

Community Fund Grant Applications

Summary:

To consider grant applications to the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme received by 31st December 2017.

Portfolio: Corporate

Date Signed Off: 20/02/2018

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 Heath scene magazine promoting recent successful awards.
- 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 31st December 2017.
- 2.3 The Portfolio Holder reviewed seven applications on the 20 February 2018 and recommended that four applications are supported, with two to be declined and one to be 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 seven applications total **£46,814**. However, it is recommended a total spend of **£12,981** 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
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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: Sparklers CIO

Project: To provide 10 school holiday playgroups for children with special needs within Surrey Heath.

Grant requested: £1,481.25

Project cost: £1,975.27

This is a newly established organisation, with an aim to provide holiday playgroups for children and young people with special needs and their families. The groups are located within the Frimley Green area, and the sessions are provided without charge to both the children, young people and family members: 78% of those who attend live within the Surrey Heath area.

The school holiday playgroups will be provided over the Easter holiday, May and October half terms, plus the summer and Christmas breaks. An average attendance per session is 35, with referrals being received from military families, Home Start, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and SCC early help.

There are presently 7 families on the waiting list, and during 2017, a total of 476 people accessed this newly formed service.

The application seeks the funding for: sensory equipment, DBS and training for volunteers, plus the running cost which includes refreshments, biscuits, room hire and volunteer expenses.

Recommendation and rationale: To award a grant as requested to cover the one off costs to deliver this service. This will relate to the clients (78%) who live within the Surrey Heath and will include funding for: sensory equipment, DBS checks and training for volunteers.

Applicant: Camberley Cricket Club

Project: To replace the outside benches and tables used by members, visitors and club hirers.

Grant requested: £1,750

Project cost: £3,500

Camberley Cricket Club is an established facility with a playing membership which totals 178, plus 63 social members: on average 80% of the members live within the Surrey Heath area.

A capital investment fund was set up in 1996 following the sale of land, which is now occupied by housing development of Pavilions End, adjacent to the club's ground in Upper Verran Road.

These funds were used to build a new pavilion and clubhouse at a cost of approximately £720,000. The balance of the sale proceeds are maintained in long term fixed deposits which provide a reducing annual income to the club.

The club house provides a good facility for club members and the community groups and individuals who are able to privately hire: regular user groups include U3A, and rotary club. The site is accessible to those who are club member's private hirers of the clubhouse.

In 2017, the club destroyed many tables and benches as they were old and unsafe, and this application seeks the funds necessary to replace them.

The Council have provided support in 2015, with a grant towards a groundsman shed and equipment of £5475 and in 2016 for a contribution towards a new lift in the clubhouse amounting to £5,000.

Recommendation and rationale: Following careful consideration of this application, it is recommended that the Executive declines to award a grant as it is felt this project is more suited to a community fundraising event for which the Council is happy to offer advice and guidance on this.

Applicant: Camberley Society

Project: To contribute to the costs of hosting CAMFEST 2018.

Grant requested: £ 5,913

Project cost: £11,827

The Camberley Society is organising CAMFEST which is an all-inclusive, free community arts and crafts festival that will show case sculpture, static art, ceramics, craftwork and the performing arts from the 29th June – 1st July 2018. The Society's overarching aim is to retain the local diversity of amateur organisations that " makes arts accessible to all" in Camberley.

The event is to be hosted in four locations:

1. The Council Chamber, will host a display of table top art and sculpture in many different forms. Committee rooms 1 and 2, to host lace makers and quilter demonstrations.
2. High Cross Church will be the hub of the event and will host the organisers admin; there will be a range of table top workshops available, and a major art piece is being worked on possibly a digital video wall beside the main café, with the a programme of performing arts being hosted throughout the days.
3. Camberley Theatre will feature the arts and crafts associated with the countryside and biodiversity, and will be located in the function room, it will host unmanned displays during the days, and can be used for further workshops dependent upon demand.
4. A marquee to be erected on the lawn in front of the Council Offices.

