



ECDC CLT SET-UP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

About your organisation:			
Organisation name (if known):	Viva Community Land Trust		
Name of contact:	Dan Schumann	Title: Mr/ Ms/ Other	Mr
Position held:	Founding member		
Organisation address:	Correspondence address (if different):		
The Viva Centre, 7 Churchgate Street			
Soham			
Postcode:	CB7 5DS	Postcode:	
Telephone:	01353 722 228	Contact telephone:	07974 303 464
Email address:	ds@danielschumann.co.uk		
Does your organisation already have a bank account (delete as applicable)?		Yes	
Note: if there is a bank account, please supply a copy of the latest statement			
If no bank account, is there another local organisation, such as a Parish or Town Council that could hold and administer the grants funds on your behalf? If so, please give details below:			
Viva Arts and Community Group Ltd			
Council Bank:		Sort Code:	



<i>In which geographical area do you wish to set-up your organisation?</i>	
Soham Parish, East Cambridgeshire, UK	
<i>How many people are currently involved? 6</i>	
Please list the names and give brief details of your working group. so far as it is established (e.g. 'local resident', 'Parish Councillor', 'Local Authority Representative', 'Housing Officer'):	
Daniel Schumann	ECDC Councillor and Founder and Trustee of VIVA
Josh Schumann	ECDC Councillor, Soham School Governor, County Councillor and Trustee of VIVA
Ian Bovingdon	Land agent and ECDC Councillor
Ann Roberts	Former teacher, Trustee of both Soham Museum and VIVA
Angela Bocking	Drama teacher & Head of Inclusion at Soham Village College and Trustee of VIVA
Michael Hawes	Accountant and Chair of VIVA Trustees
Signature of person responsible for set-up grant application:	
Print name:	Date:
DANIEL SCHUMANN	13 DECEMBER 2016
<i>What is your vision for your organisation?</i>	
Soham is an historic and attractive market town of about 11,000 people, located midway between Ely and Newmarket. The town has grown considerably over the last 10 years, with new housing developments to the north of the town and on a range of other 'infill' sites. It is recognised by the Draft Local Plan that the town centre is not performing as well as it could. There are three primary	



schools and a large secondary school in Soham.

We believe that arts, culture and educational facilities, particularly for young people, are underprovided in the town (and surrounding areas) and demand is unmet. There is a lack of specialist facilities in Soham and throughout East Cambs. available to the community to use for arts, culture and education. It is the vision of Viva Community Land Trust to develop a centre to further this kind of activity within Soham. Viva Community Land Trust envisages that this centre will provide theatre space and a permanent central hub for arts and cultural activity within Soham and for the surrounding district.

What type of organisation do you want to set-up (e.g. Community Land Trust, Co-operative)?

Community Land Trust, probably a Community Benefit Society with Charitable objectives.

We would use the model rules provided by the National CLT Network and register with the FCA

Why do you think this is the most appropriate legal model for what you want to do?

We think it is the most appropriate legal model as it ensures the organisation is set up for the benefit of the community and provides an asset lock. It is important to us that any assets developed or gained by the organisation are used for community benefit in perpetuity and to meet the objectives of the Trust.

We also think that the ability to issue share capital within this model could be valuable.

We want membership of the Trust to be open and to anyone within Soham and not exclusive to those that already work with VIVA or are members of VIVA.

About your project:

Please describe your project.

It would be useful to know what type of community assets you want to create (e.g. houses, workspaces, allotments etc), and the scale of your project, i.e. how many properties you hope to build in the current scheme?

We would like to develop a purpose built community theatre or arts centre to be a home for VIVA and a hub for arts and culture in Soham and the surrounding areas. We are keen to add to the quality of life within Soham, which already has a range of amenities and facilities, by providing somewhere that



the community can get involved with arts and culture, as well as being an educational facility for young people and the general community.

We are already undergoing the process to find suitable land and are finding that land may come forward as landowners understand the community benefit that will be provided to Soham. We are hoping to find land appropriately located to be a hub for the town and of sufficient size to provide parking and good facilities.

We would like to see the town own this centre as a community asset, available for all to use and enjoy.

Have you carried out any local needs surveys, such as a housing need survey? What were the results? If you have not carried out any surveys how do you know there is a need for your project?

We know there is a need for a new theatre centre as VIVA is a popular and vibrant organisation within the town. The centre we currently use is being sold. Viva would like to be able to keep up with demand for arts, theatre and culture and have a permanent centre to do so.

The Soham Healthcheck is the largest piece of community consultation that Soham has completed. The Healthcheck (carried out by one in four homes in Soham) provided in detail figures regarding provision, need, aspirations, positive and negative aspects of the town, facilities, leisure, skills/ training, access, young people, elders and so on, which has all been taken into account when in our project vision.

The Soham Healthcheck identified the following:

'...there is no cinema, art gallery or museum....'

'There are no designated facilities for arts and cultural activities in Soham or its immediate area'

73% of respondents said they were not involved in the community and **73%** of respondents said they were not in any community groups. 70% of people said they did not have easy access to the cinema and 84% said they did not have easy access to the theatre.

