

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of meeting: 3rd May 2011
Report of: Area 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 first round of grants for 2011/12, and makes recommendations totalling £16,662 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 as indicated:

Events Grant.

St. Marys Parish Church Flower Festival	awarded £250
Alderley Edge May Fair	awarded £250
SOL Theatre School	awarded £250
St. Barnabas Church Holiday Club	awarded £250
Middlewich & Districts Concerts Society	awarded £250
Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra	awarded £250
Bangladeshi Welfare Association	awarded £250
Crewe West Community Group	awarded £250
SHARE	awarded £250
Youth Education Training International	awarded £245
Wheelock Holiday Club	awarded £76

Activities Grant.

Crewe Vagrants Hockey Club	awarded £500
Audlem Cycling Club	awarded £500
Congleton Carousels	awarded £500
Disley Arts Society	awarded £80
The Wingate Centre	awarded £293
Ash Court Social Committee	awarded £250

Friends of The Carrs	awarded £115
Knutsford Historical Society	awarded £377
Macclesfield Live at Home	awarded £150
Lower Moss Wood Educational Nature Reserve and Wildlife Hospital	declined
Nantwich Pumas JFC	awarded £495
Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group	awarded £485
Crewe Vagrants Cricket Club	awarded £286
Girl Guiding Holmes Chapel	awarded £500
Crewe and Nantwich Canoe Club	awarded £450
Crewe Judo Club	declined
Macclesfield Cricket Club	awarded £500
South Cheshire Special Needs Table Tennis Club	awarded £500
Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust	awarded £500
Holmes Chapel & District U3A	awarded £350
Alsager Town FC Juniors	awarded £500
Alsager Cricket Club	awarded £500

Facilities Grant.

New Life Church	awarded £1,500
Alsager Gardens Association	awarded £1,000
Christ Church Alsager	awarded £750
Macclesfield & Congleton District Scout Group	awarded £750
Holmes Chapel Music Society	awarded £500
Alsager Community Church	awarded £1,760

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (Details of Grants)

3.1 EVENTS (UP TO £250)

St. Marys Parish Church Flower Festival	awarded £250
Alderley Edge May Fair	awarded £250
SOL Theatre School	awarded £250
St. Barnabas Church Holiday Club	awarded £250
Middlewich & Districts Concerts Society	awarded £250
Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra	awarded £250
Bangladeshi Welfare Association	awarded £250
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Wheelock Holiday Club	awarded £76

The above events are all annual productions/events, some with quite high costs and receive income from ticket sales as well as refreshments, programmes etc. These events are important to Cheshire East district as they do make a difference to local residents by way of enabling them to see local talent performing at reasonable prices. It is recommended that they be

awarded a grant of up to £250 and that their profit/loss for the events be monitored

3.2 ACTIVITIES (up to £500)

Crewe Vagrants Hockey Club –

Total Cost of Project - £719. Amount Requested - £500

This Club has an increasing number of junior members and wishes to purchase additional goalkeeping kits, balls and bibs for junior training and first aid kits. The total cost of the project is £719 and it is recommended they be awarded £500

Audlem Cycling Club -

Total Cost of Project - £560. Amount Requested - £500

This is a relatively new Club who wish to purchase 4 turbo trainers for the Junior Section which will provide indoor training which can't be achieved on the open road or in severe weather. They have secured funding from the Parish Council but have limited funds of their own. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Congleton Carousels –

Total Cost of Project - £3,443. Amount Requested - £500

This group is self funding and are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. They wish to purchase special costumes, shoes and medals for end of season presentation evening. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Disley Arts Society –

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

A long established group who are applying for funding towards two workshops with outside artists. They are not contributing from their own funds although they have a healthy bank balance. The total cost of the workshops is £160 and it is recommended they be awarded match funding of £80.

The Wingate Centre –

Total Cost of Project - £586. Amount Requested - £500

This Trust wishes to send 22 members of new and existing staff and volunteers on safeguarding and child protection courses which need to be undertaken every 3 years. It was deemed to be more cost effective to undertake this training in a block session. They are not contributing themselves despite a healthy bank balance and it is recommended they be awarded match funding of £293.

Ash Court Social Committee

Total Cost of Project - £700. Amount Requested - £500

An active social group who wish to plant out the frontage of their building with a "Royal Wedding" theme. The total cost is £700 and it is recommended they be awarded £250.

Friends of The Carrs –

Total Cost of Project - £230. Amount Requested - £115

This Group wish to purchase a strimmer and equipment to undertake maintenance of The Carrs on the banks of the River Bollin. The total cost is £230 and they are prepared to put in 50% of the cost themselves and it is recommended they be awarded £115.

Knutsford Historical Society –

Total Cost of Project - £477. Amount Requested - £377

This is now the only local society and they require to replace their old obsolete projector with a PowerPoint projector at a cost of £477. They have limited funds and are contributing £100. It is recommended they be awarded £377 so the society can continue to operate.

Macclesfield Live at Home –

Total Cost of Project - £300. Amount Requested - £300

This Group operates a luncheon club for the socially isolated and wish to purchase more adequate equipment to cook a wider range of meals for their growing membership. They have a healthy bank account and are not contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded match funding of £150.

