

Children

A SERIES of arts and crafts activities is to be run in West End.

The initiatives will take place at Itchen Valley Country Park's newly-refurbished Woodland Café from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Residents will have the opportunity to create splat pictures made from bubbles and paint on Wednesday December 5, get into the festive spirit crafting decorations made from pine cones found in the park on Wednesday December 12 and make their very own snowman crafted from socks and festive baubles.

The sessions cost £7 per child and include all materials and a special lunch of mini pizza, carrot and cucumber sticks and a drink of squash.

The sessions are suitable for children aged two to four years old.

To book call 02380 68379.

New home proposal

NEW homes could be built in Eastleigh.

Planning bosses are considering a bid to build five one-bedroom apartments and two one-bedroom houses at the back of Twyford Road.

Christmas fair at school

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place at The Romsey School next week.

The free event will be held on Saturday December 8, from 10am to 12noon.

CIVIC chiefs have proposed the controversial charges should other measures fail in a new strategy to reduce city centre traffic. Drivers would have to pay to en-

tor of the Business Improvement District, said Winchester was too small and the congestion charge's positive impact was reducing in London.

sand people is not enough and it would not work terribly well."

In general Prof Turner said he welcomed the strategy and business recognised that it needed to

about buses and railways to give people an alternative to cars.

The movement strategy is the most comprehensive look at how people get around for 20 years.

Charity grants for ex-offenders

Bradley Halcrow



GRANTS from Ford Southampton Community Fund is helping young ex-offenders to rehabilitate into the local community.

Four charities in Southampton and Eastleigh have received £19,171, following awards from the Ford Southampton Community Fund, administered by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF).

Footprints Project, Monty's Community Hub and Southampton Action for Employment (SAFE), all based in Southampton, as well as Solent Youth Action, based in Eastleigh, received funding to help young people learn technical skills, focusing on those that are not in employment, education or training.

Caroline Stevens, chief executive for Footprints said: "This grant means that Footprints can provide mentoring for 20 local ex-offenders, with skills training offered to an additional 10 ex-of-



Footprints group photo: Footprints

fenders.

"It enables us to cover course costs, safety gear, mentoring expenses and transport costs and will hopefully in the longer term lead to paid employment opportunities.

"There is a link between ex-offenders gaining employment and their desistance from offending,

however ex-offenders face many obstacles to obtaining work and face a range of barriers compounded by a lack of work experience.

Bill Hardaway, vehicle refurbishment centre manager, Ford Southampton, said: "As a local employer, we are extremely passionate about giving young peo-

ple the opportunities they need to improve their life skills and achieve their personal goals.

"By supporting disadvantaged young people through our Fund, we can help them to overcome the barriers that limit their access to work and give them the chances that they deserve."

Grant Cornwell, chief executive at HIWCF said: "We are delighted to be working with the Ford Southampton Community Fund team, the grant programme is supporting some truly deserving groups in the Eastleigh and Southampton areas.

"The foundation will continue to build partnerships in the local community to ensure that we can continue to target grants to the areas where they are most needed."

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