

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	11 March 2019
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Community Grant Scheme – Round 2

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

- 1) the community grants listed at Paragraph 5 of the report as recommended by the Grants Panel be approved, subject to specific conditions relating to each application;
- 2) the changes to the medium/large Grants Scheme agreed by the Panel, be noted; and
- 3) all Members be requested to promote the small grant scheme within their wards.

Head of Service: Ben Hook

Lead Cabinet Members: Councillors Ganly and Kenward

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).

Budget Position

2. A total of £65,831 was awarded during Round 1 of the Community Grants Scheme. A further £1,470 has been awarded through the Small Grants Scheme.
3. This leaves a total of £62,699 for Round 2 of the Grant Scheme, as set out below:

Budget for 2018-19	£130,000
Amount awarded during round 1:	£65,831
Amount awarded through small grants scheme:	£1,470
Total awarded/committed:	£67,301
Remaining budget for Round 2, 2018-19:	£62,699

Community Grants

4. Round 2 of the Rother Community Grants Scheme for 2018-19 closed on 15 January 2019. A total of five applications were received.

5. Cabinet is asked to consider the applications (a summary of each application is set out at Appendix 1) below for funding from the Council's Community Grants Scheme as follows:

Applicant	Panel Recommendation	Applicant Request	Additional conditions
Battle Local Action Planning Group	£25,000	£30,000	
Bexhill Senior Citizens Club	£4,875	£4,875	Delivery of the project is subject to overall supervision by Councillors Hollidge and Mrs Hughes
Crowhurst Youth Club	£1,478	£2,070	
Guestling Parish Council	£4,984	£4,984	
Westfield Parish Council	£25,000	£30,000	
Total	£61,337	£71,929	

6. Should Cabinet agree with the Panel's recommendation to award the applications above then this will result in a maximum of £61,337 being awarded in Round 2. For this financial year the total amount committed from the overall budget of £130,000 will be £128,638. This will result in a small underspend of £1,362. Members are reminded that the small grant scheme remains open and therefore opportunities for community groups to submit an application during this financial year are still available.
7. 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.

Bexhill Senior Citizens Club

8. The Panel agreed to support the application from Bexhill Senior Citizens Club, but felt the applicant would benefit from overall supervision from Councillors Hollidge and Mrs Hughes to ensure the project is delivered.

Battle Local Action Planning Group and Westfield Parish Council

9. Of the applications received during this round of the Community Grants Scheme, two were for large grants: Battle Local Action Planning Group and Westfield Parish Council. Both applicants requested the maximum amount of £30,000. The Panel agreed to recommend a reduced amount for each applicant of £25,000 to ensure the Community Grant budget is not over committed and that all applications which merited an award will receive funding.

Crowhurst Youth Club

10. Crowhurst Youth Club's application did not meet the criteria for the Community Grant Scheme regarding match funding. The total cost of the project is £2,957; the applicant requested £2,070 which equates to 70% of the total cost. The Panel is therefore recommending a reduced award of £1,478

which equates to 50% of the total project cost and meets the Community Grant criteria regarding match funding (up to 50%).

Changes to the Medium/Large Grant Scheme

11. Following on from changes to the Small Grant Scheme which included making the scheme available as an on-line application, the Panel has agreed to seek a review of the Medium/Large Grant Scheme with the objective of making the application process available on-line. This will not affect round 1 of the 2019-20 Grant Scheme, but testing of the on-line platform is expected during Round 2.

Small Grant Scheme

12. The Panel has delegated authority to award grants under £500. Since Round 1, the Panel used its delegated authority to approve £500 to Dallington Old School for the installation of broadband internet into the village hall to support the development of a community library café, and £200 to Northiam Conservation Society for a WW1 Remembrance Parade. Details of all Small Grants awarded for 2018-19 to date, are set out in Appendix 2.
13. Members are asked to encourage groups within their Wards to apply for small grants. Further information is available via the Community Grants Section of the Council website <http://www.rother.gov.uk/communitygrantscheme>

Conclusion

14. Members are requested to consider the Grant Panel recommendations, set out at paragraph 5 above, with summaries of the applications attached at Appendix 1, mindful of the clear benefits these offer to their communities.
15. 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

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.

