

Community Fund Grant Applications

Summary:

To consider grant applications to the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme received by 30th June 2016.

Portfolio: Cllr Josephine Hawkins (Corporate)

Date Approved: 25 August 2016

Wards Affected: All

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to consider awarding a grant to the applicants from the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme.

1. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has its own Community Fund from which it provides grants of up to £25,000 to assist local 'not for profit organisations' with the delivery of community projects. Total project costs of up to £2,000 can attract 75% funding and total project costs over £2,001 can attract up to 50% funding from the scheme.
- 1.2 There are two submission deadlines each year namely 30 June and the 31 December. This report includes the applications received by 30 June 2016.
- 1.3 Four applications have been made to the Community Fund Grant Scheme in this round. An analysis of each of the bids is included in Annex A.
- 1.4 The Member Panel met on 21st July 2016 and of the four bids that were submitted all were supported and the summary information is included in Annex B. One application relates to a Surrey Community Building Grant which is explained further in paragraph 3.1.
- 1.5 The total amount requested from all four applications total £82,440. However, Officers are recommending a total spend of £25,000 at this meeting. No payments are made until after evidence is submitted that the work is completed.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 To qualify for a grant from the Community Fund, applications must meet the Council's objectives from our 5 Year Strategy and must demonstrate a benefit to the local community. All awards are made at the discretion of the Executive. Each of the applicants is a not for profit organisation. Each project recommended for a grant must be well planned with a sound financial basis.
- 2.2 Information on the Community Fund Grant scheme is provided on the Council's website and articles are regularly published in the Council's Heathscene magazine promoting recent successful awards. The scheme is

further promoted by Voluntary Support North Surrey to ensure greater involvement and wider representation from voluntary groups in the Borough.

- 2.3 All decisions on grant awards rest with the Executive. The Executive can also add conditions to the awarding of any grants as it sees fit.

3. SURREY COMMUNITY BUILDINGS GRANTS SCHEME

- 3.1 The Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme is managed by Surrey Community Action on behalf of Surrey County Council. Surrey Heath Borough Council has agreed to be part of the scheme whereby applicants can apply to both the Borough Council and County Council for three-way, equal match funding for the same project. The application from All Saints Church Hall included in this report is also an application to Surrey Community Action/Surrey County Council for an equal amount towards their project.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Executive has the option to;
- i. Fund the organisations in line with the proposed amount in Annex B;
 - ii. Fund the organisations to a greater or lesser amount of their requested sum;
 - iii. Not fund the organisations.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Executive agree the proposed awards set out in Annex B from the Community Fund Grant Scheme.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND KEY PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The funding of voluntary organisations allows the Council to meet its objectives to:
- Work in partnership with local organisations to provide support to the community and diverse open space and recreation facilities.
 - Understanding and supporting local voluntary groups.
 - Significantly contribute to civic pride through the provision of events and green spaces.
 - Work in partnership with the voluntary and third sector to extend opportunities in the Borough.
 - Encouraging greater involvement from local clubs and organisations including volunteering.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.1 The Community Grant Fund has been equality impact assessed.

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| Annexes | Annex A – Summary of Bids Annex B – Proposed Grant Awards |
| Background Papers | Application Forms |
| Author/Contact Details | Sarah Groom, Transformation Team Manager 01276 707263 |
| Service Manager | Louise Livingston, Executive Head of Transformation, 01276 707403 |

CONSULTATIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED

| Resources | Required | Consulted |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Revenue | N/A | |
| Capital | ✓ | ✓ |
| Human Resources | N/A | |
| Asset Management | N/A | |
| IT | N/A | |

| Other Issues | Required | Consulted |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy Framework | | |
| Legal | | |
| Governance | | |
| Sustainability | | |
| Risk Management | | |
| Equalities Impact Assessment | ✓ | ✓ |
| Community Safety | | |
| Human Rights | | |
| Consultation | | |
| P R & Marketing | ✓ | ✓ |

Review Date:

Version:

ANNEX A – Summary of Bids

Applicant: All Saints Church Hall, Lightwater

Project: To replace the kitchen and toilet facilities.

Grant requested: £24,690

Project cost: £74,071

All Saints Church Hall opened in 1966 and is a popular facility within Lightwater and its surrounding areas. This is run by a management committee who are responsible to the Parochial Church Council. The aim of the group is to provide excellent local facilities for both community and church.

The building was last renovated in 1996 and has not been subject to any further works or improvements since then. The kitchen and toilet facilities are in need of modernisation and compliance to bring them up to present health and safety standards. There is an average of 600 people per week who use the facilities and it is forecasted that this will increase by up to 33% with the enhanced facilities from the refurbishment.

Other improvements scheduled in a 2nd phase includes a stair lift, new doors, curtains, stage refurbishment, back rooms refurbishment, storage cupboard and tarmacking of the car park. The cost of the 2nd phase is estimated at approximately £38,000. This 2nd phase will be undertaken separately and does not form part of this bid.

Further applications for funding are being sought from other sources to contribute to the works, (this does not include the Diocese of Guildford, as funds are not available for capital expenditure from this source). The applicant has confirmed that £110,000 has been set-a-side from a total reserve of £126,477 to ensure the whole project can proceed.

This grant application forms part of the Surrey Community Building Grant Scheme whereby the Borough, County Council and applicant each contribute 33.3% of the funding sought. The works are scheduled to begin in August 2017.

