



PRESS RELEASE: 17th April 2009

£500,000 Grants for Communities affected by Quarrying

Local groups living within 10 kilometres of a quarrying site can now apply for grants of up to £20,000 from Surrey Community Action to support community-based projects in their area.

The Community Aggregates Fund, known as COMMA, is part of a nationwide scheme which aims to compensate communities affected by quarrying, such as East Horsley which received a grant of £7,500 last year to make improvements to the main entrance of its local village hall, and Oxted where a local project to develop accessible pathways for the disabled received a grant of £7,000.

The fund has been set up by DEFRA and will be administered at local county level in three stages from 2008/9 to 2010/11.

Peter Gooch, who administers the grants for Surrey Community Action, estimates that there are 19 potential sites where local groups may qualify for a COMMA Fund Grant within the Surrey area. Applicants will need to produce detailed plans of how their initiative would benefit their local community, such as providing disabled access to a community building, installing playground equipment, provision of community transport scheme or allotment gardens.

To qualify for this year's funding of £434,300, projects must be capable of completion by the end of March 2010, and applications will need to be in by 5th June, 2009.

If you live in a community affected by quarrying and have an idea for a project that will directly improve the lives of local people and would like to apply for a COMMA Fund Grant, then contact Peter Gooch on 01483 459292 Ext 234 or email peterg@surreyca.org.uk for more details.

Information on a wide range of other grant schemes is also available from Surrey Community Action. Contact the Funding & Resource Adviser, on 01483 459292 ext 215, or email paulines@surreyca.org.uk to find out more.

Surrey Community Action is resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector across Surrey through access to advice, funding, training and advocacy.

Surrey Community Action actively promotes volunteering and the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey are on our website

www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm