



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS AWARDED FEEDBACK FORM

Organisation Name	Todmorden Makery (Scavenger Labs FM C.I.C is the legal body)		
Date of Award	15th February 2023	Amount of Award	£2550.00
Total Actual Project Cost	£5,500	Ref Number: <i>(office use only)</i>	Minute ref:

Purpose of Grant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Town Hall Hire <input type="checkbox"/> Project Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Core Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Pride <input type="checkbox"/> Town Centre Improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change <input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Arts & Music <input type="checkbox"/> Town Centre Event <input type="checkbox"/> Food Growing <input type="checkbox"/> Skills Development <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Sector Youth Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Social Exclusion/Economic Difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility and Inclusivity – especially Dementia friendly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)

Summary of project successes outcomes, benefits to Todmorden Community and Residents and numbers positively impacted by this Grant. If a more detailed appraisal is available for your project and its outcome, please attach to this feedback form.

This project allowed us to keep going as a community project as we grow our organisation and the kinds of activities that we undertake.

The core of the project costs involved rent payable to Tod College, publicity costs, and the payment of core admin costs and some of our ongoing project costs of tools, materials.

The figures below are very hard to be precise about but we feel the following are realistic based on the large number of drop in sessions as well as the additional activities.

The high number of dementia friendly activities stems from a new quiet drop in time that is run weekly based on feedback from some of our older volunteers.

The overall benefits of the Makery and the drop in sessions are outlined in our application and we have continued to deliver these benefits over the year. In addition we have collected some case studies for some of the additional activities that we are undertaking to really give a flavour of what we offer. I've included two here.

Below we have provided two case studies: one for an individual who is solely a Makery user (Baz), and one for an individual who is both a volunteer and user at the Makery (Nigel). We have used pseudonyms for confidentiality.

1) Baz is one of our regular Men in Sheds members attending fortnightly sessions. He was signposted to the group by a bereavement counsellor having lost his wife 2 years ago. He introduced himself as someone who was looking for a way to connect with others, instead of remaining alone all the time in the home he shared with his wife for two decades. Two months after joining Men in Sheds, Baz brought in the dismantled bed he had shared with his wife. He had the wonderful idea to turn the bed pieces into a community bench. Our Men in Sheds facilitators agreed with Todmorden College that the bench would have a permanent home in the communal lobby of the building. Baz asked the Men in Sheds members to 'get involved' in the project; he wanted everyone to join in, so it could be made as a group, demonstrating what can be achieved when we work together, and in doing so promote awareness around male mental health. For Baz this project clearly only had purpose if completed with others. We recently conducted an evaluation survey with the Men in Sheds members where Baz stated in his responses that the bench had particular significance for him, and that he had learnt from other group members in the process of its making. The bench is now nearing completion after several sessions and the involvement of at least 7 other members. In his evaluation Baz also reported how the process of making the bench, and being in the group more generally, had positively impacted his mental health, telling our facilitators that he felt awkward in talking-oriented mental health groups. What has been clear from this project is how the practical endeavour of collaborative carpentry opened a space for Baz to speak about his struggles with grief as and when he felt comfortable to do so with no pressure, which he has done on many occasions at Men in Sheds. From our conversations with Baz, we believe this project to be pivotal in his journey through grief and his approach to life after the loss of his wife and are aware that the timber of the old bed carries significant meaning for Baz, the transformation of this timber into a public bench representing a powerful shift from Baz's life with his wife, to a different reality where his primary connections now lie in community spaces. Such spaces as the Makery are rare in our society and we have no other comparable space locally.

2) Nigel has been a Makery volunteer since its inception. He helped build the workshop space; has co-run the Wednesday drop-in session for electrical fixes for two years; and our Men in Sheds group for over a year. When he first got involved, he was struggling with an ongoing divorce and the premature closure of his business, having recently left his long-term teaching career. Nigel has said the Makery gave him a stable focus at a time when his life was in complete flux, telling fellow volunteers that much of what he had built over the years (his marriage and his work) was suddenly unravelling during this period, and that this presented a crisis for his mental health. When we asked Nigel how the Makery had impacted him, his first response was: "My participation has made me feel valued as an individual in the community". Nigel's comment associates his sense of self value with his identity in the community, the Makery allowing individuals such as Nigel to see themselves as active members, with a powerful pathway to improved self-esteem and mental health. Nigel's volunteering at Makery sessions means he routinely supports others, which he has spoken about as being "a massive boost to my self-esteem", and an experience that has "helped me overcome some of the challenges I brought with me when joining the Makery".

