

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

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| Date of Meeting: | 28 th April 2014 |
| Report of: | Principal Manager, Local Area Working |
| Subject/Title: | Community Grants |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor D 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 focussed on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the first round of grants for 2014/15 and makes recommendations totalling £39,078 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

Events

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| New Testament Church of God | Declined |
| Pride Disley Well Dressing | Awarded £250 |
| Sandbach Voices | Awarded £200 |
| Shavington Cum Gresty Drama Group | Awarded £250 |
| Team Congleton | Awarded £250 |
| The Alderley Edge Orchestra | Awarded £250 |
| Willaston Fete Committee | Declined |
| Wilmslow Show Ltd | Awarded £250 |
| Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society | Awarded £250 |

Activities

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| Activity In Retirement | Awarded £350 |
| Brereton Parish Community Interest Group | Declined |
| Bromley Farm Community Development Trust | Declined |
| Crewe & Nantwich Multiple Birth Club | Awarded £500 |
| Crewe Congregational Tennis Club | Awarded £100 |
| Disley Arts Society | Awarded £350 |
| Hampers of Hope | Declined |
| Helen Clews Southside Drama Studio | Declined |
| Macclesfield Netball Club | Awarded £350 |

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| SOL Theatre School | Awarded £250 |
| Treehouse | Declined |
| Vitalise | Declined |
| Wrenbury & District Model Railway Club | Awarded £350 |

Facilities

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| Alpraham & Calveley Reading Room | Awarded £2,878 |
| Alsager Community Church | Awarded £3,000 |
| Alsager Cricket Club | Awarded £3,000 |
| Ashley Cricket Club | Awarded £1,500 |
| Broomhall & Sound Methodist Chapel | Awarded £3,000 |
| Bunbury Playground Committee | Awarded £3,000 |
| Cheshire East ABA | Deferred |
| Congleton Building Preservation Trust | Awarded £1,000 |
| Congleton Museum | Awarded £1,750 |
| Electric Picture House | Awarded £1,000 |
| Guy Harvey Youth Club | Awarded £3,000 |
| Handforth Royal British Legion | Awarded £3,000 |
| Macclesfield Bowling Club | Awarded £1,500 |
| Middlewich Vision | Declined |
| Nantwich Town Football Club | Awarded £1,500 |
| Rode Heath Young People's Community Centre | Awarded £2,000 |
| The Silk Heritage Trust | Awarded £3,000 |
| Viking Explorer Scout Unit | Awarded £500 |

Community Led Planning Development Grant

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| Calveley Community Plan Working Group | Awarded £500 |
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3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

New Testament Church of God – Crewe -

Total Cost of Project - £2,322 Amount Requested - £500

New Testament Church of God is developing a new project called 'Outside the Box' which aims to get people outdoors. They're starting this by holding two Wellie Walks and require funding towards costs associated with these events such as printing costs, gazebos, fliers etc. The original application was made under the activities category. As no constitution document has been received, which is a requirement within the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Pride Disley Well Dressing -

Total Cost of Project - £2,423 Amount Requested - £250

Pride Disley Well Dressing requires funding towards their Well Dressing event being held in June 2014. The group apply annually and had funding towards their main well dressing board in 2013. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that they are awarded £250 towards their leaflets, posters

and workshop that is being held for community groups. Information on other funding sources will be sent to encourage sustainability.

Sandbach Voices -

Total Cost of Project - £950 Amount Requested - £200

Sandbach Voices are holding a 'Come & Sing' day which invites other local choirs and individuals to sing with the choir. There is a contribution from the Town Council and the organisation is contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £200.

Shavington-cum-Gresty Drama Group -

Total Cost of Project - £1,141 Amount Requested - £250

Shavington Cum Gresty Drama Group requires funding towards the venue hire for staging their performance. Unfortunately, room hire costs cannot be funded by the scheme, it is therefore recommended that they are awarded £250 but towards other elements of their project costs such as props, staging, advertising and set furnishings.

