

Community Fund Grant Applications

Summary:

To consider grant applications to the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme received by 30 June 2017.

Portfolio: Corporate (Cllr Josephine Hawkins)

Date Signed Off: 8th August 2017

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. Key Issues

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.

2. Resource Implications

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 There are two submission deadlines each year namely 30 June and the 31 December. This report includes the applications received by 30th June 2017.

- 2.3 The Portfolio Holder reviewed six applications on the 8th August and recommended that four applications were supported with one to be declined and one deferred. An analysis of each of the bids is included in annex A. Details the supported applications are located in annex B, and annex C contains the bids that are declined/ deferred.
- 2.4 The total amount requested from the five applications total **£49,300**. However, it is recommended a total spend of **£21,087** is awarded from an existing reserve of **£253,193 as at 31st March 2017**. The summary information is included in Annex B. No payments are made until after evidence is submitted that the work is completed.

3. Options

- 3.1 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.

4. Proposals

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

5. Corporate Objectives and Key Priorities

- 5.1 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.

6. Equalities Impact

- 6.1 The Community Grant Fund has been equality impact assessed.

Annexes	Annex A – Summary of Bids Annex B – Proposed Grant Awards Annex C – Deferred/Declined Bids
Background Papers	Application Forms
Author/Contact Details	Jayne Boitoult - Community Partnership Officer jayne.boitoult@surreyheath.gov.uk
Service Manager	Louise Livingston - Executive Head of Transformation

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: West End Village Society

Project: To plant bulbs on the A322 highway grass verges.

Grant requested: £2,013

Project cost: £4,026

This local community group works together in delivering local projects to improve the area. The group has a membership of 469 from the approximate 1500 households and 4,600 residents within the village.

This is a 3 year project, of which this application relates to year two the aim is to plant a further 80,000 daffodil and crocus bulbs (at a cost of £3,600) along the A322 highway and grass verges, and the other most widely used roads within West End. This will have a lasting legacy of brightening the area.

There is a carry forward amount from first year (1) of £1632 which will be used to part fund this year's project (2). From the fundraising this year, West End Parish Council has contributed £300 plus a further £129 from local organisations to date the society has £2061 available.

The application asks that the Council contribute as much as possible towards the overall project costs, if the full amount required is not raised the bulb numbers will be adjusted accordingly.

Recommendation and rationale: To award a grant of £300 that is comparable to the funds provided by the Parish Council and Surrey County Council.

Applicant: West End Bowls Club

Project: To extend the existing clubhouse to meet the increasing club membership numbers.

Grant requested: £25,000

Project cost: £198,643

West End Bowls Club is a lawn bowling club, located in Rosewood Way, with well-maintained facilities, bowling greens and a membership of approximately 95 bowlers and 40 social members. The club supports bowling at all levels from absolute beginners to skilled players that compete in Area, County and National Competitions.

The members share responsibility for the running, maintenance and upkeep of the club. The membership has increased and outgrown the club house since it started in 1996, when at that time it was designed to accommodate 50 people.

This application seeks a contribution towards extending the size of the club house to enable the increased membership to be accommodated. The outcome of this project would enable the club an opportunity to use the facilities for a full 12 months within the year, by the introduction of short mat bowls. At present the bowling greens are used only for 6 months of the year.

The club has approached local community groups to invite them to use the facilities, these include: U3A, Parish Council, and Gordon's School. At present Web care and Bisley Short Mat Bowls club use the club house to host meetings. It is estimated that 250 people use the facilities per month, with this expected to increase to 415 per month following the completion of this project.

The club have applied to a number of funding streams which include: Surrey Community Buildings Scheme: and Biffa where applications were declined. Applications which the outcome is still awaited are from: Tesco Bags Scheme, Waitrose, and Sport England.

They have taken advantage of an interest free loan is available from Bowls England for £20,000, and £100,000 offer from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, plus £1,000 from a SCC Councillor Award, £3,000, from Chobham Poor Allotment Charity, an £18,100 contribution from members of Bowls Club and further members pledges of £17,200 giving a total of a £159,300 so far.

Planning permission was awarded in 2016. Three tenders were received and the club will go ahead with the lowest of the building costs provided.

This application was originally deferred from December 2016 as two quotations were not available at that time.

Recommendation and rationale: It is suggested to award a grant of £5,000 is made to contribute towards this project that will provide a lasting benefit to the local community in West End.

Applicant: Bagshot Playing Fields Association (BPFA)

Project: To replace a dilapidated children's playground.

Grant requested: £16,500

Project cost: £33,000

This organisation originated 37 years ago and its objective is to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation within Surrey Heath. This project focuses around replacing a children's playground that is approximately 30 years old, the only original equipment that remains is two bucket swings.

The new play area will provide a climbing frame and wall, scramble net and tunnel, two cradle swings and a bench which will be fenced off and it is aimed at the 3-10 year old age group.

The applicant is keen to promote exercise and activity to all, but expand upon activities for children and this proposal fits with the other facilities available at this location, as at the 31st December 2016, the organisation had £37,000 as a reserve. However, the site includes tennis courts and a pavilion which require maintenance and ongoing development.

The BPFA are working hard to fundraise and have been working with Voluntary Support North Surrey to undertake this, to date they have set-up a 'just giving' web page, and will attend the local fetes, together with developing a 'friends of Bagshot' group, other bids are made to Windlesham Parish Council, Persimmon, Waitrose, Tesco, Co-op, Surrey County Council.

