

Red2Red

Amount applied for: £2,875.00



Key points

- Began trading in early 2020!
- They are Medway's #1 RIB speedboat and river charter; providing fun-filled, adrenaline fuelled experiences to fascinating tours of the magnificent Medway and historic Rochester
- A business that is community minded and environmentally aware

About the organisation

Red2Red was established by two families with a strong affinity with the River Medway and a desire to provide affordable access to its unique sights and experiences. They commenced trading in 2020 with the purchase of their first boat on 1st March to conduct speedboat rides and river tours. Despite the unforeseen COVID challenges and subsequent interruptions in trading, they have progressed swiftly as a business by focussing on the customer experience.

They have been selected by the Statutory Harbour Authority to supply and operate the Harbour Patrol Vessel, promoting and enforcing safe practices by leisure river users.

How they will use the grant

Red2Red has noted that feedback from their customers includes fascination with the 400 years of rich nautical history on the Medway. Their tours go past the historic dockyard and Upnor shoreline and take visitors close to the Victorian forts at Hoo and Darnet. These are landlocked and only accessible if you are willing to brave both the tide and shipping channels via paddle board or canoe.

Purchase of new shallow draft vessel will allow the establishment of a unique visitor attraction for both local people and those from further afield. The introduction of ferry service from Gillingham to Darnet Island would facilitate access and offer a unique perspective on the estuary. A similar service has operated to Languard Fort in Felixstowe from Harwich for many years

The vessel will be a polyethylene construction. This would make it fully recyclable which is a rarity for vessels. It would also be operated under electric propulsion. This Zero Emission vessel would be a first on the Medway, and sensitive to the unique estuarine environment and a standard bearer for tourism in terms of sustainability.

Additionally, further use can be made of it to clear unsightly rubbish and obstructions from the pretty upper reaches of the Medway and this has been discussed with the harbour authority. Following discussion with Medway Council, Red2Red are also looking at offering a zero emission passenger foot ferry linking up the Rochester and Chatham waterfronts as well as the Historic Dockyard and potentially Upnor. This all year round service would be the first service of its kind on the river and would link the key visitor attractions in the most environmentally sustainable way possible; without fossil fuel emissions or risk of injury or accident to passengers in the same way the road network might.

SMARTER**SOCIETY** 

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South East Visitor Economy Fund

Feedback

The grant has enabled us to bring forward investment which in turn has broadened our offer, accelerating our recovery through the provision of additional services.

Paul Clarke