Lower Moss Wood Educational Nature

Reserve and Wildlife Hospital – Knutsford –

Total Cost of Project - £478. Amount Requested - £478

This organisation wish to purchase a wheelbarrow and gardening equipment to enable volunteers to carry out conservation and woodland tasks. They have substantial free reserves and are not contributing themselves or applied for any other funding. It is recommended that their application be declined.

Nantwich Pumas JFC –

Total Cost of Project - £495. Amount Requested - £495

This is a new Club wishing to purchase training equipment, footballs and first aid kit together with coaching and training course fees. They have no funds of their own and it is recommended they be awarded £495

Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group –

Total Cost of Project - £485. Amount Requested - £485

This Group is undertaking a project to clean up Brook Wood in Sandbach. They now wish to install bird boxes and plant trees. They have received funding from the Town Council, Sandbach Partnership and Plus Dane. It is recommended they be awarded £485

Crewe Vagrants Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £918. Amount Requested - £500

This Club wishes to send new and existing volunteers on safeguarding and first aid courses. They are also applying for funding towards equipment, advertising banners and fencing to the net area. As they have already purchased the fencing, it is recommended they be awarded £286 for the costs of the training and banners.

Girl Guiding Holmes Chapel –

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

This is a newly established Group who wishes to hold recruitment events to attract volunteers. They are applying for funding towards room hire and craft materials. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Crewe and Nantwich Canoe Club –

Total Cost of Project - £3,014. Amount Requested - £450

This Club has an expanding membership and wishes to purchase additional boats and kayaks to enable more people to participate in activities. They have raised a lot of funds and are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £450.

Crewe Judo Club –

Total Cost of Project - £430. Amount Requested - £430

This Club was previously awarded a grant of £500 for coaching. Despite several reminders they have not supplied a report as required under the Policy. It is recommended that their application be declined.

Macclesfield Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £2,600. Amount Requested - £500

This Club has recently been promoted to the Cheshire Premier League and wish to purchase a new mower to maintain their pitch to the highest standards. They are contributing themselves and it is recommended they be awarded £500

South Cheshire Special Needs Table Tennis Club –

Total Cost of Project - £610. Amount Requested - £500

This Club is currently running at full capacity and wish to put on additional sessions and therefore need to purchase additional equipment. They have very limited funding and it is recommended they be awarded £500.

Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust –

Total Cost of Project - £676. Amount Requested - £676

This Group provides canal boat trips for various groups including vulnerable and special needs groups. They need to increase the number of trained skippers so they can provide opportunities for more groups to participate. They have received funding from other sources and it is recommended they be awarded £500.

Holmes Chapel & District U3A –

Total Cost of Project - £1176. Amount Requested - £500

A new branch of U3A which needs to purchase equipment to develop. They have a limited amount of their own funding and have received £350 from the Parish Council. It is recommended they be awarded £350 to match fund the Parish Council.

Alsager Town FC Juniors –

Total Cost of Project - £2586. Amount Requested - £1,936

The Club want to move existing pitch and goalposts and install new 7aside goal posts. They have some funding of their own for the new goalposts but have not applied for funding from any other source. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Alsager Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £4700. Amount Requested - £1,500

This Club wish to resurface their junior artificial junior wicket to allow them to host junior matches and practice nights when the weather would prevent playing on grass. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

3.3 FACILITIES (up to £3,000)

New Life Church –

Total Cost of Project - £5,016. Amount Requested - £3,000

A well used community facility used by over 50 different groups and organisations. They wish to replace their tables and chairs which are in constant use every day. They have some of their own funding and have applied to the Town Council. It is recommended they be awarded £1,500

Alsager Gardens Association –

Total Cost of Project - £2,160. Amount Requested - £1,500

The Association wishes to provide a toilet facility at their allotment site which is currently oversubscribed with a long waiting list. This would improve the facilities for their members. They have some of their own funding but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they be awarded £1,000 and advised to apply to Alsager Town Council for additional funding.

Christ Church Alsager –

Total Cost of Project - £7537. Amount Requested - £1,500

The Community Hall facility of this Church has recently undergone refurbishment. They are now applying for a grant to replace old and worn out tables and chairs for the Main Hall and Side Room. They are contributing themselves and it is recommended they be awarded £750.

Macclesfield & Congleton District Scout Council –

Total Cost of Project - £1823. Amount Requested - £1,500

This building is used for meetings etc. by all Scout groups within the District. It has been refurbished and they are requesting a grant to fit out the kitchen facility. They have some funding of their own and it is recommended they be awarded £1,000

Holmes Chapel Music Society –

Total Cost of Project - £2,000. Amount Requested - £1,000

The Society purchased the original curtains on the stage some 25 years ago and now wish to replace them. They have substantial free reserves and are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Alsager Community Church –

Total Cost of Project - £4458. Amount Requested - £2,957

They wish to replace the large front windows of the coffee shop with double glazed units and to update the toilet facilities which are in a poor state of repair. They have confirmed funding from the Town Council and the Round Table and are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £1,760 specifically for the window replacement.

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 2011/12 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 2011/12

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 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 Allocation of Grants for 2011/12 only.

13.0 Access to Information

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

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