



Development Grant

Meet Mark Appel, Bishy Barney Boats



The help I received from Broadland District Council has been of huge benefit to me, as the Development Grant allowed me to add a hire boat to my fleet, with another on schedule for next year. The extra income generated by the new boat this year means I've been able to give job opportunities to several keen local young people and organise occasional staff cover for myself.

The business progression is that we are set to change to a limited company this year and, once the second new boat arrives, we aim to take on another part time member of staff.

I was struggling to push the business to this level alone, so the grant was the tipping point to facilitate the transition. The initial application online was not the most straightforward but as soon as I got in touch with a member of the Business Support team it became very easy. They are super friendly and helpful people.



Mark Appel, owner of Bishy Barney Boats, based on Thorpe River Green in Norwich offers mostly electric boats in sleek retro style for day hire