Respondents said, ***'more facilities are needed for teenagers'*** and that they would like to see ***'facilities in town grow at the same rate as the number of houses'*** It also said that ***'We need a cinema and other entertainment'***

During the 'Make the Most of Soham' workshops Soham Town Council in partnership with local



people through the Soham Town Forum, highlighted the need for:

'flexible community facilities particularly encompassing facilities for young people'

The County Council have consulted widely on what young people want in the county...here are some relevant results:

Extended Schools Survey – Office of Children and Young People's Services

512 young people participated:

Activities young people wanted added or more access to:

Outings

Drama

Dance

Making videos

Barriers to participation:

Young people living in rural areas had problems accessing activities after school as there is a lack of public transport

Cost

Who runs the activity

Activities being competitive

Fear of bullying

Many want adult supervision

Also...

Young people with disabilities want the same activities as other young people.

Getting it Right Consultation – Office of Children and Young People's Services

1800 young people consulted who wanted:

More things to do for all ages;

More things for families to do together;

Safe and secure environments;

Reduce stress by providing more things to do;

Alternative activities (will reduce drug and alcohol use)

Reduce bullying by providing more things to do;

Improved access.

Other than the surveys have you directly engaged or informed your local community about your plans?

If yes, how did you do this?

We plan to hold a public meeting, calling on existing members of Viva Arts and Community Group and encouraging new members from within the community and key community organisations. We will particularly engage with the local schools and other relevant bodies/organisations within Soham such as Soham Museum.



About the project beneficiaries:

Who will directly benefit from your project (e.g. who will use or occupy the assets / properties)?

The whole of Soham, particularly those involved in Viva and any cultural activities, local schools and young people. We hope to add vibrancy to the local community and improve the quality of life for residents as well as provide positive activities for young people and contribute to the town's economic regeneration through the arts, culture and theatre.

The town as a whole will benefit from the development of a shared town asset.

How will you select the occupants of any housing that you plan to build?

N/A

Will the properties you intend to build be constructed using local materials or sustainable building techniques?

Where possible and we already have good links with local builder/developers

*What do you want to achieve in the **short-term** (i.e. within next 6 months)?*

Find and secure suitable land. Establish Viva Community Land Trust as a legal entity and a board of trustees as well as garnering support from the community.

*What are your plans for the **medium-term** (i.e. 6 months to 3 years)?*

We would like to achieve planning permission for a site and to begin building a community theatre/ arts centre in Soham. We will seek to establish a partnership between landowner, Viva CLT and the developer and to hold public meetings and engagement events to keep the community informed and involved in the project. We would also make sure the Council is fully informed and consulted at each stage of the development.

We will establish a membership base and have regular communication with everyone that joins as a member through social media, newsletters, events and media releases.

*What are your plans for the **long-term** (i.e. once the current project has been completed?)*

To continue to build on Soham's capacity for arts, culture and education. We expect we could do this



through community consultation, to find out what the community needs, and through partnerships with bodies such as local schools, museums, Soham Library etc. For us, the first step is for arts and theatre to have a permanent home in Soham, which is what we hope to achieve with this project. Once this project is completed we have a foundation to build from.

What do you hope to achieve in your community through this project? How will it contribute to your vision?

We hope to achieve a better provision for arts, theatre, culture and education and to ensure it is available to the whole community, particularly young people. We want to add to the vibrancy and community feeling of the town by providing activities and events in which people can come together and feel proud of what their town has achieved. We will also be providing a fun, inclusive way for people to spend their leisure time in the town, encourage volunteering and people's quality of life.

About you:

Why are you the right people to lead this project?

We have various skill sets (planning, accounting, education, land agent) and extensive experience already working with VIVA and working with the community (Viva has a track record of 20 years of successful delivery of local community and arts and youth projects). We all feel passionately about furthering arts, culture and education in the area. We are all local people and understand the town and its context very well. Skills that we do not have we will seek to find.

What skills do you have?

Extensive experience in theatre, community engagement, fundraising, voluntary work, financial management, communication, organisation, administration, planning, accounting, education, land agency and local Council.

We are all also passionate about giving back to the community and believe we have the skills and motivation to do so.

What skills are you missing and how will you acquire them?

We will use CLT East as specialist CLT advisers and seek professional/ consultancy advice when appropriate, for example in viability assessments.

We will also join the National CLT Network for wider support from the CLT community.



Do you have the support of other individuals or organisations? If so, please outline (e.g. 'local authority', 'parish council', 'regional CLT Umbrella'):

CLT East (regional CLT umbrella)

Wider VIVA community

Our funding:

How will you spend the ECDC Fund grant?

Please provide a brief explanation of each activity for example 'to complete the set up of the organisation', 'to conduct community engagement activities', or 'to develop our business plan'. Please ensure that you provide a breakdown of the number of days/cost of each activity and who will be paid for their input.

Note: If your accounts or bank statement show a healthy balance you will be expected to explain why you are unable to pay for this work from your own funds

We are requesting a £5,000 grant.

It is intended that the ECDC grant will pay for legal fees in order to set the CLT up as a legal entity, purchasing Model Rules from the National CLT Network, the fee for registering with the FCA and various costs surrounding setting up such as organising and advertising community engagement events. We are not seeking any other funding at this stage and the committee are all unpaid volunteers.

How did you hear about the ECDC Set-up grant fund?

Via Debbie Wildridge, CLT East