

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of meeting: 30 July 2012.
Report of: Partnerships Manager
Title: Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To determine the award of Community Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council. The Council recognises the valuable input that the Voluntary and Community Sector brings to the quality of life in the community. Funding is focused on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the second round of grants for 2012/13, and makes recommendations totalling £22,868 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the following Community Grants be awarded/declined/deferred:

Events Grant

Cheshire Scouts	Declined
Congleton Harriers	Declined
Sandbach Today	Awarded £178
Macclesfield Music Society	Awarded £250
Congleton Musical Theatre	Awarded £250
New Life Pre-school Nursery	Declined
Alsager Gardens Association	Declined
Guy Harvey Youth Club	Declined
Macclesfield Art Group	Awarded £250
Valley Green/Beech Drive Project	Awarded £250

Activities Grant

East Cheshire Mental Health Forum	Declined
Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC	Awarded £250
Sandbach Cricket Club	Declined
Sandbach United FC	Declined
Macclesfield & District Canoe Club	Awarded £240
Parkrun Congleton	Awarded £250
Crewe Central Table Tennis Club	Awarded £500
Brereton Parish Community Interest Group	Awarded £500
Haslington Methodist Church	Awarded £500
Congleton Shop Mobility	Awarded £200
Tommy Thumbs Pre-School	Declined
Middlewich Clean Team	Awarded £250
Cheshire Hornets Basketball Club	Declined
The Debt Advice Network	Declined
Nantwich Town FC	Awarded £250
The Georges Mums & Tots Group	Awarded £500

Facilities Grant

Ettiley Heath Recreation Fund	Deferred
Wrenbury Village Hall Trust	Awarded £1,500
St John's Methodist Church, Willaston	Awarded £1,250
Sandbach Almshouse Charity	Awarded £1,000
The Wingate Special Children's Trust	Awarded £3,000
Alderley Edge Scout & Guide Council	Awarded £1,500
Rainow Pre-School	Declined
Middlewich Community Pride	Awarded £2,500
Silk Heritage Trust	Awarded £2,750
Nantwich Museum	Awarded £1,500
Viadance	Awarded £1,750
Matrix Cheer Squad	Awarded £1,500

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (Details of Grants)

3.1 Events (up to £250)

Cheshire Scouts -

Total Cost of Project - £20,500 Amount Requested - £250

Event takes place before decisions meeting. It is recommended the application is declined.

Congleton Harriers -

Total Cost of Project - £7,597 Amount Requested - £250

Repeat funding request. It is recommended the application is declined.

Sandbach Today -

Total Cost of Project - £628 Amount Requested - £178

It is recommended they be awarded £178.

Macclesfield Music Society -

Total Cost of Project - £8,510 Amount Requested - £250

It is recommended they be awarded £250.

Congleton Musical Theatre -

Total Cost of Project - £17,111 Amount Requested - £250

It is recommended they be awarded £250.

New Life Pre-School Nursery -

Total Cost of Project - £1,000 Amount Requested - £250

New Life Church received grant in April. It is recommended the application be declined.

Alsager Gardens Association -

Total Cost of Project - £450 Amount Requested - £250

Grant received in April 11, report not received due to an extension. It is recommended the application is declined.

Guy Harvey Youth Club -

Total Cost of Project - £160 Amount Requested - £160

Event takes place during call-in. It is recommended the application is declined.

Macclesfield Art Group -

Total Cost of Project - £545 Amount Requested - £250

It is recommended they be awarded £250.

Valley Green/Beech Drive Project -

Total Cost of Project - £3,800 Amount Requested - £250

It is recommended they be awarded £250.

3.2 Activities (up to £500)

East Cheshire Mental Health Forum -

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

Group applying for running/administration costs to keep the group going. This cannot be funded - as stated in Community Grant guidelines. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC –

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

Group applying to deliver sessions within local schools, aimed at teenage girls to gain interest in women's football. Already contributing £200 themselves. Had

a grant in January for promotion and marketing women's games. It is recommended they be awarded the £250.

