

Rother District Council

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	1 March 2021
Title:	Community Grants Scheme – Round 2
Report of:	Ben Hook – Head of Acquisitions, Transformation, and Regeneration
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dixon
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To present and recommend approval of Community Grant applications for Round 2.
Decision Type:	Non-Key

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) the community grants detailed within Appendix A as recommended by the Grants Panel be approved, subject to specific conditions relating to each application;
- 2) the maximum value for ‘small grants’ scheme be increased to £1,000;
- 3) the Head of Service - Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration be granted delegated authority to approve the small grants following a recommendation from the Grants Panel; and
- 4) all Members be requested to promote the small grants scheme within their wards.

Introduction

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

Community Grants

2. Round 1 of the Rother CGS saw £24,540 awarded to organisations (Minute CB20/47 refers). The Community Grants Panel has used delegated authority to approve £500 to Strive Café for the renovation of a room to be used at the café and approve £500 to Friends of Combe Valley for the purchase of ground equipment. In addition, £15,000 is allocated to the HAIRE project year 2 (Minute CB19/41 refers). This leaves a total of £89,460.
3. Round 2 of the Rother CGS for 2020/21 closed on 15 January 2021. 16 applications were received requesting £186,450. The Panel met on 27 January 2021 and have recommended awards for 12 applications.

4. Cabinet is asked to consider the following applications for funding from the Council's CGS as set out in Table 1 (Each application is summarised in Appendix A):

Applicant	Amount requested	Amount recommended
1. Battle for Tennis	£4,000	£4,000
2. Battle Preschool Playgroup	£6,153	£6,153
3. Battle Town Council	£25,000	£7,000
4. Bexhill Family Collective CIC	£2,500	£2,500
5. Brede Parish Council	£3,085	£3,085
6. Camber Parish Council	£4,470	£4,470
7. Hurst Green Parish Council	£30,000	£30,000
8. Pett Parish Council	£5,000	£5,000
9. Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau	£30,000	£20,000
10. Rye and District Chamber of Commerce	£1,500	£1,500
11. Rye Cricket Club	£1,742	£1,742
12. Rye Heritage Centre	£4,000	£4,000
Total:	£117,450.00	£89,450.00

Table 1: Grants Panel recommendations

5. Should Cabinet agree with the Panel's recommendation to award the applications as set out above, this will result in a maximum of £89,450 being awarded in Round 2, leaving nil for grants for the remainder of the financial year 2020/21.
6. 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.

Small Grants Scheme – increase in maximum award to £1,000

7. The Community Grants Panel has delegated authority to award grants under £500. A review of the number of awards under this scheme for the last 5 years has been completed, and consideration given to encourage applications to the Small Grants scheme it is recommended an increase in the maximum award to £1,000 from 1 April 2021, with the Medium Grants Scheme starting at £1,001. The application process is under review in consultation with Rother Voluntary Action (RVA).
8. Members are reminded that small grant applications are accepted all year round. Applicants are encouraged to make applications through the online application process. Support and advice can be accessed through RVA.

Community Grant Scheme: Round 1, 2021/22

9. Round 1 of the Community Grants Scheme will open for applications on 1 April 2021 and close on 15 July 2021. Members are asked to encourage groups within their Wards to seek advice from RVA prior to starting the application process.

10. It should be noted that all applications are to be driven by community support, and need to have an element of match funding, whether their own contributions or at least funding applications submitted to the total value of the project. This is to demonstrate it is fully costed, funded and ready to go. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek funding from Town or Parish Councils. For the medium grant scheme at least 30% of the funding for these projects must come from local support, including where applicable Town and Parish Councils.
11. Further information is available via the Community Grants section of the Council's website: <https://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/>

Conclusion

12. Members are requested to consider the applications attached at Appendix A and be mindful of the clear benefits these offer to their communities. 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.
13. Members are recommended to increase the delegated authority for the Community Grants Panel to approve grants up to the value of £1,000.

Financial Implications

14. The assessment and monitoring system for Community Grants will mitigate the financial and reputation risks associated with handing over grant finance. The Council attaches specific conditions to grant applications to mitigate risk.