Team Congleton -

Total Cost of Project - £2,000 Amount Requested - £250

Team Congleton are organising activities as part of the Commonwealth Baton Celebration in Congleton. Funding is required towards certificates and medals for those that take part. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

The Alderley Edge Orchestra -

Total Cost of Project - £4,900 Amount Requested - £250

The Alderley Edge Orchestra is seeking funding towards profession conductors and soloists for their concerts in November 2014. The group are contributing towards the concert themselves and have other contributions. They have applied under the activities category. However, as the funding is required for a concert, it is recommended that the application is funded under the events category and that they are awarded £250 as this is the maximum award under this category.

Willaston Fete Committee -

Total Cost of Project - £1,370 Amount Requested - £250

Willaston Fete Committee will be holding their annual village fete in July. Funding was requested for activities that are being organised for the day such as a children's carousel. The group are operating as part of the Parish Council and do not have their own bank account which is a requirement of the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Wilmslow Show Ltd -

Total Cost of Project - £25,000 Amount Requested - £250

Wilmslow Show is an annual show attracting large amounts of visitors. Funding is required towards the publicity for the show. There is a contribution from the Town Council and although a large proportion of the costs are to be funded by ticket sales, these cannot be guaranteed. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society -

Total Cost of Project - £2,021 Amount Requested - £250

Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra is holding a concert in June 2014 and requires funding towards hiring a professional conductor. The organisation aims to raise some of the funding by ticket sales and donations on the day. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Activities:

Activity in Retirement -

Total Cost of Project - £760 Amount Requested - £500

Activity in Retirement requires funding towards a replacement indoor bowling mat due to the current one being over 20 years old and in disrepair. The group will be contributing towards the mat. The group does have a large amount of reserves which are being held by recommendation of the Charity Commission. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 and apply to other sources or to increase the group's contribution towards the remaining costs.

Brereton Parish Community Interest Group -

Total Cost of Project - £833 Amount Requested - £353

Brereton Parish Community Interest Group requires funding to produce a Brereton Walks leaflet, to encourage residents and visitors to find out more about Brereton and get out and about. They are contributing themselves and have in kind contributions. No constitution document was received to support the application, which is a requirement of the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust -

Total Cost of Project - £3,750 Amount Requested - £500

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust aim to improve the local area by involving young people to grow plants and vegetables, which will improve communal space. Funding is required towards plants and equipment. The trust has a large amount of reserve funds, with a large proportion being held for projects involving young people. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe & Nantwich Multiple Birth Club -

Total Cost of Project - £2,201 Amount Requested - £500

Crewe & Nantwich Multiple Birth Club are a new group and require funding towards their playgroup that is held weekly. Costs include new equipment, room hire (which can be funded as they are a new group) and IT equipment. The group are applying elsewhere and are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Crewe Congregational Tennis Club -

Total Cost of Project - £100 Amount Requested - £100

Crewe Congregational Tennis Club is applying for funding for coaching equipment. This project has a small cost and the group do have considerable reserves, however, these are being built up in order to pay for court

resurfacing works within the next couple of years which will cost £20,000+. It is recommended that they are awarded £100.

Disley Arts Society -

Total Cost of Project - £350 Amount Requested - £350

Disley Arts Society requires funding towards the purchase of Art DVDs to replace old VHS tapes. The group are hoping that this new way of teaching will encourage new members. They have little reserves and have raised this for other purposes. They do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 but are sent information about other funding sources to increase sustainability.

Hampers of Hope -

Total Cost of Project - £1,300 Amount Requested - £500

Hampers of Hope have requested funding towards the rent of a new storage area, unfortunately, accommodation costs cannot be funded by the scheme. The group were made aware of this on application and were invited to reapply. No amendment was received before the closing date. The group also need to provide bank account name. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Helen Clews Southside Drama Studio -

Total Cost of Project – not specified Amount Requested - £500

Southside Drama Studio require funding to provide costumes and for advertising. This is a new group that are not yet constituted and they do not currently have their own bank account, which are requirements of the scheme. Information on becoming constituted was sent at the time of application. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Macclesfield Netball Club -

Total Cost of Project - £720 Amount Requested - £500

Macclesfield Netball Club wish to further develop their coaches by purchasing hex training equipment and coaching. The club are making a contribution themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 and seek additional funding from other sources.

SOL Theatre School -

Total Cost of Project - £14,470 Amount Requested - £500

Funding is required towards show licences and musical score. They have contributions from elsewhere and are putting in most of the costs themselves. SOL applies annually for support for the summer school. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and information on other funding sources is sent to encourage sustainability.