Sandbach Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £400 Amount Requested - £400

This group intends to run afterschool Quick Cricket sessions. They are not contributing themselves or applied elsewhere, but are running at a loss. Deferred from April pending receipt of constitution – which still has not been received. It is recommended the application be declined.

Sandbach United FC –

Total Cost of Project - £800 Amount Requested - £500

Group wish to attend relevant training courses for managers and coaches. This group has a very healthy bank account and have not applied elsewhere although they have made a small contribution themselves. Deferred from April pending receipt of constitution – which has still not been received. It is recommended the application be declined.

Macclesfield & District Canoe Club –

Total Cost of Project - £480 Amount Requested - £480

This group wish to purchase new paddles for the club to replace old, damaged paddles that are not suitable for use in teaching modern techniques. The group are not contributing themselves, despite reserves in the bank and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they be awarded £240.

Parkrun Congleton –

Total Cost of Project - £3,100 Amount Requested - £500

New group wishing to purchase equipment & training for weekly running events in Congleton. They have a small donation, but have not applied elsewhere & not contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Crewe Central Tennis Club –

Total Cost of Project - £2,100 Amount Requested - £500

New group looking for assistance with room hire costs to help them establish and gain more members. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Brereton Parish Community Interest Group –

Total Cost of Project - £1,595 Amount Requested - £500

Group require funding to assist with the printing of their quarterly newsletter that goes to each household in the Parish. Applied in January 12 for the same purpose and were declined due to budget pressures. They now have contributions from the parish council and are contributing themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £500.

Haslington Methodist Church

Total Cost of Project - £3,500 Amount Requested - £500

This group runs an Open Door project that provides help and advice to those in the community that struggle to access information. They now require training in benefits, money advice and employment law for their volunteers. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Congleton Shop Mobility –

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

This group wish to purchase stickers to cover other companies logo's on their scooters. They also require a gazebo to replace their existing damaged one for events that are held and a heavy duty printer in order to produce their own promotional materials. They have not applied elsewhere and are not contributing themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £200 towards the cost of the gazebo and apply to the Town Council for the remainder of funds.

Tommy Thumbs Pre School -

Total Cost of Project - £1,994 Amount Requested - £500

Pre-school is due to increase in size and they require new equipment to accommodate the extra children. Equipment will only benefit those attending the pre-school, which cannot be funded as stated in the guidelines. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Middlewich Clean Team –

Total Cost of Project - £937 Amount Requested - £500

This group are applying to purchase anti-dog fouling kits, a pull up banner, badge making equipment, safety jackets and litter pickers. They are contributing themselves, have £200 from the Town council and a donation. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Cheshire Hornets Basketball Club –

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

Group applying to cover court hire costs for 10 weeks. We cannot fund room/facility hire, as stated in the guidelines. It is recommended that they application is declined.

The Debt Advice Network –

Total Cost of Project - £900 Amount Requested - £500

Group wishes to purchase 2 laptops. They have £400 in other funds but are not contributing themselves. Application was deferred from April pending further information on their operating area and how they receive referrals. It is recommended that the application is declined as the organisations listed in the accompanying letter do not receive referrals as stated.

Nantwich Town FC–

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

Club wish to purchase new set of Samba goals for the introduction of 9 v 9 football. They are not contributing themselves or applying else where. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

The Georges Mums & Tots Group –

Total Cost of Project - £1,299 Amount Requested - £500

New group wishing to purchase equipment to help establishment, tables & chairs, toys etc. Deferred from April pending bank account details, this is now set up. They are not contributing themselves or applying elsewhere but to assist with set-up it is recommended they are awarded £500.

