

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of meeting: 6th May 2010
Report of: Head of Policy & Performance
Title: Community Grants

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 2010/11, and makes recommendations 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:

1) Wilmslow Street Party be	awarded £250
2) Bickerton Village Hall Autumn Ball be	declined
3) Goostrey Village Art/Music Festival be	awarded £250
4) Bollington Chamber concerts be	awarded £250
5) Prestbury Flower Club be	awarded £250
6) Community Spirit be	awarded £250
7) New Life Church Play Scheme be	awarded £250
8) Macclesfield Youth Brass Band be	awarded £250
9) Bridgend Centre be	awarded £250
10) Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival be	awarded £250
11) Alsager Gardeners Association be	awarded £250
12) Nantwich in Bloom be	awarded £250
13) 1 st Goostrey Scouts be	awarded £250
14) Alsager Ladies Circle be	awarded £250
15) Alton Street Allotments be	awarded £500
16) Disley Arts Centre be	awarded £150
17) Knutsford Football club be	awarded £500
18) South Cheshire Netball Club be	awarded £380
19) St. Johns Ambulance Cadets be	awarded £86
20) Sandbach Sharks Amateur Swim Club be	awarded £400
21) Wrenbury Art Club be	awarded £266
22) Poynton Home Gardeners Club be	deferred

23) Ash court Residents Group be	awarded £300
24) Alsager Bridgestone A.S.C. be	awarded £500
25) Home-Start East Cheshire be	awarded £294
26) Marshfield Bank be	awarded £493
27) Crewe & Nantwich Sports Council be	awarded £2,400
28) Alexandra Soccer Centre Lions Club be	deferred
29) Burleydam Village Hall Fund be	awarded 472
30) Rode Heath Young Persons Community Group be	awarded £500
31) Mbolou Music be	awarded £500
32) Parents of Styal be	awarded £497
33) Bollington Ladies Hockey Club be	awarded £500
34) Fourways Open Space Project be	awarded £450
35) Marbury Village Hall be	declined
36) Congleton Disabled Access Group be	awarded £807
37) Wybunbury Plan Implementation Group be	awarded £1,500
38) Christ Church Alsager Community Hall be	awarded £750
39) Bunbury Village Hall be	awarded £1,500
40) Bollington Methodist Church be	deferred
41) Stapeley Parish Action Group be	awarded £750

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (Details of Grants)

3.1 EVENTS (UP TO £250)

Wilmslow Street Party (CGA.1)
Goostrey Village Art/Music Festival (CGA.6)
Bollington Chamber concerts (CGA.7)
Prestbury Flower Club (CGA.14)
Community Spirit (CGA.15)
Macclesfield Youth Brass Band (CGA.20)
Bridgend Centre (CGA.26)
Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival (CGA.29)
Alsager Gardeners Association (CGA.37)
Nantwich in Bloom (CGA.31)
1st Goostrey Scouts (CGA.35)
Alsager Ladies Circle (CGA.39)
New Life Church (CGA.18)

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

Bickerton Village Hall Autumn Ball (CGA.6).

The group have organised this social event ultimately to raise funds to pay off a £15,000 loan. The criteria of the Grant Scheme states that Cheshire East Council

do not pay towards a loan against loss or debt and therefore it is recommended a grant be declined

3.2 ACTIVITIES (up to £500)

Alton Street Allotments (CGA.2)

Their total project cost is £1,050 to purchase a polytunnel and shed which will enable them to use the allotments all year round. The allotments are used as educational facilities for children as well as adults. It is recommended they be awarded £500

Disley Arts Centre (CGA.4)

The group want to hold a workshop inviting an outside professional to demonstrate and enable the group to learn new skills. The total project cost is £243 and they are requesting the balance of £150. It is recommended they be awarded £150.

Knutsford Football Club (CGA.5)

The club had their tractor/mower stolen which wasn't insured due to old management committee. They are seeking funding (as well as contributing from their own funds) to purchase a new tractor/mower (£6,000) which will be insured and secured. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

South Cheshire Netball Club (CGA.9)

The group want to send a player on a coaching and umpiring course and purchase a second kit. The total cost is £1,392. It is recommended they raise more of their own funds for the kit and be awarded £380 for the cost of the coaching/umpiring course as this is more valuable to the teams development.

St. Johns Ambulance Cadets (CGA.10)

The group would like to purchase a portable whiteboard for training purposes as they not only teach their own cadets but go out to other groups. They have a very limited amount of funds and it is recommended they be awarded the full amount required of £86.

Sandbach Sharks Amateur Swimming Club (CGA.11)

The project is to purchase specialist software to enable swimmers times to be uploaded directly onto their database which will enhance their development and performance especially at competitions. The majority of their income is used on pool hire and competition. The project cost is £504 and it is recommended they be awarded £400 with the balance from their own funds.

Wrenbury Art Club (CGA.12)

The application is for a number of projects, i.e. room hire, paint and the cost of a specialist tutor over a number of weeks to help them improve their skills. The group consists mainly of senior citizens in a rural area which is crucial to their social networking. The total cost of the project is £532 excluding room hire. It is recommended they be awarded match funding of £266.