Risk Implications

15. We are often at the hands of voluntary groups to the amount of time, effort and other financial support they can commit to their projects. This is mitigated by the good working relationships that exist across the district, and the support provided by RVA.

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

Chief Executive:	Malcolm Johnston
Report Contact Officer:	Nicola Mitchell – Policy and Partnerships Officer
e-mail address:	Nicola.mitchell@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A - Community Grants - Round 2 Financial Year: 2020/21
Relevant Previous Minutes:	CB08/115 CB19/41 CB20/47
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Documents:	None.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY GRANTS – ROUND 2, FINANCIAL YEAR: 2020/21

1. Battle for Tennis

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £8,008
Funding secured: £4,008
Funding shortfall: £4,000

Amount requested: £4,000
Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%
Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Battle for Tennis is a not-for-profit community club established in 2014. The aims of the club are to popularise tennis, widen the recreational choice and encourage physical activity in Battle and surrounding area. The grant will be used for the purchase and installation of a Tennis Practice Fence at Battle Recreation Ground, North Trade Road, Battle, boosting free tennis facilities for members of the community on this site.

Benefits

The tennis practice fence will be accessible and free to use by individuals and groups of all abilities, ages and disabilities all year round. The proposed length of fence is perfect: large enough for families, friends and small groups to enjoy whilst (unlike most free-to-access sports facilities) permitting solo activity too.

This facility will encourage participation in physical activity. For tennis enthusiasts, this will be the only professional quality tennis practice wall in the wider Hastings and Rother area not to require paid access - a fantastic community asset.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets the strategic aim 'Stronger Safer Communities'.

Other Funding Sources

£500 has been received from the Sussex Police Property Act Fund. Grants in principle have been received from Battle Town Council (£500) and The Steve Bernard Foundation (£1,000). The applicant is contributing £2,008.

Project Sustainability

The Practice Fence will be donated to the town of Battle and its maintenance will be under the umbrella of ground staff's maintenance activities at the Recreation Ground. The Town Council is supportive of this arrangement.

For solo wheelchair users to take advantage of the equipment's accessibility however, enhancements to tennis court access will be required. These have been identified by the Town Council and the Town Council has committed to undertaking these improvements.

Battle for Tennis is in communication with a local champion for active disability to ensure the facility's benefits are optimised for, and known by, local active wheelchair users. Battle for Tennis will continue to provide free access to equipment and simple training sheets for families keen to try out tennis.

Support for the Project

An online questionnaire put forward to the parents of Claverham School pupils in March 2020 had 108 positive responses to the project, indicating 400 potential users of the proposed facility. In addition, support has been received from The University of the Third Age, Battle and Langton School PTA and participants who joined 'Battle for tennis free' family sessions organised by Battle for Tennis.

The project has the support from the Ward Member Cllr Kathryn Field, neighbouring Ward Member Cllr Kevin Dixon and Battle Town Council. The project has also been discussed with Adrian Gaylon, Rother Sports Development Officer.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £4,000 subject to the usual conditions, including confirmation of:

- a) funding received from Battle Town Council
- b) funding received from the Steve Bernard Foundation
- c) a maintenance schedule being included by Battle's Town Council
- d) a donation of practice fence to Battle Town Council by Battle for Tennis
- e) comments from the Equalities Officer concerning accessibility and use of correct materials and surfaces are made known to the applicant

2. Battle Pre-School Playgroup

Total cost of project (inc. VAT): £12,307
Funding secured: £5,154
Funding shortfall: £7,153

Amount requested: £6,153
Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%
Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £1,000 (application made to Battle Town Council).

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Battle Pre-school Playgroup is a non-profit charity registered in 1971 run by a committee of volunteers to provide early years education for children and appropriate holiday clubs for children up to the age of 8.

The perimeter fence is over 25 years old and the application is to substantially upgrade to a suitable child safe and durable fence with appropriate security gates.

Benefits

This project will benefit pre-school and holiday club children who attend the setting both now and for many years to come. Parents will feel that their children are safe and secure while at the preschool.

