

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 30 January 2023

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH GRANTS 2022/2023

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 approves the grants as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Summary

The Grants Panel recommends that grants be allocated to local organisations operating in the Hedge End, West End and Botley local area for 2022/2023.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2021 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 by allocating devolved resources to meet local needs. The recommendations align with Corporate Plan objectives of Tackling Deprivation, Enabling Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing, Supporting an Excellent Environment, Improving Town and Local Centres, Increasing Provision and Ensuring a More Diverse Mix of Housing and Enabling the Right Skills and Employment mix.

Introduction

2. This Committee has allocated £15,210 for a community and youth grant 22-23 budget to fund grants to local groups. A total of 11 grant applications were received this round with a value of £4,250, compared to last year's round (21-22) where we received a total of 23 applications with a value of £9,395.

3. The Grants Panel consisting of Councillors Garton, Gomer, Hadaway and Kinloch who represented the 3 local areas of this local area committee met to assess the applications on 7th December 2022.

The Panels decisions

4. The Grants Panel sought to ensure the available funding was spread throughout the three local wards.
5. The Panel also considered the objectives of the groups, the numbers attending, whether they were from the local area, the total cost of the project and whether funding was or could be sought from elsewhere. The applications were assessed against the following criteria: Including business plans, details on how the grant application meets Eastleigh Borough Council's priorities (Healthy Communities, Green Borough and Prosperous Place) and confirmation that the applications were not for day to day running costs.
6. It is recommended that the 11 grant applications totalling £3,744 as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.

Financial Implications

7. If approved, the 11 grants awarded amount to £3,744 and can be accommodated within the approved budget of £15,210.
8. The remaining funds which were not allocated in this round of grants have been ringfenced. In light of the substantial grant funding remaining, options are being explored to ensure the funds are targeted for specific local needs. A further report will be presented to this committee to approve this funding.

Risk Assessment

9. 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 the submission of financial details. A monitoring form will also be sent out to all successful recipients to ensure the funds have been spent in line with the approved grant within 12 months of the award.

Equality and Diversity Implications

10. 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 youth people with disabilities and disabled people (including mental health) and older people. As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit an Equal Opportunities statement.

11. **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

The community grants encourage changes in residents' behaviours by supporting projects which incorporate green initiatives. For example, Wellstead Primary School will install a cycle/scooter rack to encourage their pupils to use greener methods of transport, which not only helps the environment, but also promotes health and mental wellbeing through the use of physical exercise. Friends of Botley School will provide a shaded garden area under a large Oak tree for the students which will provide a calm environment for outdoor reading sessions and help connect the children to nature. Friends of West End Copse will rebuild a boardwalk in the copse to allow members of the public to continue to enjoy the many benefits of this green space.

Conclusion

12. 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, the grants will be awarded in February 2023 to recognise and celebrate the extent of community work being undertaken in the local area.

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ASSISTANT LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: 1

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.

11 grant applications were received and are held on file for further inspection.