

Decision taken by: **Ward Member for Hythe Rural – Councillor
John Wing**

Subject: Kent Coast Volunteering

Executive/non-executive decision: Non-executive

Date decision taken: 23 March 2020

Name and address of applicant(s):

Mark Connorton
65 Shaftesbury Avenue, Cheriton,
Folkestone
CT19 4NS

Name and description of project:

Kent Coast Volunteering - To support the Volunteer Taskforce Gardening project by contributing to the coordinator costs.

DECISION:

To provide funding of £420.69 to the above project.

Reason for decision:

Statistics show that 23.5% of the population in Folkestone & Hythe is aged 65+ (2019). Statistics also show high levels of home ownership among that age group (73%) and that just under a quarter are living alone (Office of National Statistics). Folkestone & Hythe's Healthier Housing Strategy 2018-2023 states that approximately 21% of all households (around 10,500) in the district contain at least one person with a long-term disability or illness. Many of these householders have gardens. We know from our work across a range of projects, that many householders struggle to maintain their outdoor spaces, and that being unable to do so is often one of the tipping points at which older people decide that they can no longer continue living in their homes. Poorly maintained outside space represents a potential tripping hazard and can be a source of shame. It can also mark out a home as lived in by a vulnerable person, thus making it more

vulnerable to criminals. Continuing high levels of demand for our service demonstrate that it is needed and could even be scaled up. There are also few projects locally for people with learning disabilities to undertake meaningful work which develops their skills.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.

Signed: 

23 March 2020

**Councillor John Wing
Hythe Rural**