



#ConnectMe – Resource Pack 3

Celebrate your street – together!



Unit 11 – When to ask for help

Whilst we absolutely believe that the best way to run a street project is by using the skills and talents of your neighbours, there may be times when your streets' plans exceed the collectively available experience and resources. You have a choice here. You can use non-professional volunteers or you can raise the funds to commission a professional artist or other expert. We have found that the funds that can be raised through small pot funding and other techniques described in the next Unit means that professionals can be commissioned to work alongside community members to ensure that any resultant product is something that everyone can be proud of.

Here are some examples of where *Squilometre* communities have commissioned professional help in the past:-

Sweetbrier Lane and Sacred Trees promenade performances:-

Professional Director, actors and musicians



Park in the Dark Exhibition:-

Project curator, photographer

Astronomer



Heavitree Quarry Trails:-

Archaeologist

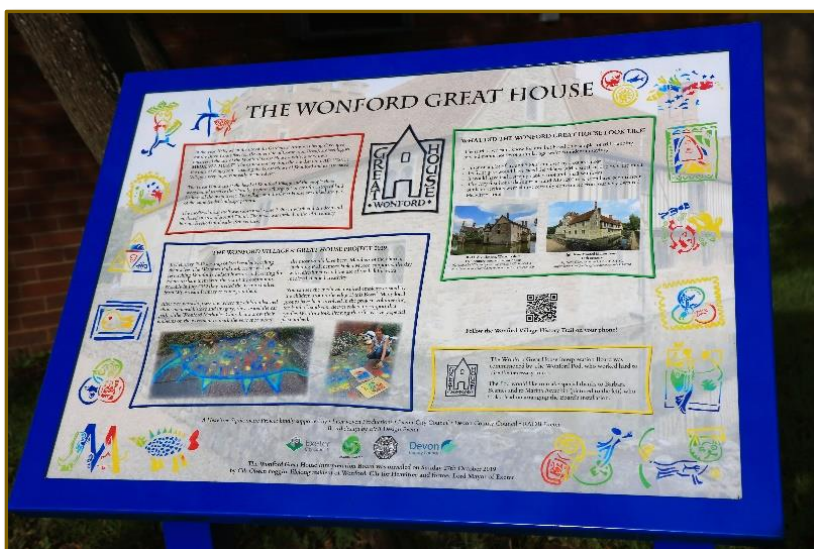
Human Geographer/GIS expert

Website designer

Graphic artist

Director, actors





Wonford Village and Great House:-

Participatory (visual) artists with experience of working with schools

Designer

Sign-making company

Not all of these professionals charged a fee. The University, in particular, are keen to develop their outreach and can often be approached to provide guidance within their salaried positions.

Professional artists, however, are rarely on a salary and you will need to negotiate a fee with them.

Companies such as sign-makers or flag-makers are commercial concerns. They may give a small discount for community work but they will need paying. You will need to get these quotes to build your budget and know how much to apply for from your small pot funding options.

Essentially the decision is down to your group. If they feel they have or know someone who has the skills that they need, then follow their lead.

Otherwise, we would advise using professional help in the following circumstances:-

- When the product is going to be a permanent fixture in the landscape – e.g. an Interpretation Board, mosaic or mural.
- When you would like to conduct formal Oral History recordings.
- When the work requires the full safeguarding clearance and experience necessary to work within schools or with other groups of young people or vulnerable adults.

- When the product is to be printed and distributed widely – e.g. a trail-guide

Experts can bring a real gloss to your community work but they should always be commissioned and directed by you and your neighbours. Experts work best when they are fully experienced in working alongside communities on the street's ideas, rather than dictating their own vision.