Poynton Home Gardeners Club (CGA.16)

The application requires further information and is therefore deferred until the next round (1st July)

Ash Court Residents Group (CGA.17)

The residents would like to re-landscape their garden area at the front of the building and to theme part of it for the World Cup this summer. They are an active social group and would like to see this project completed. The total cost is £600 and it is recommended they be awarded £300.

Alsager Bridgestone A.S.C. (CGA.19)

The project is to run on-going educational swim sessions by qualified professionals for children and adults. To do this they require extra equipment. The total project cost is £2277 and they have secured funding from Alsager Town Council and their own funds. It is recommended they be awarded £500

Home-Start East Cheshire (CGA.23)

The group want to purchase a printer, toner and extended warranty. They are requesting the total amount from CEC but they do have funds in their account as well as a contingency fund. The total cost is £656 and it is recommended they be awarded the £294 for the printer and that they contribute towards the remaining equipment.

Marshfield Bank (CGA.27)

The project is to engage youth in the area in various activities to help combat anti-social behaviour. They have produced a business plan and have acquired funding towards the project and are requesting the balance. The total project is £1849 and it is recommended they be awarded the balance of £493.

Crewe & Nantwich Sports Council (CGA.25)

This organisation has received a grant from Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council for a number of years successfully allocating grants throughout the year to individuals who are training in order to attain national performance levels. It is recommended they be awarded £2,400 in order for this to continue.

Alexandra Soccer Centre Lions Club (CGA.33)

The application requires further information and is therefore deferred until the next round (1st July)

Burleydam Village Hall Fund (CGA.34)

The group's current projector is broken and they wish to purchase a new one for their film clubs. The Parish Council are paying towards insurance etc. The total project cost is £472 and as the group have very limited funds it is recommended a full grant of £472 be awarded to enable their activities to continue.

Rode Heath Young Persons Community Group (CGA.36)

The project is to improve the computer network at the Centre by installing more computer access points and sockets as this section is widely used to train young people. The total project cost is £1078 and it is recommended they be awarded £500.

Mbollou Music (CGA.40)

Part of the project is to purchase lightweight musical instruments for elderly citizens who are learning to play and part is to hold an intergenerational African music day for which they have applied to Awards for All. The total cost of new instruments is £2850 – they have some funding towards the instruments and it is recommended they be awarded £500.

Parents of Styal (CGA.41)

The group have had steel pans donated to them to start up a community steel band. The project is to purchase a storage shed for the drums and workbenches to enable the drums to be restored. The group will pay for a specialist tutor from their own funds. The total project cost is £497 and it is recommended they be awarded the full amount as they will be committing funds and “in kind” themselves.

Bollington Ladies Hockey Club (CGA.42)

The club would like to purchase specialist goalkeeping kit as they are now developing the team and have improved their position in the league this year. A new and better kit would attract more players to the goalkeeping side of the game. The total project cost is £760 and it is recommended they be awarded £500.

Fourways Open Space Project (CGA.43)

This group have developed and landscaped their green space area over the last few years and has attracted funding from various external sources for plants, play equipment etc. This project is to purchase picnic tables/benches which will enhance their numerous events held throughout the year. The total cost of the project is £700 and it is recommended they be awarded the balance required of £450.

3.3 FACILITIES (up to £1,500)**Marbury Village Hall (CGA.3)**

The hall is in need of a replacement roof as the existing roof is leaking. The total cost is £2,350 and have asked for the full amount from CEC. They do have £14,000 of their own reserves for unforeseen or emergency expenditure but are not contributing from these funds. It is recommended their application be declined as this is not refurbishment or improvement to the building but exactly what their reserves are kept for.

Congleton Disabled Access Group (CGA.13)

The project is to provide two seating areas on a steep incline near to Congleton Park to assist disabled and elderly residents to have a rest area. The total project cost is £4,807 and they have applied to Congleton Town Council and other funders and are requesting £807. It is recommended they be awarded £807.

Wybunbury Plan Implementation Group (CGA.21)

The play area is to be updated with a grant from WREN and also the Parish Council. The total project cost is £49,950 and it is recommended they be awarded £1,500 towards the third party funding required by WREN.

Christ Church Alsager (CGA.28)

The grant is to purchase kitchen equipment, crockery and tables at a total cost of £12,076. As this is not for refurbishment but for equipment it is recommended they be awarded £750.

Bunbury Village Hall (CGA.44)

The project is for a new roof/suspended ceiling and double glazing. The total project cost is £12,503 and they have secured funding from WREN and Awards for All and it is recommended they be awarded £1,500 towards third party funding.

Bollington Methodist Church (CGA.30)

The application requires further information and is therefore deferred until the next round (1st July)

Stapeley Parish Plan Action Group (CGA.32)

The group have been successful in securing funding for their play area and this project is to purchase two "heritage" benches at a total cost of £1,499 for which the group are requesting the full amount. The scheme guidelines do state that the maximum amount of £1,500 is only awarded towards funding larger projects and it is recommended they be awarded £750 towards this project.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All wards.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Members.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 Positive impact

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

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 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 2009/10.

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 2009/10 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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