Treehouse -

Total Cost of Project – not specified Amount Requested – not specified

This application form was incomplete. It is unclear specifically what the funding is required for. Additional information was requested at the time of application but was not received before the closing date, it is recommended the application is declined.

Vitalise -**Total Cost of Project – £1,020 Amount Requested – £500**

Vitalise are a national charity offering respite care breaks to people with disabilities to give carers a break. Vitalise have averaged that 3 care breaks will be benefitted from in Cheshire East. The Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants states that organisations holding a large amount of reserves cannot be funded and that if an organisation is not based in Cheshire East, significant community benefit must be demonstrated. It is not felt that the project will benefit the wider community. It is recommended the application is declined.

Wrenbury & District Model Railway Club -**Total Cost of Project – £500 Amount Requested – £500**

Wrenbury & District Model Railway Club are a new group and require equipment to help further develop and establish the club such as track & scenery. The group have little reserves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 and seek further assistance from other funding sources.

Facilities:**Alraham & Calveley Reading Room -****Total Cost of Project – £151,172 Amount Requested – £2,878**

Alraham & Calveley Reading Room is applying to WREN to build a new village hall for the parishes of Alraham & Calveley. This facility will bring the two areas together and be a new platform for community events. The group require 3rd party funding for their WREN application. This is a large project with a large contribution being made from the group themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,878 subject to confirmation of WREN funding.

Alsager Community Church-**Total Cost of Project – £13,870 Amount Requested – £3,000**

Alsager Community Church runs a community coffee shop which is in need of refurbishment due to current decor being outdated and the lighting being expensive to run. New work surfaces are also required in the kitchen. The group are contributing to the project themselves and are applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Alsager Cricket Club-**Total Cost of Project – £9,840 Amount Requested – £3,000**

Alsager Cricket Club intend to improve their facility by purchasing flat covers to cover the square which will support the existing covers, meaning more cricket can be offered to juniors and on a social basis. The club will also be purchasing a water hog to help ground affected by rainfall and a new equipment shed. They will be contributing themselves, despite little reserves and are applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Ashley Cricket Club -

Total Cost of Project – £6,378 Amount Requested – £2,850

Ashley Cricket Club is requesting funding to renovate the square due to the current uneven surface which is becoming dangerous. The club are making a contribution themselves and are applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500.

Broomhall & Sound Methodist Chapel -

Total Cost of Project – £127,061 Amount Requested – £3,000

Broomhall & Sound Methodist chapel are applying to WREN to build a new annexe to the existing building. This will comprise of a community room, utility and storerooms and new toilets. The Church is applying for the 3rd party funding required for their WREN application. This is a large project with large amounts of money coming from other funders and donators as well as their own funds. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Bunbury Playground Committee -

Total Cost of Project – £179,620 Amount Requested – £3,000

Bunbury Playground Committee are taking on a large project to improve the play facilities for residents of Bunbury and surrounding areas, specifically, creating a perimeter track. This is a large project with applications being made to Fields in Trust, WREN and Big Lottery in addition to the groups own funds. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 subject to the confirmation of funding from the other organisations.

Cheshire East ABA-

Total Cost of Project – £13,909 Amount Requested – £3,000

Cheshire East ABA are operating at full capacity and have a large waiting list for classes. In order to expand the club and offer more services, they wish to convert the currently void cellar space into additional gym space. This will greatly benefit existing members, as well as attract new members. It is recommended that the application is deferred to June pending further information upon the organisation accounts.

Congleton Building Preservation Trust -

Total Cost of Project – £4,601 Amount Requested – £1,000

Congleton Building Trust requires funding to restore a physic and wildflower garden in Congleton Town Centre with the aim of attracting more visitors and linking with other tourist attractions in Congleton. The group are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the Town Council and other funders. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Congleton Museum -

Total Cost of Project – £2,784 Amount Requested – £2,784

Congleton Museum requires funding towards a new cctv system due to the current system being unreliable due to its age. The cctv system will not only increase security at the museum but increased security will also allow the museum to attract more loan items and in turn attract more visitors. The museum is not contributing towards the cctv themselves, but did contribute towards another element of the security system last year. There are no

contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,750 and that they apply to the Town Council for further assistance.