Community Grant applications – summary of applications received Round 2, 2018-19

1. Battle Local Action Planning Group

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The Battle Local Action Planning Group is a constituted voluntary organisation whose main aim is to enhance the quality of life for the local community of Battle.

The grant will be used to pump-prime a healthy walk/cycle pathway at Battle Recreation Ground. This will be complimentary to creating a cycle skills area known as a 'Pump Track' to increase educational awareness and skills on cycling – funding for this element of the project is being sought from Sport England.

Benefits

The project will benefit young people in Battle who currently have nowhere to learn to ride their bikes. It will also benefit people with mobility problems (65+), parents with buggies or people with disabilities who want a traffic free, unpolluted experience for walking.

The pathway will potentially make a difference in terms of local peoples' health and mental wellbeing. It will offer residents who walk, cycle, ride or travel in mobility vehicles, an opportunity to be physically active, and socialise with those who they may not usually meet in their day to day lives, which could enhance local community cohesion.

RDC Corporate Objectives

The project meets two strategic aims within the RDC Corporate Plan: 'Stronger Safer Communities' and 'A Quality Physical Environment'. Under 'Stronger Safer Communities' the project will address some road safety issues; develop facilities which promote active lifestyles, linked to needs and for all ages; encourage participation in physical activity; and communicate the value of healthy lifestyles. Under 'A Quality Physical Environment' the project will contribute to maintaining the quality of parks and open spaces; support nature conservation and biodiversity; support local public, active and community transport initiatives; and give strong support to walking and cycling initiatives.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant has raised £8,022 through their own fund raising efforts. Additionally, the Battle Town Council is supporting the project with a grant of £30,000. The applicant has also been successful in gaining £93,118 through a Big Lottery Grant.

Project Sustainability

Battle Town Council has agreed to be responsible for the long term maintenance of Battle Health Pathway.

Support for the Project

Support from the project has been received from the following:

- Battle Town Council (including financial support)
- Hastings & Rother CCG
- NHS Mental Health
- Claverham Community College
- Battle & Langton CE Primary School

- Busybees toddler group
- Sustrans – England South
- Battle Brownies
- Active Rother
- Individual residents
- 1066 Cycle Club
- Saxonwood Care Home
- Martins Oak GP Surgery
- Rother Environmental Group
- ES NHS Trust

The two District Ward Councillors Dixon and Field are in support of the project.

2. Bexhill Senior Citizens Club

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Bexhill Senior Citizen's Club is a registered Charity whose aim is to provide a warm and friendly environment to combat the loneliness felt by the elderly.

The grant will be used to provide an accessible toilet within the club building.

Benefits

Membership is currently 300, of which four use wheelchairs and eight have other mobility aids. As well as these members, future members would benefit as well as local community groups who hire the hall and attend club events in the club building.

RDC Corporate Objectives

Within the Council's vision for Rother: "We want to see individuals and groups and local communities able to take on more responsibilities".

Within The Council's corporate objectives: "Stronger, safer communities: Promoting diversity and inclusion".

Other Funding Sources

The applicant is committing £9,875 towards the project. An application has been made to the Masonic Charitable Foundation for a grant of £5,000.

Project Sustainability

The club is self-funding. The running costs include House Steward's wages and maintaining the club buildings.

Support for the Project

Support for the project has been provided by the two District Ward Councillors Azad and Mrs Hughes. A letter of support has also been received from one club member.

3. Crowhurst Youth Club

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is a youth club; the aims and objectives are to help young people and children especially, but not exclusively through leisure time and educational activities, so as to help develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals.

The grant will be used to replace an out dated, inadequate and expensive heating system and install extractor fans in the toilets in the Crowhurst Youth Club building, and enable the building to be used by young people (youth club), playgroup, short mat bowls, Scouts and Beavers plus other village community users.

The existing system was installed in 1991 when the Youth Club building first opened. The applicant is a new youth club committee which took over running the building in November 2017, following a period of disuse during which it was vandalised and in disrepair.

Benefits

The following groups will benefit from this project:

Crowhurst youth club – 20 young people aged 8 to 16
Crowhurst Playgroup with 17 children aged 0 to 4.5 years
Scouts group with 22 children
Beavers group commencing in January 2019 due to local demand (numbers unknown)
Short mat bowls group with approximately 36 members aged 40 and above

A warm dry environment will ensure that the building can be used by all groups in the winter.

