

The British Community Committee of France

BCC support fund May-June 2020

Evaluation Update Report

The Old School France
7th October 2020

Joel Bailey - Director

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AND FURTHER ACTION AS OUTLINED IN THIS UPDATE REPORT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.

AIM OF THE FUND

To assist British nationals who are permanent residents in France with problems arising from the requirement to register for the new Titre de Séjour.

The BCC allocated a maximum award of 2000 euros per association to address the above issue. The Old School received 2000 euros.

AIMS OF THE APPLICATION - TO INFORM

- Elderly British nationals with limited or no access to the internet.
- British young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- British young people completing their compulsory education studies and registering into the world of work and post compulsory education.
- British young people who have been in the care system, specifically those in foster care who are over the age of 18.
- British nationals with limited understanding of spoken and written French.

- Assistance with family registration for those who have newly arrived in France, into the French social security system; CAF, CPAM, URSSAF, etc.
To enable access to qualify for freedom of movement rights, as outlined in Article 50 and as required by the Ministry of the Interiors Carte de Séjour.
- Target British young people who are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness and lack of status as third country nationals, particularly those in dispute with family members and carers since moving to France.

ACTION TAKEN

The Director of The Old School coordinated initiatives to address local community action, to assist British nationals in the department of Lot-et-Garonne and south Dordogne by:

- Chairing a meeting on the 1st September 2020 of all new parents and associated British nationals that joined the community of the Old School for the academic year of 2020/2021. The aim of the meeting was to inform and enable information for post Brexit rights.
- Liaising and contacting the maires of the communes of Saint Colomb de Lauzun, Monbahus, Lauzun and the Communauté de Commune for the region of Lauzun. Meetings were attended by local maires and counselors. Information about the vulnerability of British nationals was distributed and discussed. Two communes supplied information about known vulnerable British nationals.
- Monsieur Gary the Maire of Monbahus kindly offered the Salle des Fêtes and technical support for two public meetings on the 17th of September 2020. Community meetings were held 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm. Flyers were designed and distributed informing people of the event. The information was disseminated via virtual groups, social networking and physical presence. Flyers were distributed to shops in Eymet [a town with a large British population], market traders on market day and left on car windscreens.
- Through public meetings and community action, it is an intention to recruit voluntary support to help fulfill the objectives.

PROGRESS AND ACTIONS

- As outlined above, the Mayor of Monbahus, Monsieur Gary kindly made the Salle des Fêtes available for the public meeting on the 17th of September. His support has been recognised and appreciated. Julie Pollitt [President of the Association The Old School France], correlated and collected information for those who attended. The two sessions attracted 130 people from a mixed demographic and wide region. Anecdotally, it has been noted that many of the attendees were representing groups of other people. The audience was mixed gender and represented a diverse age range.

Joel Bailey [Director of The Old School] and Claire Godfrey [Representative of the BCC for the South-West of France] addressed both meetings.

POINTS COVERED AND AGENDA

- Introduction and reassurance
- Request for volunteers for further community action
- Generic questions to gauge audience requirements such as ;
How many participants have CDES ?
How many are planning to start the process in October ?
Anyone not planning to get one ?
How many permanent residents are there here ?
Second home owners rights after 31/12/2020
- Claire shared information and essential official contacts. Signposting to relevant sites. Claire also made available her contact email address:
clairegodfrey-cdes@outlook.com.
- Claire outlined the necessary documents for residency and timescales.
- Claire Godfrey and Joel Bailey took both questions and answers. Questions and answers were wide and varied but as a general observation there are many mixed messages and confused British nationals.

OUTCOMES

- 14 volunteers made themselves available for further action, from the meeting held on the 17th September.
- The Old School France has agreed to offer support on Thursdays 9am to 4pm, telephone number and contact information was given to all participants.
- Claire has addressed and distributed over 80 contact emails.
- A volunteer meeting was undertaken on the 24th of September 2020 at The Old School France in Monbahus with the aim to coordinate community action and delegate responsibilities. This meeting was coordinated by Joel Bailey. Coincidentally this meeting was on the day the French Authorities delayed the process for the Titre de Séjour for British nationals.
- A second meeting has been set for 3pm on the 8th of October, to review progress.
- Six volunteers attended.
- A meeting for the 12th of November has been agreed to task and disseminate a flyer in the following areas : Issigeac, Eymet, Lauzun and surrounding areas, Duras, Tombeboeuf and surrounding areas to Villeneuve sur Lot and Bergerac.
- Wording for a clear message about what is required for residency was agreed to be included on the flyer. To be actioned by Joel Bailey when the Ministry of the Interior releases this information.(It is now known that the online process for application will be open on Monday the 19th of October). Joel Bailey will take the appropriate action.
- When information is made official a professional formal flyer will be designed and distributed throughout the region. Volunteers made it known that they will be proactive in this process.

CONCLUSION

This process outlined and highlighted many issues for vulnerable, worried and confused British nationals who attended the meetings. The sample attendees demonstrated a lack of knowledge which has not been helped by mixed messages from local Prefectures. A laissez faire attitude was demonstrated by some, even after a clear explanation was given. Other concerns include older people who are computer illiterate. A lack of understanding of requirements for young people who are over the age of 18 but are not in education employment or training, but do live in a family home. People needing benefits and those that have never fully declared their existence in France.

There were only a small number of attendees who had undertaken the process of either obtaining a Carte de Séjour (without a deal) or EU residency cards.

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