



# Media Release

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DATE: 10 May 2004

**photo opportunity – see below**

## **FUNDING MARKET PLACE 2004**

Vistors to this year's 'meet the funder' event will be shown that, whilst money doesn't actually grow on trees, they can be steered through the monetary maze of attracting outside finance.

The first ever district-wide 'meet the funder' was a major success last year with over 200 representatives from community groups securing thousands of pounds for local projects.

This year's event is to be held on 12 May at Ripon Leisure Centre and organisers are hoping for a repeat success.

Meet the funder 2004 will be officially opened at \*11.00 am when the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate (Councillor Ian Galloway) and the Mayor of the City of Ripon (Councillor Stuart Martin) will 'pluck a pound from the funding tree'.

Mark Hodgson, Partnership Development Officer for Harrogate Borough Council, one of the organisers of the event, said: "Finding finance is often the stumbling block to a variety of many good ideas that struggle to come to fruition. We know from the feedback last year that finders and funders valued this market place type event.

"We are expecting over 20 different funding organisations to be represented, including the National Lottery, DEFRA, North Yorkshire County Council and the Waste Recycling Agency. They will be setting out their stalls as well as holding short seminars and workshop sessions covering every aspect of funding. Helen Bowles, Harrogate Council's project development officer will also be on hand to offer help and advice on project development and project management."

The event is open to everyone but the seminars require advance booking. Full details are available from the Harrogate and Area Council for Voluntary Service, Community House, East Parade, Harrogate or telephone 01423 504074.

This event is being run by Harrogate Borough Council, Ripon and Harrogate Councils for Voluntary Services and the Yorkshire Rural Community Council. **ENDS**

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY : \*11.00 am, Wednesday 12 May, Ripon Leisure Centre, Dallamires Lane, Ripon.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** is available from Mark Hodgson, Partnership Development Officer, Harrogate Borough Council on 01423 556019 or Helen Bowles, Project Development Officer on 01423 556702.