

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	4 September 2017
Report of the	-	Executive Director of Business Operations
Subject	-	Community Grant Scheme

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**Recommendation:** It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the community grants listed at Appendix 1 as recommended by the Grants Panel be approved, subject to specific conditions relating to each application;
  - 2) the community grants listed in Appendix 2 be declined as recommended by the Grants Panel;
  - 3) the changes to the Small Grants Scheme agreed by the Panel, be noted; and
  - 4) all Members be requested to promote the scheme with their wards.
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**Service Manager: Brenda Mason**

**Lead Cabinet Members: Councillors Ganly and Kenward**

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**Introduction**

1. The Council's Community Grant Scheme makes provision for up to £130,000 per annum to be made available to community groups or organisations that meet the grant criteria of the Rother District Council (RDC) Community Grants Scheme, as agreed by Cabinet on 1 December 2008 (CB08/115).

**Community Grants**

2. The panel has delegated authority to award grants under £500. The Panel used its delegated authority to approve £499 to MasterSport and Play CIC on the 19 April 2017, leaving £129,501 for Rounds 1 and 2 for 2017/18. Round 1 of the Rother Community Grants Scheme for 2017/18 closed on 31 July 2017.
3. Cabinet is asked to consider the applications in Appendix 1 for funding from the Council's Community Grants Scheme as follows:

All awards are subject to other funding being in place.

- a) **Battle Town Council - £25,000**
- b) **Beckley Horticultural Society - £1,000**
- c) **Beckley Parish Council – up to a maximum of £30,000** the exact figure (no more than 50% of the project costs) to be agreed subject to conditions and the final costs.
- d) **Peasmarch Parish Council – up to a maximum of £15,000** subject to specific conditions.

The panel specifically requests that all play facilities funded through this grants scheme include elements that enable disabled access and that the play equipment includes items suitable for disabled users.

4. Should Cabinet agree with the Panel's recommendation to award the applications at Appendix 1 then this will result in a maximum of £71,000 being awarded in Round 1. Once this amount is added to the delegated authority grant of £499 (see 2 above) the total amount available for Round 2 of 2017/18 would be £58,501.
5. Members are reminded that conditions are applied when awarding the grants which include that full funding is obtained in advance of any Rother payments being made and that RDC is acknowledged in any publicity and promotional material associated with these projects. Other specific conditions will also be applied to grants as appropriate.
6. The application detailed in Appendix 2 is recommended to be declined by the Panel for the following reasons:
  - a) failing to meet the criteria for the Community Grants Scheme as the project was for repairs, replacement and maintenance;
    - Crowhurst Village Hall - Kitchen

### **Small Grant Scheme – Process Changes**

7. In February 2017, the Panel agreed that further work be undertaken to encourage local groups to apply to the small grant fund of the Community Grants Scheme for grants up to £500. In order to make the scheme more accessible, a simplified application form and guidance have been agreed. The scheme will replicate the successful process applied to the celebratory grant schemes under the Community Grants Scheme (1066 Anniversary Grants, Queen's Diamond Jubilee) and will also be a pilot for online applications. Additionally, the panel has agreed that applications can be made at any time and will be processed continually throughout the year.
8. Members are asked to note this pilot, and encourage groups within their wards to apply for small grants. When finalised (expected December 2017) further information will be made via the Community Grants Section of the Council website <http://www.rother.gov.uk/communitygrantscheme>

### **Conclusion**

9. Members are requested to consider the applications attached at Appendix 1 mindful of the clear benefits these offer to their communities. The application in Appendix 2 is recommended to be declined. The Community Grants Scheme offers a robust assessment process that benefits communities applying for grants and secures considerable additional value for money benefits for the Council.

Dr Anthony Leonard  
Executive Director of Business Operations

**Risk Assessment Statement**

The assessment and monitoring system for community grants will mitigate much of the financial and reputational risks associated with handing over grant finance. The Council attaches specific conditions to grant applications to mitigate risk. Nonetheless, we are often in the hands of voluntary groups as to the amount of time, effort and other financial support that they can commit to their projects. This is mitigated by the good working relationships that exist across the district.