In addition, recent works by the Town Council on the recreation ground and the Health Pathway have increased the passing footfall of the playgroup's perimeter highlighting the urgent need to upgrade the fence for safety reasons. The public realm will benefit in the improved look of a currently run-down area adjacent to the

Recreation Ground, encouraging pride of place for residents and visitors to the Battle area.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project supports the objective 'A Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

The applicants are committing £4,154 and fundraising activities of £1,000. An application has been made to Battle Town Council for £1,000.

Project Sustainability

The fence should require no maintenance for a number of years but will be included in the monthly checks the groups carry out and any concerns or damages are reported at the trustees committee meetings and appropriate repairs or maintenance arranged from the budget. Reserves are kept for unexpected or emergency repairs.

Support for the Project

Parents have provided letters of support and engaged in fundraising activities, hindered by the current pandemic. Ward Member support has been received from Cllr Vikki Cook and Battle Town Council who own the land.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £6,153 subject to the usual conditions, including confirmation of:

- a) funding from Battle Town Council.

3. Battle Town Council

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £50,000

Funding secured: £25,000

Funding shortfall: £25,000

Amount requested: £25,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Battle Town Council.

The grant will be used to assist in funding improvements to the Almonry and its surrounds to allow access for people with disabilities, equal to that for people without disabilities. The changes include formation of a ground floor unisex accessible WC, installation of a platform lift and re-levelling of the entrance to its main entrance porch, provision of high-contrast signage and installation of Induction Loops.

Benefits

This project is an element of a larger ambition of Battle Town Council to repair and improve the Grade II* Listed Almonry Building. The project will ensure the heritage building delivers an efficient and safe working environment and fulfils the Council's statutory and moral obligations to make it accessible to all.

The project will benefit residents of Battle with reduced mobility, such as wheelchair/mobility scooter users, from Battle and surrounding villages who wish to

access assistance from the services such as Battle Town Council, Rother District Council, Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK East Sussex.

The Town Council plans to increase its offering to community groups, and these improvements will benefit visitors to the town accessing the proposed Tourist Information Point.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project supports the aim 'Stronger, Safer Communities'.

Other Funding Sources

£25,000 has been committed to the project by the applicant and are exploring other funding options.

Project Sustainability

The Council has an Almonry Maintenance and Management Programme which is reviewed annually. Any works identified during routine checks are brought to the attention of the Town Clerk and included in the annual Council budget.

Support for the Project

Support for the project has been received from Ward Members Cllr Kathryn Field and Cllr Vikki Cook. The larger project has been subject to a public consultation demonstrating the need for accessible facilities. In addition, support has been received from Battle Museum of Local History. Furthermore, the Rother Equalities Officer and East Sussex Building Control Officer have been involved with regular contact in giving advice and support to the Town Clerk with this project.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend an award of £7,000 subject to the usual conditions, including that:

- a) planning applications RR/2020/2153/L and RR/2020/2084/MA are granted.

4. Bexhill Family Collective CIC

Total cost of project (inc VAT): £5,002

Funding secured: £2,500

Funding shortfall: £2,502

Amount requested: £2,500

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £2

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Bexhill Family Collective is a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the aims of providing affordable, high quality community nurseries to support children, and their families in Sidley & Edgerton Park, Bexhill-on-Sea.

The applicant plans to provide Balanceability sessions creating an opportunity for young children to learn how to ride a bike. The grant would be used towards the purchase of 20 balance bikes, helmets, associated equipment and training for two members of staff.

Benefits

Balanceability is a cycle programme for children aged 2½ years and upwards. The programme consists of structured session plans and activities enabling young children to cycle without needing stabilisers.

The programme will improve the wellbeing of the nursery children and provide the children with a positive way to expel energy and learn a crucial life skill. The activities build confidence, special-awareness and dynamic balance skills. More than anything it will be a great opportunity for a fun activity, where many of these children may not have the opportunity to learn to ride a bike at home.

The sessions will also be offered to parents, so they too can learn how to keep their children safe on the road and the importance of a structured approach to cycling. The applicant intends on operating a bike loan system whereby those parents who have completed the course can loan a bike so they can embed the skills they and their child/children have learnt.