RDC Corporate Objectives

Within the Council's vision for Rother: "We want to see individuals and groups and local communities able to take on more responsibilities".

Within The Council's corporate objectives: "Stronger, safer communities: Promoting diversity and inclusion".

Other Funding Sources

The applicant has committed £117 towards the project. They have received confirmed funding from Battle Rotary Club (£500) and Crowhurst Short Mat Bowls Club (£270).

Project Sustainability

The provision of an effective heating and toilet ventilation system will ensure that the hut can be used by the number of groups indicated which include people of all ages, from the very young to the elderly. Rental income from these groups will sustain the Youth Club's building maintenance programme into the future. Heating bills will also be reduced. Toilet ventilation will reduce decorating costs by eliminating dampness in the atmosphere. The club has a volunteer trustee who is responsible for on-going maintenance of the building.

Support for the Project

Written support has been provided by the Parish Council and District Ward Councillor Curtis.

Further support for the project has been received from:

Crowhurst Scout group
Crowhurst Playgroup
Crowhurst Short Mat Bowls Club (including grant support)
Battle Rotary Club (including grant support)

4. Guestling Parish Council

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Guestling Parish Council.

The grant will be used towards improvement works to the community playing fields which are 'fields in trust' registered and are used by a local youth team. Plans include the excavation and laying of a new car park, installation of a knee height rail fence along the driveway to prevent parking on the pitches, and the supply and installation of a toilet block. The project includes £800 worth of 'in kind' labour provided by residents and family members of the football club.

Benefits

The following groups will benefit from the project:

Guestling parishioners

Hastings Athletic Football Club (60+ children aged 5 – 16)

Guestling Bowls Club members (20 - mostly retirement age)

RDC Corporate Objectives

We want our residents to have the opportunity of being pro-active in sport as well as cultural activities leading to a greater community spirit and a healthy lifestyle for everyone.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant, Guestling Parish Council is funding 50% of the costs. There are no other funding sources.

Project Sustainability

Rental is paid on an on-going basis by the football club and player's parents also carry out general maintenance and cleaning as part of a contract.

Support for the Project

District Ward Councillor Saint has provided written support for the project.

No other letters of support have been received.

5. Westfield Parish Council

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Westfield Parish Council.

The grant will be used towards the cost of building a new pavilion for Westfield Cricket Club.

Benefits

All members and players of the Cricket Club will benefit from the new pavilion, as well as visiting teams. Ages range from five years to 80 years based on current usage.

There is a group of approximately 30 5-8 year olds and 20 9-14 year old players, and approximately forty young people from Westfield Youth Club who the Cricket Club hosts through the summer months. There are 150 adult members of the Cricket

Club and on match days there will be approximately 20 adults from visiting teams, including players.

The Cricket Club also works closely with Westfield School with coaching sessions and it is planned that the Cricket Club will host inter-school tournaments at their ground.

Other beneficiaries will be all the residents and other local organisations. The up-to-date facilities will allow the cricket ground to be used for local events – cricket festivals and youth club fun days have been held over the last two years with hundreds of people attending both events. At the moment the toilet facilities consist of two camping type toilets and there are no utilities.

RDC Corporate Objectives

“We want our residents to have the opportunity of being pro-active in sport as well as cultural activities leading to a greater community spirit and a healthy lifestyle for everyone”.

Other Funding Sources

Funding has been requested from:

Sport England £65,000

WARR £50,000

BIFFA £50,000

Lions £15,000

Greene King £10,000

Round Table £15,000

Rotary £25,000

Support for the Project

Written support has been provided by District Ward Councillor Maynard.

No other written support has been received.

Small Grant Awards 2018-19

Organisation	Project	Amount
Bexhill Sea Angling Club	Purchase of equipment for junior member coaching at De La Warr Parade, Bexhill	£500
Dallington Old School	Install Broadband Internet into the Dallington Old School Village Hall	£500
Northiam Conservation Society	WW1 Remembrance Parade	£200
Royal British Legion Bexhill Branch	Printing of order of service for WW1 Remembrance Parade	£270
Total		£1,470.00