



building stronger communities

A Guide for Community Groups, Organisations and Businesses

Welcome to Somersham and Pidley Time Bank

This guide has been prepared for organisations and groups within Somersham and Pidley to give you the information you should need to be a member of this exciting project.

As a member of the Time Bank, you are a member of the community. This means that you must be prepared to receive from others as well as to give to others. Without this two-way sharing the project will not work.

For each hour of resources or time that your organisation shares with an individual or other organisation you earn an hours credit back in return.

Unlike a normal bank account you do not have to be in a credit situation before you 'spend'. You may choose to use your credits as you go or you may want to save them for times when you need additional support. All credits given and received are recorded by the Time Bank Co-ordinator.

To sign up to the Time Bank or to find out more please contact Lucy Bird on 07443 619017 or you can e-mail lucy.bird@somersham-pc.gov.uk.

Why join a Time Bank?

For voluntary and community organisations

Just imagine what could be possible with unlimited resources. Somersham and Pidley have a huge number of organisations with great premises, specialist skills and equipment that are under-utilised. Sharing resources is not a new idea but something that we would all do more if there were time to explore what is available and a forum to exchange our assets.

Sharing your resources can have multiple benefits. As well as saving on purchase or rental costs for equipment and meeting space, gaining additional skills to support your organisation, interacting with other groups and businesses will forge new links and partnerships for collaborative working.

The time bank model means that for each hour that you provide a resource an hour credit is earned in return that you can exchange for another resource. This costs nothing to be part of.

For businesses

Supporting the voluntary and community sector is an integral part of corporate social responsibility and can have huge benefits for both the organisation receiving support and your business. Staff can get involved in skill sharing, helping them to meet their personal development objectives. Working on group projects can develop team work and enable staff to use or learn new additional skills.

Sharing physical resources with the voluntary and community sector can introduce you to new charity partners. Your voluntary and resource sharing through the time bank will earn you credits that you can use for your own business or donate to your charity partners or the Time Bank Community Pot.

How does it work?

Credits and debits

For the time bank to work we need requests as well as offers. Each time you share your resources you will earn credit for the duration you have shared the resource. One hour is equal to one credit. Smaller organisations may not have resources to initially share, but this does not exclude you from the time bank.

If you are a private business you may build up your credits or donate them to other organisations. You may decide to donate them to our 'Community pot' from which people who are not able to participate due to health reasons can draw from this pot. We will track your hours and can provide regular statements.

Your Offer

Resources you can offer as part of the Time Bank are entirely up to you as an organisation. Below is a list of resources that you may have to share, this list is not exhaustive;

Equipment; projectors, flip charts, cameras, collection boxes, fete games, exhibition stands, photocopier

Premises; desk space, meeting rooms, storage space

Skills; Specialist knowledge, for example; health and safety, web design, social media and technology, human resources, working with a particular client or general advice and guidance. Places on training you provide can also be part of your offer.

Vehicles; pool cars, mini buses

You can add to or remove from your offer at any point.

Your Requests

The resources you request are as important as the offers you make to make the network work. To utilise the offers made from other organisations please keep us up to date with resources you are looking to gain. This will help to identify new organisations to bring to the time bank. Skills resources will take many forms and could be a one-off, short term or longer term skill share, or a small or large group project.

Your Volunteers

Your volunteers may wish to join the Time Bank as individual participants. This allows them to get involved in other aspects of the Time Bank. The credits gained can be used as part of the time bank in exchanges with other individual members, such as gardening, small DIY jobs etc. As a participant your volunteers would be able to attend our social events and be a part of the time bank community.

Joining as an individual is optional and would not necessarily suit all your volunteers.

How do we sign up?

Membership

There is no cost to join or be part of the time bank.

Once you have decided to join Somersham and Pidley Time Bank the co-ordinator will organise a meeting to go through your offers and requests with you. Feel free to ask any questions or go through any concerns you may have. You will be given a Members Handbook covering all aspects from Assignments, Health and Safety, Rights and Responsibility through to Complaint Procedures.

Your details will be added to our computer system and once we have received references you are up and running and exchanges can take place.

Once a resource share has occurred we will follow up to see how things went and update our records.

Please Contact

Lucy Bird, Time Bank Coordinator

Tel; 07443 619 017

Email lucy.bird@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Please note core working hours are Tues-Thurs 9.30am-2.30pm.

www.somershamtb.org.uk



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