Recommendation: To award a grant of £15,000 subject to the match funding by SCC and the applicant, under the Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme. From the financial information and the work estimates provided, the applicant will be able to complete the project with this grant award.

Applicant: Camberley Cricket Club

Project: To supply and fit a replacement disabled lift within the clubhouse.

Grant requested: £12,750

Project cost: £25,550

This cricket club was established in 1944 and has a 2 storey club house for both members and wider community use. The club offers cricket to a wide range of participants with 4 senior teams plus a junior section comprising of 8 boys and 2 girls teams which give a membership number of around 150.

Due to its central Camberley location, the clubhouse is a popular venue. It is used by the club members and is available for hire for private parties and by community groups such as Camberley Rotary Club, U3A Bridge and Flower arranging clubs, the Rock Choir, Weightwatchers and Hockey Club. The bookings hosts approximately 350 users per week and with 150 cricket users this gives a total of 500 users per week.

The disabled lift has become unreliable and it requires regular repair and maintenance. The lift engineers have reported that the repairs are increasingly difficult to undertake and that the lift should be replaced. In recent months clients have become stranded on the top floor.

The Club estimate that their income will increase by £6,500 per annum after the new lift is in place; this is based upon one extra club meeting per week, eight additional party hires and increased bar sales.

The club was awarded a grant in April 2015 of £5,866 as a 50% contribution towards a new groundsman shed.

The club has not made any further external applications for funding of this project, nor undertaken any fundraising as yet.

The applicant has provided two quotations and has indicated a preference for the higher cost of the two, with the differential being £2,607. The club is VAT registered. Any grant award made will contribute to the net costs of the lifts quotes provided.

Recommendation: To award a grant of £5,000 as the club has sufficient reserves available to fund this project.

Applicant: Windlesham Bowls Club

Project: To extend the club house facilities by 4 metres.

Grant requested: £25,000

Project cost: £61,903

The Windlesham Bowls Club has existed since the 1980's and is located on the same site as Windlesham Club and Theatre. The organisation's tenure is open ended through a rental arrangement with the theatre at a cost of £548 per annum in 2015. The club cover all operating costs through their annual membership fees and this is at a level that is comparable to other bowls clubs operated within Surrey Heath.

The club welcomes new members of any age and experience and caters for all levels, from complete beginner through to experienced players. The club hosts many league matches as well as internal competitions, casual bowling and social activities. There are 65 members at present.

The club is seeking funding to extend the existing clubhouse by 4 metres and this will provide the space for a new disabled toilet, storage area, and an opportunity to modernise the kitchen area. It is estimated that after the completion of the works this will enable the membership to increase to 130.

Planning consent for the project was granted on the 9th June 2016.

Other funding applications have been made to Windlesham Parish Council, Surrey Playing Fields Association and the London Marathon. The applicant has advised that no funding application is sought from Bowls England as no grants are available, although the provision of interest free loans are available.

Recommendation: To award a grant of £5,000 on the basis of the club being able to raise the remaining funds required to complete the project.

Applicant: Deepcut Village Association

Project: To convert the existing changing rooms and showers into a small hall.

Grant requested: £20,000

Project cost: £ 110,880

The Deepcut Village Centre is owned by the council and is managed by the Deepcut Village Association. The remainder of the building comprises a large hall, small office, kitchen, toilets and two smaller meeting rooms. The Executive agreed the terms for a new 25 year lease on the 12th July 2016. Over this period the council will receive a rental income of £8,000 per annum, subject to any rent subsidy.

The changing rooms and showers have been unused since the building opened in 2003. The community demand for hall space is such that the Association seek to convert the space so that it can be used and the revenue can contribute towards the income of the centre.

The changing rooms and showers were originally designed for playing fields that remain in private ownership. The fields are not to a standard to play competitive football and local residents did not originally support the development of football pitches on the site, so the development company have left this as a green area of land. The fields are not owned by the MOD and are unaffected by the future development proposal.

The centre is used by 700-800 people per week this is expected to increase to 1000+ after the works are completed. Delivery of this project will ensure a fully utilised community facility.

The Council currently holds a commuted sum under the original Alma Dettingen S106 Agreement, of £382,000 for this building. Legal advice received suggests that this project fulfils the criteria for funding from this source rather than the Community Grant Fund. The Executive will consider the awards for S106 monies separately in autumn 2016.

The Council are supportive of this application and the benefits to be derived by the community from the conversion. However, it is suggested that this funding application is deferred until the outcome of the S.106 funding is agreed by the Executive, and then reconsidered at that time.

Recommendation: To defer the decision until the Executive has considered awarding community projects funding from the S106 fund.

ANNEX B – Proposed Grant Awards

| Organisation | Project Details | Full Project Cost £ | Amount Requested £ | Amount Proposed £ |
|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| All Saints Church Hall, Lightwater | To modernise the kitchen and toilet facilities. | 74,071 | £24,690 | £15,000 |
| Camberley Cricket Club | To replace the existing disabled lift in the clubhouse. | £25,500 | £12,750 | £5,000 |
| Windlesham Bowls Club | To extend the club house facilities. | £61,903 | £25,000 | £5,000 |
| Deepcut Village Association | To convert the existing changing room and showers in to a small hall. | £110,880 | £20,000 | Deferred |
| TOTAL | | £272,354 | £82,440 | £25,000 |