



SUCCESS STORY

"Thank you, once again, for your time and support. We truly wouldn't be where we are without your input!"

Community Impact Bucks Support to Groups Service & Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust

About Your Group/Organisation

The Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust was established to preserve, maintain and enhance approximately 170 acres of Community Woodland and an historic quarry, which are located in the Parish of Thornborough, a few miles outside the county town of Buckingham. The site was established and maintained by Bucks County Council until April this year. As Bucks CC were no longer going to maintain the site, local residents stepped forward to take it on.

How has Community Impact Bucks helped?

"We initially came to CIB for advice about the process of obtaining charitable status. We believed that we wanted to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) but because CIOs are a new type of organisation and we had no experience of charity formation, we really did know where to start.

During the initial telephone conversation, Sara quickly arranged for a face to face meeting. At that meeting she spent a long time just listening to our journey. From this, she was able to help with so much more than Charity registration (although she did that too!). She raised pertinent questions about the legal agreements for ownership of the Woodlands, introduced us to local funders, discussed our funding readiness and sign posted us to practical training.

Sara's support has been constant throughout a five month application process. When the Charity Commission required amendments to our first application Sara was quickly available to assist with re-drafting and gave moral support through a very lengthy process. It all turned out well, we successfully secured CIO status last month. But, as importantly, we also acted on Sara's other advice. We now have a well skilled Board of Trustees, an awareness of the practical help we need going forward, a list of priority tasks for our first few months of operation and a robust lease arrangement for the Woods."

Tanya Pepin
Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust
October 2015



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