

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of meeting: 24th October, 2011
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 third round of grants for 2011/12, and makes recommendations totalling £26,146 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.

Acton Amateur Operatic Society	awarded £250
Sandbach Voices	awarded £250
Cheshire Youth Pantomime Society	awarded £250
Prestbury (St. Peters) Choral Society	awarded £250
Sandbach Partnership	awarded £250

Activities Grant.

Cheshire Schools Football Association	awarded £500
Liberty Dance Troupe	awarded £250
Trinity Dance Troupe	awarded £250
Community Sports Trust	declined
The Funky Choir.com	awarded £500
Moss Allotment Garden Project	deferred
Valley Community Action Project	awarded £400
Enterprise & Education Alliance	awarded £400
Warmingham Village Plan Action Group	awarded £500
Shapla Womens Group	declined
Alderley United	deferred
Congleton Town FC (Beartown Juniors)	awarded £500

Nantwich Big Cheese Film Club	awarded £500
Sensory Stars	awarded £500

Facilities Grant.

Christian Concern Crewe	awarded £3,000
1 st Chelford Scout Group	awarded £3,000
1 st Holmes Chapel Scout Group	awarded £3,000
Moss Allotment Society	deferred
Electric Picture House Artists Cooperative Congleton	awarded £3,000
Rode Heath Park Committee	awarded £1,279
St. Peter's Church Hall Elworth	awarded £3,000
St. Barnabas Church Macclesfield	deferred
Macclesfield Forest and Wildboardclough Charity	awarded £1,317
The Georges Community Centre Crewe	awarded £3,000

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (Details of Grants)

3.1 Events (up to £250)

Acton Amateur Operatic Society
Sandbach Voices
Cheshire Youth Pantomime Society
Prestbury (St. Peters) Choral Society
Sandbach Partnership

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)

Cheshire Schools Football Association –

Total Cost of Project - £930 Amount Requested - £500

This is a long established organisation whose funding has been cut since the inception of LGR in 2009. They are applying for equipment and coaching costs towards the Inter Schools Cup which will be held at Middlewich Town FC. They have received £400 from Siemens as sponsorship for the Schools Cup. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Liberty Dance Troupe –

Total Cost of Project - £450 Amount Requested - £400

This is a relatively new group who wish to purchase costume accessories for competitions. They have received £50 from Wistaston Parish Council. Due to the purchase of a minibus for the group, they have no funding of their own. It is recommended they be awarded £250.

Trinity Dance Troupe –

Total Cost of Project - £3,026 Amount Requested - £500

This group has a growing membership with limited funds. They are applying for funding for costumes and equipment to enable them to continue to perform in local and national events. It is recommended they be awarded £250.

Community Sports Trust –

Total Cost of Project - £636 Amount Requested - £500

The Trust wishes to commence "Futsal" sessions at the Moss Rose Ground in Macclesfield, This is a new indoor sport and is therefore not dictated to by weather etc. They are applying for funding to purchase a set of indoor Futsal goals. They are only making a small contribution of their own despite a relatively healthy bank account and have not applied elsewhere. Following consultation with the Leisure and Play Development Manager, it is recommended that the application be declined.

The Funky Choir.com –

Total Cost of Project - £1,200 Amount Requested - £500

A new choir who wish to undertake professional coaching in voice, harmony and choir skills to enable them to perform on public at community events, concerts etc. They are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Moss Allotment Garden Project –

Total Cost of Project - £494.02 Amount Requested - £409.02

This group wishes to purchase materials to make raised beds for disabled gardeners on CEC owned allotments. Following consultation with Greenscape Officers, it is recommended that the application be deferred pending further information.

Valley Community Action Project –

Total Cost of Project - £695 Amount Requested - £500

This group started a project some 3 years ago to develop a piece of overgrown land into a Community Orchard. They are applying for funding to hold training sessions with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and also the purchase of replacement trees. They are contributing themselves but have not applied for funding elsewhere. It is recommended they be awarded £400.

Enterprise & Education Alliance –

Total Cost of Project - £2,069 Amount Requested - £1,769

This Group works at St. Barnabas Church in Crewe with various community groups. They wish to create a Sensory Garden for disabled people. They are applying for funding for gardening materials, benches etc. They have some of their own funding. The maximum grant which can be awarded is £500. It is recommended they be awarded £400.

Warmingham Village Plan Action Group –

Total Cost of Project - £1,975 Amount Requested - £1,775

This Group wishes to purchase a range of audio visual equipment for use in the Village Hall to enable better presentations and visual communications and to stage a number of social activities and events. They are not contributing

themselves but have secured a small amount of other funding. The maximum amount which can be awarded is £500. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Shapla Womens Group –

Total Cost of Project - £462 Amount Requested - £400

This Group are requesting a grant to cover pool hire for six months for women only sessions. They have some funds but are only making a small contribution themselves. They received a grant last year for £231 for pool hire. The Policy states that a grant for venue hire is for new groups only and should not be seen as repeat funding. The Policy also states that annual applications from the same group for the same purpose will not be considered. It is recommended that the application be declined.

Alderley United –

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

This Club wishes to upgrade their Sports Pavilion by installing new flooring and fitting out the kitchen. They are not contributing themselves despite having a healthy bank balance nor have they applied elsewhere for funding. The maximum amount which can be awarded is £500. It is recommended that the application be deferred and that the applicants be encouraged to apply elsewhere for funding and re-apply for the next round.

