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From: John Vickery <clerk@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 June 2018 11:28
To: Heather.nigbur-day@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Request for funding

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From: prachi
Sent: 12 April 2018 11:01
To: John vickery <clerk@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Request for funding

----- Forwarded message -----

From: prachi
Date: Thu, 12 Apr 2018, 10:18
Subject: Request for funding
To: Jessica Lydon <Jessica.Lydon@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk>, <office@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Dear Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of our community group Iskcon Cambourne. We are a small sub group of the International Society for Krishna consciousness. We have been running community events mainly promoting spiritual discussions and relevant spiritual courses on topics that influence daily lives of the local population with young families/ elderly parents to look after/ managing a work life balance and a platform for understanding some of the deeper nuances of life. We also have organised various festivals in Cambourne since 2007 which inspire community cohesion and participation.

Our main group aim is to involve the whole diverse community in Cambourne and present an opportunity, for all to unite, experience and participate in the various programmes/courses/festivals we conduct, with the ultimate aim of spiritual progress, of the community.

We think of our society as the human body, where all the organs (sections of society) need to function together as a group. This is the only way the body will be healthy. Our aim is to keep our Society (Cambourne) healthy in a similar way. We strive to develop strong relationships and long term bonds between individuals.

Our events have been open and free for all to attend. This is so that there are no barriers to attend. We have funded the hall hire for these events from our own pocket and donations as well.

For larger events we seek your support as these require substantially more funds and effort.

Over the last three years we have been celebrating the popular festival of Janmastami (appearance of Lord Krishna), with each year only getting bigger and better. Last year we celebrated, this, at the Cambourne village College with 283 people, celebrating, this event together. We kicked off with kids chanting ancient Vedic texts, a drama performance, live traditional Indian music, a talk by the guest speaker (from the Bhanktivedanta Manor, Watford), a short video and last but not least, a scrumptious feast cooked by the volunteers from the local community.

The feedback we have received has been extremely positive with people enjoying the evening and participating whole heartedly and now eagerly awaiting for the celebration this year.

The event has been free to attend for all, the aim being to provide something back to the community. The rough cost for the event last year was ~ £1000 which includes the venue, kitchen hire, food (cooked and donated by volunteers), other costs (ie disposables, drama costumes - ordered, all the way from India, etc). In the past we have we have tried to cover this cost mainly through donations from other local community group and individual donations. Unfortunately we have been unable to cover the cost which was then borne by individuals as able.

We hope to continue to hold this event as a free event, even this year, if possible. Alternatively we may be required to levy a charge to cover our costs.

This might prevent a few from attending due to financial constraints. We would hope to avoid this situation, as far as possible.

This year we hope to have better arrangements, with more musicians, better show and more participation from the wider community.

We would appreciate any help towards the funding of this event. We hope to continue to serve the community in whatever way we can, with the councils support and help.

We would be happy to come and discuss with yourselves regarding our activities and purposes in person if required.

Hoping for a positive response from yourselves.