

Press Release



Community Association Awarded BT Community Champions Grant

Date: 2 October 2007

Status: For immediate use

The Bell Tower Community Association in Reading has been awarded £100 by the BT Community Champions award scheme thanks to the voluntary work of Teresa Colliass, a BT employee. Run by BT's charity programme, BT Community Champions awards BT people with funding on behalf of local community groups, charities and organisations where they work on a voluntary basis.

Following the second review in 2007-08, funding has been allocated to a variety of groups who demonstrated how the award would make a difference to their group and benefit their local community. The Bell Tower Community Association is one of hundreds that applied for an award during review two of the scheme and impressed judges with how they would use their grant.

The association plans to use its £100 award to produce a quarterly newsletter for local residents. David Neale, the newsletter editor, said, "We are very pleased with our BT Community Champions award. Currently the cost of the newsletter is just about covered by advertising from local businesses, and we're very grateful to them, but this award will put us on a much more secure financial footing. With this award we will be able to continue to keep the community informed about the local issues that affect all of us."

Teresa Colliass is the Chairman of Bell Tower Community Association and applied for the award. She said, "We set up the Community Association two years ago and funding is always difficult to come by. The BT Community Champions award scheme provides a great opportunity for community groups like ours – every contribution makes a difference. It is very positive that BT recognises the voluntary work of its people and supports the charity sector in this way."

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BT people can apply for a BT Community Champions award to receive cash grants of up to £500. Funding can be used for purchasing specific equipment or as a contribution towards a particular project. Alternatively, they can apply for a full set of football kit – for an under 18s team or for a team of adults with disabilities.

Ends.

Notes to Editors

Bell Tower Community Association

- The Association was founded in October 2005.
- It represents 600 homes and businesses in the area bounded by Caversham Road, Northfield Road, Barry Place, the residential end of Cardiff Road, Addison Road, Denbeigh Place and Randolph Road.
- It represents the local community, organises events, publishes a quarterly newsletter and operates a members' discount scheme with local businesses.
- The neighbourhood has no historic name so the association took on the name of a local landmark, the bell tower on E P Collier Primary School in Swansea Road. The tower can be seen from all over the area.

BT

- BT is one of the world's leading providers of communications solutions and services operating in 170 countries.
- Its principal activities include networked IT services; local, national and international telecommunications services; higher-value broadband and internet products and services and converged fixed/mobile products and services.
- BT consists principally of four lines of business: BT Global Services, Openreach, BT Retail and BT Wholesale.

Information

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BT Community Champions website: www.btcommunitychampions.com