The applicant will look to share this resource and opportunity to more children within the community, including holiday clubs and daytime sessions for children who do not attend the nursery, or attend on different days.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets the Council's aims of 'Stronger, Safer Communities'.

Other Funding Sources

A local crowd funder has raised £2,500 towards this project.

Project Sustainability

The balance bikes will be safety checked before use and maintained as required from a general maintenance fund. Longer term it is planned to offer parent groups in the community, running multiple sessions and train additional volunteers and community members to help facilitate these sessions.

Support for the Project

Bexhill Family Collective CIC has strong community support from residents in Sidley and the surrounding area receiving many messages of support on social media platforms and demonstrated through its fund-raising efforts. A petition to ESCC to reconsider the closure of the Bexhill nurseries gained more than 1,000 signatures. The project is supported by Ward Member Cllr Sam Coleman.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £2,500 subject to the usual conditions, including:

- a) that consideration be given to looking at alternative bikes, especially for children with any physical condition who cannot join in with this cycle programme.

5. Brede Parish Council

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £6,170

Funding secured: £3,085

Funding shortfall: £3,085

Amount requested: £3,085
Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%
Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is the Parish Council for Brede.

The grant will be used for replacing well used play equipment (swings and basket swing) at the park following its annual inspection highlighting the need for repairs. The Parish Council would prefer to upgrade rather than spending on repairs as these items are more than 10 years old.

This is the first phase planned for upgrades to the play area.

Benefits

The Parish Council intended to carry out a full engagement with residents and users in Summer 2020 to see what the families would like to see in the play area and how to improve it, however this has not been possible due to the Covid pandemic.

The play area is widely and regularly used by families, demonstrating how important a part of the community it is, especially for all round well-being, walking to the park is a highlight of many children's day. A local nursery has noted that the equipment cannot be played on and is disheartening to their children limiting play.

It is observed that should these improvements not be made, there will be little or no facilities for families to play on by the end of the year.

RDC Corporate Objectives

Within the Council's corporate objectives: 'Stronger Safer Communities' and 'a Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

Brede Parish Council is match funding £3,085.

Project Sustainability

Brede Parish Council pays yearly for inspections, and maintenance is carried out as required to ensure play equipment is in good working order and passes any regulations required.

The Parish Council intends to improve the area further, with a full engagement when circumstances allow.

Support for the Project

The application has the support of Ward Member Cllr Johnathan Johnson, local parents who travel out of the area, and a local nurse who do not currently use the equipment.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £3,085 subject to the usual conditions, including:

- a) that the Parish Council engages with residents and the Rother Equalities Officer regarding a larger project for play equipment for children with physical disabilities.
-

6. Camber Parish Council

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £8,940
Funding secured: £4,470
Funding shortfall: £4,470

Amount requested: £4,470
Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%
Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £0

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Camber Parish Council propose to use funds awarded towards the removal of a dilapidated block bus shelter and replace it with a new purpose-built bus shelter.

Benefits

This project will benefit residents and visitors to Camber who use the bus service through the village, encouraging more residents to use public transport. Bus drivers will have better sight of those wishing to board their bus. The Johnsons Field bus shelter is the closest bus shelter to the caravan park at the Eastern End of the village and is also used by pupils boarding the school bus to Rye.

The proposed bus shelter will match a replacement bus shelter installed in the centre of the village in 2019. The Parish Council has evidence of increased use of this shelter that has encouraged this application to replace a second bus shelter. The Parish Council is working to a design scheme for all their new projects in the village which began with the landscaping of Jubilee Green to provide an attractive theme using natural elements.

There has been a reduction in vandalism in the new bus shelter which continues in the Johnsons Field bus shelter. The new shelter will have glass panels which improve visibility - the block shelter is uninviting, and often used as a 'hangout' for smoking and drinking which can be intimidating to other users.

The new shelter will have a more inviting and light style to deter vandalism and inappropriate use and will be accessible for all users and with the glass panels will remove the need for those with reduced mobility or visibility to have to move out of the shelter to see the bus approaching.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets the corporate aim of 'A Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

Camber Parish Council is contributing £4,470 towards the project.