Electric Picture House -

Total Cost of Project – £2,124 Amount Requested – £1,704

Electric Picture House require funding to create a new entrance which will exclude drafts indoors and retain heat to increase use of the building in winter months. Funding is also required towards fencing to make the outdoor area more secure. They're making a contribution themselves despite small reserves and have applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1000 and also seek a contribution from the Town Council.

Guy Harvey Youth Club -

Total Cost of Project – £45,000 Amount Requested – £3,000

Guy Harvey Youth Club's flat roof needs replacing in order to keep the building water tight. The club have been saving up over the past few years to fund this but the project will wipe out all of their reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 and that they apply to other organisations to prevent using all of the club's own reserves.

Handforth Royal British Legion -

Total Cost of Project – £28,000 Amount Requested – £3,000

Handforth RBL urgently needs a new roof and repairs to the windows in order for the organisation to continue to run. They are contributing themselves and are in the process of applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 subject to receiving funding to support the remainder of the project.

Macclesfield Bowling Club -

Total Cost of Project – £6,269 Amount Requested – £1,500

Macclesfield Bowling Club is requesting funding to purchase a new mowing machine to improve the surface quality on the bowling green. They are contributing themselves and have donations from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500.

Middlewich Vision -

Total Cost of Project – £4,600 Amount Requested – £2,900

Middlewich Vision is applying for funding to improve facilities at Middlewich Town Hall. The Town Hall is owned by Middlewich Town Council and the Town Council will be benefitting from these improvements. As Town & Parish Councils cannot be funded by the scheme, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Nantwich Town Football Club -

Total Cost of Project – £7,980 Amount Requested – £3,000

Nantwich Town Football has been advised to resurface spectator surfaces at their stadium due to them being uneven and unbound. This will increase access for the local community and make access safer. The club are contributing themselves and have in kind contributions. It is recommended

that they are awarded £1,500 towards the project and that match funding is sought from the Town Council.

Rode Heath Young People's Community Centre -

Total Cost of Project – £8,740 Amount Requested – £2,000

Rode Heath Young People's Community Centre requires funding to upgrade to a more fuel efficient boiler and refurbish the kitchen. The centre is used by a variety of groups on a regular basis. They are contributing themselves and have funding from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000.

The Silk Heritage Trust -

Total Cost of Project – £8,600 Amount Requested – £3,000

The Silk Heritage Trust is celebrating the bicentenary of the Old Sunday School. The organisation requires funding to carry the branding to the exterior of the building to raise the building profile, to create a community exhibition space, to add to resources for community activities taking place in the new space and to develop their volunteering programme. The organisation will be funding the remainder of the project themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Viking Explorer Scout Unit -

Total Cost of Project – £3,669 Amount Requested – £500

Viking Explorer Scout unit requires funding for more outdoor camping equipment to support young people when taking part in expeditions. The group will be contributing the remainder of the project costs themselves despite little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 but that they also apply to the parish council/other sources for assistance to avoid depleting the remainder of reserves.

Community Led Planning:

Calveley Community Plan Working Group -

Total Cost of Project – £780 Amount Requested – £500

Calveley Community Plan Working Group is well under way with the production of their community led plan. Funding is now required for the printing and distribution of the plan. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 The recommendations relate to all wards within Cheshire East

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward members

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

- 7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2014/15

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council has the powers to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably. A grant policy is a clear statement of the criteria that the Council is applying and is essential if the Council is to defend any challenge to its decision making process.
- 8.2 Cabinet has approved and Cheshire East Council has put in place a Policy for the Allocation of Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations 2013/14. This Policy deals with the allocation of community grants which are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process and against a set criteria. There are conditions requiring that Organisations report back to the Council upon expenditure of the grant and to enable further appropriate conditions to be imposed. The decision making process was delegated to the Portfolio Holder in order ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.
- 8.3 Grant funding organisations based on the application of the Council's grant policy satisfies the Council's public law duties.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 The risk of not agreeing an approach to funding the community and voluntary sector is that some organisations may be unable to continue their activities, resulting in a loss of community benefit. This is a particular issue during an economic downturn when other funding sources may not be available.

10.0 Background and Options

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

11.0 Access to Information

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

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