

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**PADDLES AWAY FOR GO GODALMING YOUTH CANOE CLUB!**

At the Town Council's Policy & Management meeting held on Thursday, 28 November, Members awarded £500.00 from the Community Grant Fund to the Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club. The award is to assist in providing an external instructor to train existing club members aged between 14 and 16 to become fully-qualified young Canoe Instructors.

British Canoeing changed its awards system at the beginning of 2019 lowering the age at which young canoeists can become instructors from 16 years to 14 years. This change has enabled Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club to offer the opportunity to some current young club members to train as instructors. The opportunity is open to those who have already gained the first rung of their instructor's qualification by attaining the necessary Foundation Safety Rescue Training. The Council's grant will enable the club to facilitate an external instructor to offer the specialist training required in order for these young people to gain their full qualification to become Canoe Instructors. This move will assist the club's sustainability and continued engagement with Godalming's younger citizens.

For information on Godalming Town Council's Grants Scheme, how to check if you are eligible to apply and to download an application form, please visit <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/grants/>

Ends.....

**Notes for Editors**

Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club is in its 16<sup>th</sup> Season of supplying water sports for the young people of Godalming and the surrounding hinterlands. The National Trust allows the Club to store equipment in The Barn on a peppercorn rent. Over 100 people took part in the Town Council's Staycation Canoe Event Taster organised and run by the Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club.

