

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 8 March 2021

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH GRANTS 2020/2021

Report of the Assistant Local Area Manager on behalf of the Hedge End, West End and Botley Community Grants Panel

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee

- (1) approves the grants as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
 - (2) approves the allocation of £13,210 for additional youth funding; and
 - (3) approves £4,000 towards local youth grants to be awarded in 2021/22.
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Summary

The Grants Panel recommends that grants be allocated to local organisations operating in the Hedge End, West End and Botley local area for 2020/2021.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

Strategic Implications

1. The recommendations in this report support the Council's approach to localism (Local First) by allocating devolved resources to meet local needs. The recommendations align with the Corporate Plan objectives of Tackling Deprivation, Enabling Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing, Supporting an Excellent Environment, Improving Town and Local Centres and Enabling the Right Skills and Employment mix.

Introduction

2. Councillors will recall that this committee has devolved responsibility for the provision of revenue grants to local organisations. This year 31 different applications were received with a total value of £13,456.95. 3 of these grants (West End Garden and Allotment Association, QE2 Activity Centre and Wildern Leisure Centre) were approved at the January 2021 Local Area Committee and for completeness these are included in Appendix 1 to this report. Also 14 of these grant applications were submitted under the Borough wide grant scheme of which grants can be applied for up to a maximum

amount of £1000. However the Panel agreed that these applications generally benefitted the local area, rather than the Borough as a whole and as such awarded the successful applications the maximum amount which is up to £500.

3. This year the panel agreed that although some of the applications did not appear to fully meet the criteria from the committee, it was agreed that it was very important to support local groups, especially under the current Covid 19 difficulties.
4. The panel also agreed to encourage more applications this year due to the current pandemic and as such offered an extension of the grants' application process for an additional 3 weeks to help local groups 'get back on their feet'. This was promoted as one off 'bounce back' grants on the Council's website, social media and through the Town and Parish councils. As such an additional 6 applications were received under this initiative.
5. This Committee's Grant Panel comprising of Councillors Garton, Jurd, Gomer and Trace reviewed the applications.

The Panel's decisions

6. The Grants Panel gave careful consideration to all of the applications to ensure a broad distribution was spread throughout the three local parished areas.
7. The Panel also considered the objectives of the organisations, the numbers attending; whether they were from the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) area, the total costs of the project and whether funding was or could be sought from elsewhere. Additionally the applications were assessed against the following criteria including; business plans and details on how the grant application meets Eastleigh Borough Council's priorities (Green Borough, Healthy Communities and Prosperous Place).
8. A substantial number of applications were made by Wildern School (D.@rt Centre/Leisure Centre) and it was agreed that the activities provided on the campus catered for residents within all three parished areas.
9. The Panel have stated that an agreed percentage of the grants should go towards offering free or subsidised places as all successful applications have been awarded the maximum amount of up to £500 each and as such, a plan for expenditure and template for how the funds have been used will be requested later this year.
10. It is recommended that grants be approved as contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

Additional Youth Funding

11. Members will recall that there was a budget to joint fund a HEWEB Youth Leader position, but this position no longer exists and last year members agreed to split the budget evenly between 3 projects covering the local area. The panel discussed how to allocate this funding for 20/21 and agreed to follow the same principles. In addition the panel supported the employment of a consultant to review youth engagement across HEWEB.
12. The panel made the following recommendations: £2000 for consultancy (youth participation/youth council/detached work/training) and the remaining budget of £11,210 to be allocated in the same proportions as last year:
 - Hedge End Town Council £4,380
 - West End Parish Council £4,380
 - Botley Parish Council £2,450 (note BPC has £1,500 unspent from previous year due to the delay in transferring the Boorley Park community facilities).
13. The Panel requested that the same conditions were attached to these payments as for the other community and youth grants. Namely that a proportion of the money was used to subsidise attendances and that reports would be submitted detailing how the money had been spent. This would also need to be recorded at the relevant Parish/Town Council meetings.
14. It is also recommended that £4,000 is allocated in the 2021/22 revenue budget for youth grants.

Financial Implications

15. The total grants awarded in this report amounts to £10,522 and can be contained within the approved budgets.

Risk Assessment

16. The recommendations made by the Grants Panel do not hold significant risks. All grant applications are subject to the completion of a detailed application and supporting documents including submission of financial details. A follow up check will be made to ensure the funds have been spent in line with the approved grant within 12 months of the award.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. The report complies with our policy to ensure that the voluntary and community sectors are treated fairly and equitably. The Council has had due regard to the aims of the Equality Act. The recommendations in this report promote equality of opportunity, in particular for children and young people, children and young people with disabilities and disabled people (including mental health). As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit an Equal Opportunities statement.

18. **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

The community grants encourage and aim to change residents' behaviour by supporting projects which incorporate green initiatives, for example, the chess sets and other game equipment supplied to the West End Parish Thursday Morning Coffee Club will be made from sustainable materials and the day rucksacks, compasses and map holders which have been awarded to the 3rd West End Guides will help young people engage with being outdoors and help teach them the importance of the environment and preserving their local community.

Conclusion

19. The recommendations made in this report complement the Council's corporate priorities as well as this Committee's local priorities. Subject to the approval of this Committee along with the conditions that have been recommended as set out in Appendix 1, the grants will be awarded in March 2021 to recognise and celebrate the extent of community work being undertaken in the local area.

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Appendices Attached: One

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

31 grant applications were received and are held on file for further inspection. Information is available from Siobhan Strand, Assistant Local Area Manager.