## Appendix 1- Grants recommended for approval



**Rother Community Grants Scheme: Meeting of Grants Panel on Wednesday, 2 August 2017**

**Summary of applications: Round 1 of Financial Year 2017/18**

**Panel Members:** Cllr Tony Ganly (Chairman), Cllr Martin Kenward, Cllr Ian Jenkins, Richard Jessop, Robin Vennard, Gina Sanderson, and Debbie Peters. **Apologies:** Teresa Gittins. **In attendance:** Alison Spring, Carol Studley, and Marie Kennedy.

**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Ian Jenkins, Richard Jessop, and Gina Sanderson

**Opening budget:**

**£129,501**

**Amount recommended at this meeting:**

**£ 71,000**

Organisation & project	Total cost of project incl VAT	Who will benefit?	Included in LAP?	Amount requested from RDC	Amount from organisation	Other Grants or donations	Re-claim VAT?	Signature of Ward Member & Town/PC?	Recommendation to Cabinet
<b>Battle Town Council:</b> Installation of a "destination" 1066 castle-themed play area for children of pre-school and primary school age to be sighted in a prominent position near to the accessible toilet facility and proposed Café in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, North Trade Road, Battle.	<b>£50,578</b>  NB: excl VAT as can be reclaimed	Families with children of pre-school and primary school age living in Battle and the surrounding villages, and visitors to Battle. An attractive free play area would be of particular benefit to families on a low income.	Yes	£25,000	£25,000	<b>Battle Muffins:</b> £500 (confirmed).  <u>Total:</u> £500  NB: Deficit: £78	Yes	Yes: Cllr Mrs Kathryn Field, Cllr Kevin Dixon, and Jane De Garsten (Deputy Parish Clerk).	<b>Agree £25,000 subject to confirmation being given that the conditions around provision of play equipment suitable for the disabled is agreed prior to the commencement of the project.</b>
<b>Beckley Horticultural Society:</b> To erect a traditional pictorial village sign in Beckley village on the grass verge outside Buddens Green in memory of the Society's late president Ron Juden who died in January 2017.	<b>£4,710</b>	All residents of the village and those visiting or passing through.	No	£1,000	£1,000	<b>Beckley Players:</b> £1,000 (confirmed). <b>Beckley Parish Council:</b> £1,000 (received). <b>Juden Family donation:</b> £445.88 (received). <b>Beckley WI:</b> £200 (confirmed).  <u>Total:</u> £2,645.88	No	Yes: Cllr Ian Jenkins, Cllr Martin Mooney, and Valarie Aides (Parish Clerk).	<b>Agree £1,000 subject to confirmation being given that there are no objections from East Sussex Highways Department.</b>

Organisation & project	Total cost of project incl VAT	Who will benefit?	Included in LAP?	Amount requested from RDC	Amount from organisation	Other Grants or donations	Re-claim VAT?	Signature of Ward Member & Town/PC?	Recommendation to Cabinet
<b>Beckley Parish Council:</b> Development of a new and much improved play area at Jubilee Field Beckley. The new equipment will provide play opportunities for children from toddlers up to the age of 16yrs. The project will directly contribute to two of Rother District Council's core aims – (3) Stronger, safer communities, and (4) A quality physical environment. In June of this year (2017) the current equipment received a Medium risk rating inspection by RoSPA.	<b>£73,704</b>  NB: £61,420 excl VAT	Children between 1-16yrs living in or visiting Beckley, along with their parents and carers. There are approx 130 resident children in this age range and 50-60 non-resident children aged 2-11yrs who attend the village Pre-School and Primary School who would also benefit from the new play equipment. The Pre-School is 150 meters from the park and the school is a short 2-3 minute walk.	No plan	£30,000	£15,000	<b>Village Fundraising</b> (dog show & car boot): £365.66 (received). <b>Better Beckley Project (remaining funds from original project raised locally):</b> £1,789.70 (confirmed). <b>The Beckley Fund donation (dependent on securing all other funding required):</b> £10,000 (confirmed). <b>Awards for All:</b> £10,000 (application in progress and not confirmed).  <u>Total:</u> £22,155  NB: Surplus of £5,735.	Yes	Yes: Cllr Ian Jenkins, Cllr Martin Mooney, and Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk).	<b>Agree up to a maximum of £30,000 subject to confirmation being given that the conditions around provision of play equipment suitable for the disabled is agreed prior to the commencement of the project, and that clarification is given as to the final costings of the project.</b>

