church to see the bells
 - Up in the tower and down on the ground
 - Invite local groups (WI, U3A, other churches and faiths, scouts etc, schools) offer to fund travel if necessary
 - Produce printed material about the bells to distribute and inform visitors (leaflets, cards, booklets)
 - Organise a talk about bells
 - Visit to the foundry
- Build some new heritage into the project – add something to the headstocks (key ringers, local place names, historic figures connected with the church, those named on war memorials)
- Provide a rare opportunity for local unemployed / apprentices / disadvantaged to be involved in the installation works or other aspects of the project. This may give them work experience or improve self-esteem and self-confidence
- Make bell ringing more accessible to less able bodied people through the installation of a camera in the tower and screen in the church
- Improve the environment by re-wilding all or part of the churchyard.

- Increase footfall of casual visitors to the church through interesting display boards / booklets / leaflets about the area
- Create family friendly trails or treasure hunts around the church or churchyard
- Set up display boards or leaflets about the wildlife that can be seen around the church (or even in the church if you have bats)
- Undertake an oral history project. Is there a local history archive you could contribute towards
- Consider your carbon footprint, is there anything you can do to help the environment
- Ensure the bells remain available for weddings, funerals and other services for generations to come
- Ensure the ancient art of bell ringing flourishes and the skills involved continue to be passed on from one generation to the next

Church websites can be very factual and cluttered because of the number of churches or activities they have in the community. You might want to think about having a completely separate website just for the bell project with a link from the church bell page and also from your Facebook page. Tell people about the bells – their history – what the project is going to involve – how much each of the bits is going to cost. Ask people to sponsor something – headstock, bell ropes, clappers. There are loads of websites out there but you could have a look at these:

<https://www.ewhurstchurchrestoration.com/>

<http://tadhill.com/leigh-on-mendip-bell-restoration-project.html>

Set up a blog to issue short updates about the fundraising, the project or random bits of information. Look at things that make your bells or church really special. The British Newspaper Archive is a really useful source of information as well as local and county record offices.