Nigel will often collaborate with other volunteers when fixing items, such as when he was repairing a vintage model machine. To make the repair he had to remove some delicate fabric which required replacing. He was able to rely on a Makery textile specialist to carefully reconstruct the fabric, resulting in a collaborative repair to the item. He highlighted this experience as a good example of how being a Makery volunteer is a gateway to mutual support with others. Nigel's services to the community as a volunteer are combined with being supported himself at other sessions, such as open sessions for members and the bike drop-in. We recently asked Nigel about his overall experience of the Makery. He told our team that he has developed many new skills; grown his problem-solving abilities; built confidence to voice his ideas and opinions to others; and experienced a sense of value locally. These results all show positive life changes for Nigel. Ultimately, his engagement has given him stability and positive movement in his life at a time of turbulent transitions. A big part of this is his transition into post-employment life. In his own words, "I now feel I have a role in my life outside of employment".

Nigel and Baz's experiences at the Makery demonstrate how our projects promote growth and resilience, and facilitate positive life changes. In both cases, the Makery has provided stability and positive life change for the individuals, at a time when traumatic transitions in life have posed a threat to their mental health.

Impact – if applicable and where known have benefited from project - complete where relevant.	Numbers
Residents engaged in project/ viewed outcome.	300
Volunteers engaged in project.	50

Todmorden residents benefitting from skills development.	100
Volunteers benefitting from skills development.	50
Town Centre and or other venue visits generated.	not known
Youth persons involved in project.	40
Dementia friendly activities involved in the project	70
Socially excluded/those with economic difficulties involved in the project.	100

Financial Summary of Project/Event	Expenditure	£2,548.90	Income	£5,500
<p>If possible, please provide a set of accounts in respect of this specific project and where applicable, a later set of audited accounts if these are now available since originally submitting your grant application.</p> <p>Where accounts are not available a simple income and expenditure statement will suffice. Please attach evidence of expenditure e.g. receipts.</p>				

<p>How have you promoted the assistance of the Town Council in your project literature/Web Site and or Social Media? Please provide supporting evidence and where able to analytics of visits to site, opportunities to see.</p> <p>A good example of the kinds of printed materials and flyers used for social media promotion are included on our web page here.</p> <p>https://todmordenmastery.org.uk/2023/05/22/free-workshops-2023/</p>
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<p>What lasting benefit do you think the Town Council Grant has made to your organisation?</p> <p>This project would not have been able to start or to keep going financially without the support of the Town Council Grant.</p> <p>We are a volunteer run project and it is not viable for all of our funding to be dependent on project outcomes without covering core costs. So this grant has been able to sustain us as we start to get more donations from our members and build our ability to apply for other funding sources based on supporting peoples' health and wellbeing.</p>

<p>If you have received grants from the Town Council before, please advise how you intend to be more self-sustainable and reduce your reliance on Town Council funding for the future.</p> <p>This year we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● contact our members to try to increase the number making monthly donations ● apply for National Lottery funding and start to build the capacity for larger projects ● develop our website and case studies which show the benefit to health and wellbeing of our project for other funders ● increase the number of fundraising activities we undertake (which also reuse materials like fabrics as well)
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<p>If your project had any impact on Climate Emergency what were these and how were they minimised ?</p>

The following statement shows our impact on the Climate Emergency.

We strive to limit waste, and provide people with environmentally friendly solutions to some of our most common needs. This includes repairing not replacing, and cycling without being hampered by commercial maintenance costs. It also includes workshops such as Recover and Remake which specifically build our community's capacity to repair, reuse, craft and make.

One of the core missions of our project is to reduce waste which has a positive effect of lowering carbon emissions in regards to the full impact of the full cycle of production. We promote the value of repair and reuse and we are proud of the willingness of the people of Todmorden to get involved in our workshop oriented to reducing environmental and climate impact. Having repair and re-use of materials as the most prominent feature of the project and the workshop shows that people will volunteer their time to share skills and resources to improve the global environment and add richness to their local community.

In particular, textile waste and electronic-waste are extremely damaging to the environment and have negative climate effects. We prevent a significant amount of household items from going to landfill or overseas disposal. But even more importantly we are a hub to exchange skills to spread the process of repair.

As well as repairing items bought by owners and helping owners to build their repair skills. We also repair donated items and regifting them to the general public via our free/ give what you can shop (which is very popular with foodbank users on Saturday mornings). A new project involves regifting mobile phone and tablets after our volunteers have securely wiped data.

Our outreach workshops place strong emphasis on reusing materials that would otherwise have been discarded. They offer members' a chance to collaboratively make beautiful creations from what may otherwise have been landfill. In addition, most of our core tools like sewing machines, tools, computers have been sourced second hand or have been donated by the public.