The Association has 22 years left on its lease, and has agreed that it will continue to maintain the facilities in accordance with this.

Recommendation and rationale: To award a grant of £10,000 as a contribution towards this project that will provide a lasting benefit to the local Bagshot community.

Applicant: Old Dean Bowling Club

Project: To install a disabled toilets facilities and update the fire alarm system.

Grant requested: £5,787

Project cost: £11,574

This club was formed 51 years ago, and has an active membership of 90 people that range in age from 19-80 from the local area. The club is open all year round offering bingo, family fun themed and open days, and bowls which is the focus during the summer months.

The club has a plan that includes replacing windows, installing new disabled toilets, a new fire alarm system, and an upgrade of the electrics. The electrical work has been completed and both the disabled toilets and the fire alarm system are the subject of this grant application with the window replacements to be rescheduled for a later time.

The club members and local companies have contributed some of the materials required to undertake the improvements which has lowered the original costs.

The fundraising continues with applications being made with guidance received from Voluntary Support North Surrey.

The Club has limited reserves of £6,400 showing at the 30th September 2016 to contribute towards the project costs.

The longer term aim after the improvements are completed is to promote the club and its facilities by hosting events and increasing the weekly social itinerary to increase the membership numbers.

*The Bowling Club lease expires in 2018 and it is suggested that this grant award is conditional upon the confirmation of the lease extension.

Recommendation and rationale: * To award a grant of £5,787 subject to the condition outlined above and this proposed Council contribution will assist in providing a lasting benefit to the local community located in the Old Dean, Camberley.

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Applicant: Oakleaf Enterprise (based in Guildford)

Project: To introduce a new service for vocational training for those who are experiencing mental ill health

Grant requested: £15,000

Project cost: £30,200

This organisation has been operational for 20 years, and is established a presence in Guildford and Waverley providing vocational training for adults experiencing mental ill-health. Three years ago a scheme was introduced in Guildford whereby a programme is delivered from several venues and the aim is to improve clients overall well-being through social engagement, confidence building, minimising isolation and where possible enabling a return to employment.

The applicant would like to extend and deliver this project within Surrey Heath and is seeking the first years funding to start-up. The costs are estimated at £30,200 and 50% of the costs are available through funds already set a-side from the Big Lottery.

It is anticipated that approximately 60 hard to reach adults can access the service per year with the main referrers being local G.P's. The actual delivery is based upon the 'five steps to mental wellbeing' which is devised by the NHS with regular client's surveys being undertaken to monitor the progress.

From further discussions with Surrey Heath CCG, we are advised that a similar scheme is already being offered through a Surrey Based CCG contract from Catalyst which started in April 2017 and is funded until 31st March 2018.

Recommendation and rationale: To decline the application at present as the scheme is sufficiently funded until 31st March 2018 and if necessary to reconsider a new application based upon the outcome, needs and gap assessment in December 2017.

Applicant: Camberley Lawn Tennis Club

Project: To excavate and construct a crate-based attenuation soakaway system to mitigate the flooding of the tennis courts.

Grant requested: £5,000

Project cost: £10,468

The club has existed for 62 years and is an established tennis facility locally that has a membership of 300 adults and 150 children with the majority of members residing within the local area of Surrey Heath.

As part of the applicant's ongoing investment and development, the site will benefit from two of the three tennis courts being replaced during August.

These are located the furthest from the club house, and will be subject to a greater degree of impact from any localised flooding. The applicant advises that these courts flood approximately three times a year and has sought professional advice from a drainage company to identify how best to resolve the issue. MJ Abbott has suggested that a Funke attenuation crate system installation represents the best value solution and a second estimate has been provided by MJ Medhurst.

A site visit was undertaken in July and following this advice and guidance has been sought from the Council drainage engineer, further solutions and project suggestions are being discussed. It is suggested that to allow for all options to be explored that the application is deferred.

Recommendation and rationale: To defer this application to enable all options to be explored by the Council and Applicant.

Annex B – Proposed Grant Awards

Applicant	Project Details	Project Cost £	Amount Sought £	Amount Proposed £	Suggested Conditions
West End Village Society	To plant bulbs along the A322 during October 2017	£4,026	£2,013	£300	Consider a further Application to local SCC Councillor's annual allocation
West End Bowls Club	To extend the Clubhouse facilities	£198,643	£25,000	£5,000	To publicise and encourage the new facilities
Bagshot Playing Field Association	To replace a dilapidated children's playground	£33,000	£16,500	£10,000	None
Old Dean Bowling Club	To install new disabled toilet facilities and a new fire alarm	£11,574	£5,787	£5,787	Grant conditional upon the confirmation of the lease extension.
TOTAL		£247,243	£49,300	£21,087	

Annex C – Deferred and Declined Awards

Applicant	Project Details	Project Cost £	Amount Sought £	Amount Proposed £	Suggested Conditions
Oakleaf Enterprise in Guildford	To introduce a new service for vocational training for those who are experiencing mental ill health	£30,200	£15,000	Decline	Decline at present – refer to rationale and reason
Camberley Lawn Tennis Club	To install a new system to prevent flooding of the tennis courts.	£10,468	£5,000	Deferred	Defer to enable full evaluation to be undertaken
TOTAL		£40,668	£20,000	Zero	