Organisation & project	Total cost of project incl VAT	Who will benefit?	Included in LAP?	Amount requested from RDC	Amount from organisation	Other Grants or donations	Re-claim VAT?	Signature of Ward Member & Town/PC?	Recommendation to Cabinet
<b>Peasmarsh Parish Council:</b> Development of new play space on recreation ground at The Maltings in Peasmarsh. <b>Note:</b> This is not a replacement project. The present play equipment has reached the end of its natural life and was given a High risk rating following a RoSPA inspection in 2015.	<b>£60,000</b>  NB: £50,00 excl VAT	All ages of the community, including further usage with the development of the Optiva (previously AmicusHorizon) Maltings site of 37 family and older people's homes. Equipment will be viable for children aged 2yrs-12yrs and children with disabilities. Older residents will also be able to use local, accessible and free equipment to support them in participating in fitness activities. The new picnic area will also enable families and individuals to stay and socialise.	Yes	£15,000	£25,000  <b>Play Space Fund-raising Group:</b> £3,000 (confirmed)  <b>Note:</b> The Parish Council has matched funded this amount with the monies raised by the Play Space Fundraising Group.	<b>Awards For All:</b> £10,000 (not confirmed). <b>Tesco Bags for Life:</b> £5,000 (not confirmed). <b>Jempson's Foundation:</b> £500 (not confirmed). <b>Play Space Fundraising Group (anticipated fundraising):</b> £1,000 (not confirmed).  <u>Total:</u> £16,500  NB: As VAT is reclaimable Surplus is £9,000	Yes	Yes: Cllr Ian Jenkins, Cllr Martin Mooney, and Catherine Hellen (Parish Clerk).	<b>Agree up to a maximum of £15,000 subject to confirmation being given for other grants or donations and that the conditions around provision of play equipment suitable for the disabled is agreed prior to the commencement of the project, and that the equipment and play space will be maintained by the Parish Council.</b>

Appendix 2 Grant recommended to be declined.

Organisation & project	Total cost of project incl VAT	Who will benefit?	Included in LAP?	Amount requested from RDC	Amount from organisation	Other Grants or donations	Re-claim VAT?	Signature of Ward Member & Town/PC?	Recommendation to Cabinet
<p><b>Crowhurst Village Hall Management Committee:</b> To re-design and develop Crowhurst Village Hall kitchen in order to meet regulatory requirements and provide a kitchen environment that will enable all users of the Hall to expand their activities.</p> <p>The budget is to cover a small extension and replacement of the kitchen.</p>	<b>£34,924</b>	<p>Crowhurst School (providing 80 meals daily); the Village Market; Playgroup; Brownies; Cubs and other children's groups; Crowhurst Community Art Fund; Women's Institute; Horticultural Society; Fayre Committee and other organisations; Private hirers of children's and adult parties. The current total of different users is 40.</p>	Yes	£10,000	£15,000	<p><b>Crowhurst Parish Council:</b> £1,000 (received).</p> <p><u>Total:</u> £1,000</p> <p>NB: Shortfall £8,924</p>	No	<p>Yes: Cllr Gary Curtis, and Keith Robertson (Parish Clerk).</p>	<b>Declined as this is a replacement project.</b>