3.3 Facilities (up to £3,000)

Ettiley Heath Recreation Fund–

Total Cost of Project - £12,038 Amount Requested - £3,000

This group wish to install 'play crete' to part of their field that is currently hard surfaced. Teenagers gather and smash bottles. It is hoped that the softer surface will discourage this and make the area more attractive for children. The group are contributing a small amount themselves and have another small contribution. They have not yet applied elsewhere but have a large amount to raise. It is recommended that the application is deferred until September pending further information upon how the rest of the project money will be obtained.

Wrenbury Village Hall Trust –

Total Cost of Project - £2,189 Amount Requested - £2,000

This group wish to purchase new chairs for the village hall to replace poor quality, uncomfortable chairs they have at present. They are contributing a small amount themselves but have not applied to the Parish Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and apply to the Parish Council.

St John's Methodist Church, Willaston –

Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £1,250

This group wish to decorate the village hall to improve the premises quality and to make it more attractive for potential users. They are contributing themselves and have funding from elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £1,250

Sandbach Almshouse Charity–

Total Cost of Project - £73,350 Amount Requested - £3,000

This group wish to construct an annex to provide a day room/meeting room and communal area for the residents of the Almshouses. It is recommended that they are awarded £1000 to match Town Council funding. Report must show how this has benefitted wider community.

The Wingate Special Children's Trust–

Total Cost of Project - £42,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

This group is wishing to replace the current heating system due to old system being in-efficient and in poor condition. They are making a large contribution themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000

Alderley Edge Scout & Guide Council –

Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £2,000

This group wishes to improve their Scout hall by creating a tent drying area to maximise space. Deferred from April pending receipt of constitution, this has now been received. They are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they be awarded £1,500 and apply to the Parish Council.

Rainow Pre-school –**Total Cost of Project - £1,985 Amount Requested - £1,585**

Pre-school wish to purchase new equipment to ensure the school is fit for purpose and attracts surrounding community. Equipment would be for the sole benefit of pupils of the pre-school. It is recommended the application is declined.

Middlewich Community Pride –**Total Cost of Project - £22,598 Amount Requested - £2,898**

The group project is forming part of a much larger £2m project to regenerate Middlewich Town Wharf. Significant funding being sourced via the town council. This part of the project involves the regeneration of an unused, derelict building. £2000 is coming from the Town Council, S106 CEC have given £8000 and further applications have been made. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500.

Silk Heritage Trust –**Total Cost of Project - £13,975 Amount Requested - £2,975**

Organisation wish to improve disabled access to the ground floor, to make the access more clear and reduce confusion. Six community rooms will be upgraded to extend community use and they wish to carry out an arts project to showcase a selection of silk pattern books. They are contributing themselves and have applied to awards for all. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,750

Nantwich Museum -**Total Cost of Project - £2,648 Amount Requested - £2,368**

The Museum wish to develop a new exhibition on Nantwich Food & Drink and wish to purchase pull up and wall mounted panels. They are making a small contribution themselves despite considerable reserves and plan to approach the Town Council and local printers. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500.

Viadance -**Total Cost of Project - £2,926 Amount Requested - £1,750**

Dance group wishing to refurbish dance studio for extra space to accommodate increasing numbers. They are contributing £1000 themselves, but not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,750.

Matrix Cheer Squad -**Total Cost of Project - £3,990 Amount Requested - £1,500**

This group wish to refurbish their gym and provide better facilities for its users. Looking to install mirrors and renovate reception area. They are contributing themselves £1000 but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £1500.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All wards within Cheshire East Council

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Wards within Cheshire East Council

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 All of the applications contained in this report have been considered in the light of the Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants, and the recommendations on each one conform to that Policy.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2012/13 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2012/13

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 In awarding grants, the Council must ensure that in each case it has the legal power to fund the proposed scheme. In all cases there is a condition requiring a report back to the Council on the expenditure of the grant. Consideration should also be given in each case to the imposition of other appropriate conditions.
- 9.2 The Council's legal powers for awarding these grants are contained in various statutes, including Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. In addition, the Council should ensure that there is a transparent process and policy in respect of determining the level of grant subsidy to any community group.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 None

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 Applications received and allocated in accordance with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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