

Rother District Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	23 November 2020
Title:	Community Grants Scheme – The Pelham Charitable Incorporated Organisation Update
Report of:	Ben Hook
Ward(s):	N/A
Purpose of Report:	To provide an update on the Rother Community Grant awarded to The Pelham, Bexhill-on-Sea
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

Introduction

1. On 3 September 2018, Cabinet awarded the Pelham Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) a sum of £29,975 from the Rother Community Grants scheme and requested an update to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee a year after funding had been provided.

The Project

2. The funding, along with other grant funders enabled the renovation and opening of the whole of the first floor of The Pelham as a Community Space. This includes a training room, a Sanctuary room for pastoral care and counselling, a kitchenette, a Community Workspace for Hot-Desking, a new Ballroom floor and increased toilet facilities. In addition, a platform lift was installed to provide access to the upper floors of The Pelham so that as many people as possible can benefit from the activities taking place.
3. The first floor opened in September 2019 and by February 2020 enabled over 90 hours of community activities, events and bookings per week across the whole building. The Pelham now has eight available rooms to hire to meet the needs of the 85 active local partnerships (Appendix A 'The Pelham Room Hire Brochure'). More detailed information can be found at Appendix B 'The Pelham CIO 2020 RDC Update'.

COVID-19

4. The Pelham CIO were unable to open to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic between 17 March 2020 and 30 June 2020. The Pelham CIO was identified as an organisation that would be able to support both our community and those who needed additional volunteers during this time by working together with the Rother Community Hub, Rother Voluntary Action and other Bexhill groups to support the COVID-19 response to the most vulnerable.

- During this period, The Pelham was able to complete over 1,300 tasks for the community, including delivering foodbank parcels twice weekly (788 deliveries), 527 shopping trips and prescription pickups, through over 900 voluntary hours of the team of 25 volunteers.

Future Plans

- The Pelham CIO, a 'COVID-19 Secure' venue, re-opened and re-launched its activity programme; attendance is lower which is to be expected, but the organisation is hopeful of a gradual increase in activities and has seen an increase in new organisation enquiries. The Pelham has a wide range of community activities, such as health and wellbeing, mental wellbeing support, training, youthwork and children's groups. Funding has been secured for a ceiling hoist to enable changing facilities for people in wheelchairs and their carers. This will contribute to establishing The Pelham as a central part of the local community.

Conclusion

- This report provides an update of the Pelham CIO fourth Phase Community Space project and the work achieved since opening, along with an update of the invaluable contribution The Pelham has made to the Bexhill Community during the COVID-19 pandemic and future plans.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	No	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	No		

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Appendices:	A – The Pelham Room Hire Brochure B – The Pelham CIO 2020 RDC Update
Relevant previous Minutes:	CB18/19
Background Papers:	N/A
Reference Documents:	N/A