Congleton Town FC (Beartown Juniors) –

Total Cost of Project - £2,495 Amount Requested - £500

This is a newly formed Club offering coaching activities. They wish to train more volunteers and coaches as at present they are only able to offer limited coaching. They also wish to hire premises to offer indoor coaching during the winter months. They have limited funds and have applied elsewhere. The Policy states that a grant towards venue hire is available for new groups. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

Nantwich Big Cheese Film Club –

Total Cost of Project - £8,945 Amount Requested - £2,858

This is a new society wishing to purchase portable equipment enabling them to screen films in and around Nantwich. They also wish to establish Film Festivals in the area. They have no funds of their own but have secured funding from other sources. The maximum amount which can be awarded is £500. It is recommended they be awarded £500.

3.3 Facilities (up to £3,000)

Christian Concern Crewe –

Total Cost of Project - £48,683 Amount Requested - £3,000

A well used community-based facility who wish to install a mezzanine floor to create a conference room and office hubs with kitchen facilities which will be available for use, free of charge, to community organisations. They already have funding of £45k in place by contributing themselves and from other funders. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000.

1st Chelford Scout Group –

Total Cost of Project - £10,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

This Scout Group wish to undertake works to their building which is well used by the local rural community. They wish to replace the roof and guttering which are beyond economic repair and also to install insulation to make the building more energy efficient. They are contributing themselves and have applied to other funders. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000 and advised to contact the Parish Council for support.

1st Holmes Chapel Scout Group –

Total Cost of Project - £16,500 Amount Requested - £3,000

This Scout Group has recently obtained new premises which they wish to turn into a resource for the wider community. They are applying for funding towards the costs of new flooring as part of a larger project. They are contributing £5,500 themselves and have obtained £6k in other funding. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000 and advised to contact the Parish Council for support.

Moss Allotment Society –

Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £2,225

This group wish to install toilet facilities on CEC owned allotments. Following consultation with Greenscape Officers, it is recommended that the application be deferred pending further information.

Electric Picture House Artists Cooperative (Congleton) –

Total Cost of Project - £15,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

A newly established Group who wish to renovate a building to create artists' studios plus exhibition and workshop space to be available to the wider community. They are applying for a grant towards the costs of building materials and electrical work. They are contributing themselves and have the support of Congleton Town Council. They have also applied to other funders. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000.

Rode Heath Park Committee –

Total Cost of Project - £1,874 Amount Requested - £1,279

Rode Heath Park has been newly refurbished and the local school children have raised £615 to install a new piece of play equipment. The Committee only have a small amount of funds but wish to support the endeavours of the children. It is recommended that they be awarded £1,279.

St. Peter's Church Hall Elworth –

Total Cost of Project - £1m+ Amount Requested - £3,000

The existing Church Hall was destroyed by fire and was demolished. It is proposed to construct a new purpose built facility for use by the local community. Insurance has provided a large sum and they have received £25,000 from Sandbach Town Council. They have also received funding from Sandbach Town Council, various businesses and individuals in the local community and have applied to WREN. It is recommended that they be awarded £3,000.

St. Barnabas Church Hall Macclesfield –**Total Cost of Project - £65,500 Amount Requested - £3,000**

The Church Hall buildings are well used by a variety of community groups but are in need of refurbishment and updating. The project plans to renovate the Church Hall and create a new project room with improved access, new central heating and renovations of floors, walls and ceiling. The grant would be used as 3rd Party funding for a WREN bid. The organisation has already been awarded a grant in 2011/12 and is therefore not eligible to apply for a grant until April, 2012. It is recommended that the application be deferred and they be invited to apply again in April 2012, if necessary.

Macclesfield Forest & Wildboardclough Charity –**Total Cost of Project - £2,634/£4,650 Amount Requested - £3,000**

This organisation uses the Parish Rooms for a wide variety of community events, activities and meetings. They are applying for funding to replace an old and inefficient central heating boiler. They have substantial reserves of their own but have not applied elsewhere. They have submitted two quotes of £2,634 and £4,650. It is recommended they be awarded match funding of £1,317, this being 50% of the lowest quote.

The Georges Community Centre Crewe –**Total Cost of Project - £2,495 Amount Requested - £3,000**

This Community Centre is situated within the most deprived area of Crewe and is used for a variety of purposes involving the local community. They are applying for funding to convert space into a reception/entrance area with new lighting and improvements to meeting rooms/training facilities. They are putting in funding themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000

4.0 Deferred Application**Sensory Stars –****Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500**

A newly formed group wishing to start sensory sessions and support for pre-school special needs children in the Handforth area. They are applying for venue hire for 20 weeks. They have very little funding and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that the application be deferred and the applicant be requested to supply details of the proposed venue and how they intend to promote the project.

The information requested has now been received and is reproduced as Appendix 'A' to this report. The Policy states that a grant towards venue hire is available for new groups.

It is recommended that they be awarded £500.

5.0 Wards Affected**5.1 All wards**

6.0 Local Ward Members

6.1 All Ward Members

7.0 Policy Implications

7.1 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.

8.0 Financial Implications (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 Access to Information

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

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