The costs attributed to this project comprise of £2,685 in venue hire costs, £4,746 to hire display panels, £2,546 publicity, and £1,750 for insurance, workshops and VIP receptions.

This is an ambitious project that the Council is supporting by providing the space inside and outside the Council Offices, without charge.

The strategy is to attract and inspire a whole range of talented local amateur groups to come forward to show case their specialist art forms to encourage people to take up some form of art pursuit in providing a range of art, music and performance designed to attract all age groups locally. The concept is simply for the community by the community, making it accessible to all. There is no charge to exhibit, or attend, and the applicant is wholly reliant upon fundraising to cover the event cost.

A number of bids have been made with the outcome awaited, and the Society has confirmed it will contribute £500. It is confirmed that the event will be scaled back to fit the funds available.

It is not intended to be an annual event, but consideration by the organisers is being given to hosting every 2-3 years.

Recommendation and rationale: The Council is supportive of the event and it is recommended to award a grant of up to £1,000 to meet the project costs; this is in addition to the offer to provide one of the main host locations without charge, which is valued at approximately £1,500.

Applicant: St Marys Nursery Camberley

Project: To transform the former bowling green at Watchetts Recreation Ground in to an exciting outdoor play area for children to explore.

Grant requested: £25,000

Project cost: £50,000

As a local not for profit organisation, the Nursery is eligible for a grant in accordance with the Community Fund Grants criteria. The Charitable Incorporated Organisation relocated to the former bowls club site on 15th December 2017 from St Mary's Church Hall. This was phase one of the project, and phase two which is the subject of this application seeks funding support to provide a new outdoor play area for the up to 45 children, which is the maximum permitted for the building. The Nursery has 7 members of staff, of which 4 are F/T and 3 are P/T.

The nursery is open to children aged between 2-5, with the 3 & 4 year olds being entitled to 15 hours per week of Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE). The new extended 30 hours is also available for working parents of 3 & 4 year olds, and this is linked to a qualifying eligibility criteria.

The nursery is generally open from 8am - 4pm, Monday - Friday and also provides a safe place for out of hours visitation. Its clientele includes children with special needs, English as an additional language and children in need. The service provided is fully inclusive and offers vital family support to the most vulnerable within the Surrey Heath area, but particularly the wards of St Michaels, Watchetts and Town.

A SCC County Councillor Allocation of £3,000 has been pledged, together with a host of other applications made to Waitrose, Fluor, Laing Family Trust and many others: the play area can be installed in phases as the funding is secured.

This project will enable the children to explore, learn and develop, and will be available for other users of Watchetts Recreation Ground when the nursery is not in use.

The nursery has a 20 year lease from the Council, it is anticipated that the project will last for this period of time, and future maintenance costs will be met by the applicant.

Recommendation and rationale: To agree in principle the award a grant of up to £10,000, subject to consideration of the Nursery's accounts, with the decision delegated to the Executive Head of Transformation in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder.

Applicant: Surrey Youth Focus

Project: To deliver Youth Social Action 'Youth Soup' project

Grant requested: £1,995

Project cost: £3995

This new idea would enable young (aged 14-24) people within Surrey Heath an opportunity to become involved with their peers to suggest and or deliver

improvements within our local community. The delivery takes the form of a Dragons Den type of approach where young people pitch their ideas to an influential cross sector audience and the winner receives a £40 award and each entrant receives £20 to develop their idea.

The applicant seeks a 50% contribution towards the operating costs, of which most £3,625 is allocated to their staff/management costs which are charged at £250 per day. The applicant is not contributing to the costs of the project and is wholly reliant upon grant awards.

The event is supported by SCC Councillor Mrs Morley who has agreed to contribute £928 from the remainder of her individual Councillor allocation.

Specific long term outcomes overlap with other similar initiatives, such as the National Citizenship Awards.

The scheme has operated in other Surrey areas, which include: Farnham, Epsom, and others planned in Guildford and Reigate in March 2018, with outcomes relating to mentoring, volunteering and campaigning for mental health awareness, bullying:

Recommendation and rationale: It is suggested that consideration be given to an award a grant of up to £500 that will meet the costs to cover the prizes and/or invite a further application which clearly defines the outcomes of this project which overlap with other initiatives such as the National Citizenship Award Scheme.

Applicant: The Hope Hub

Project: To provide seed funding to set up the Hope Hub

This project focuses upon assisting homeless people, those at risk of homelessness and those who sofa surf, who are unemployed and vulnerable.

Within Surrey Heath there is not currently a service to address the mixed needs and this initiative aims to bridge the gap by providing a central drop off point which will enable beneficiaries and agency partners to provide weekly support which can consist of: health clinic, mental health, frontline debt support, job club, housing, DWP and voluntary support.

The Hope Hub is a newly formed independent charitable Incorporated Organisation. This concept focuses upon a service around the person, with the initiative being supported by the Council, but is a stand- alone organisation which consists of partners from local faith organisations.

The organisation is presently seeking a central Camberley location in which to base their operation and this application seeks the necessary funds to set-up for the first operating year, by purchasing items, and contributing towards costs such as dishwasher, microwave, laptops, printers, safe, chairs, and general office tables etc.

Grant requested: £9,175

Project cost: £18,350

Recommendation and rationale: To defer the application for confirmation from the Executive Head of Regulatory that this fits into the Council's strategic plan with regard to meeting the needs of homeless people.

Applicant: The Community Matters Partnership

Project: To clear the balancing pond at Balmoral Drive, Paddock Hill.

This project aims to complete the work undertaken in 2017, with the co-operation of the Council's Greenspace team to complete the clearance of the balancing pond at Balmoral Drive.

The applicant seeks the costs to hire a digger and clear the pond, which will enable the re-introduction and minimise the risk of localised flooding.

Following consultation with the Council's drainage engineer it is confirmed that:

The pond itself is located within SHBC land but Thames Water have the ongoing management responsibilities for the pond area as it is part of their attenuation system (surface water balancing system) for the Balmoral Drive estate drainage.

In the past the Council has spent time, where clearances are co-ordinated with local voluntary groups as last year, but it is the responsibility of Thames Water.

Grant requested: £1,500

Project cost: £2,000

Recommendation and rationale: To decline the application on the basis that it falls outside the scope of the grant awards but to ask the relevant Portfolio Holder to write to Thames Water in support of it funding the necessary costs to complete this project.

Annex B – Proposed Grant Awards

Applicant	Project Details	Project Cost £	Amount Sought £	Amount Proposed £	Suggested Conditions
Sparklers CIO	To provide 10 holiday playgroups for children, young people and families with special needs	£1,975.27	£1,481.25	£1,481.25	To award to users who live within Surrey Heath as per the application
Camberley Society	To launch CAMFEST 2018	£11,827	£5,913	£1,000	Refer to rationale and reason
St Mary's Nursery Watchetts	To provide a new play area	£50,000	£25,000	£10,000	To ensure the wider community have access when the facilities are closed
Surrey Youth Focus	To deliver Youth Social Action 'Youth Soup' project.	£3,995	£1,995	£500	As outlined in the rationale and reason
TOTAL		£67,797	£34,389	£12,981	

Annex C – Deferred and Declined Awards

Applicant	Project Details	Project Cost £	Amount Sought £	Amount Proposed £	Suggested Conditions
Camberley Cricket Club	To replace old and unsafe outside benches and chairs	£3,500	£1,750	Decline	Refer to rationale and reason
The Hope Hub	To enable the purchase or equipment for this new service that provides a day time support for those who are homeless	£18,350	£9,175	Defer	Refer to rationale and reason
The Community Matters Partnership	To clear out the balancing pond at Paddock Hill Frimley Green, to reduce the risk of localised flooding	£2,000	£1,500	Decline	Refer to rationale and reason.
Sub-Total		£23,850	12,425	Zero	
TOTAL		91,647	£46,814	£12,981	