Project Sustainability

The Parish Council employs a handy person to inspect, litter pick and clean all Parish Council owned assets, reporting to the Clerk on immediate issues and provides a maintenance report to the Councillors at their meetings.

The Parish Council is committed to improving Camber for its residents and visitors and this project is included within its action 'Promote Pride in Camber', along with plans to install a third shelter once additional funds have been raised.

Support for the Project

Ward Member Cllr Paul Osborne is supportive of this project and the Parish Council has received requests from Community groups and residents to replace the existing brick bus stop as locals have expressed concerns regarding safety.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £4,470 subject to the usual conditions.

7. Hurst Green Parish Council

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £100,000

Funding secured: £15,500

Funding shortfall: £84,500

Amount requested: £30,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 30%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £54,500 (application in progress to National Lottery)

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Hurst Green Parish Council will use the grant for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment.

Benefits

The redesign will provide a facility that can be used by children of all ages and address the balance between only providing active play facilities, with a new play balance that includes sensory, creative, imaginative, manipulative, social, and reflective play. This will seek to ensure that everyone, including those who are disabled have the access to the experience, as those who are not disabled, and as far as is reasonably possible, offer the same quality and extent of play experience to children with disabilities and young people as is available to those who are not disabled.

This project also supports the delivery of the aims and objectives of the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan and springboards the aspirations of a Community Hub for the village.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets the strategic aim of 'Stronger Safer Communities' and 'A Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

Hurst Green Parish Council has committed £15,000 towards this project, with residents fundraising standing at £500 (the pandemic has delayed activities). An application has been made to the National Lottery Community Fund for the remainder.

Project Sustainability

Inspections will be carried out, along with an annual assessment. Hurst Green PC precept will be used to pay for ongoing maintenance.

Support for the Project

The project is included within the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan, with significant engagement with residents at community events in 2018 and 2019 noting a key area of concern is a need to improve the facilities for young people and improve the children's park.

Nearly 150 children from Hurst Green Primary School spent a term in late 2020 preparing designs for what they would like to see from the children's park; each child is due to receive a certificate of participation and a winner is to be selected from each class. Letters supporting the project have been received from the children and the primary school.

Ward Member Cllr Graham Browne has provided his support to the project. Written support has also been provided by ESCC Cllr John Barnes.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £30,000 subject to the usual conditions, including that:

- a) full project funding is achieved from the National Lottery / Local fundraising
- b) evidence that the described tender process was adhered to
- c) full project costings are provided along with evidence of quotes
- d) final plans/layout and equipment to be demonstrated
- e) accessibility considerations and engagement with the Rother Equalities Officer

8. Pett Parish Council

Total cost of project (ex. VAT): £10,130

Funding secured: £5,130

Funding shortfall: £5,000

Amount requested: £5,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is the Parish Council for Pett.

The grant will go towards drainage improvements to the tennis court to allow the facility to be used throughout the whole year.

Benefits

Every household in Pett and Pett Level can join the tennis club for a small donation a year to cover the basic running costs and upkeep. The numbers using the tennis court has quadrupled as a result of the pandemic and Pett Parish Council would like to encourage more to use the facility to help themselves improve their fitness and health.

The facility is used by older residents and families as it is a secure environment. Older teens also use the facility.

Keeping the tennis court free of water will make the court more accessible to those unable to sweep flooded water off before play after heavy rain.

RDC Corporate Objectives

The project meets the strategic aim of 'A Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant is contributing £5,130 to the project.

Project Sustainability

The Tennis Club users are required to complete a safety check before starting play. Regular inspections are carried out with small and medium repair jobs actioned. The Parish Council keeps the grass and vegetation round the court short and is planning to cut back the ferns and undergrowth back to the boundary to keep spores off the court surface as advised by tennis maintenance professionals. The laying water has made the court prone to moss and algae and erosion at the side is slowly resulting. This project will increase the longevity of a much-used community facility.

Once the drainage is resolved, the Pett Tennis Club has agreed to organise and fund for the court to be professionally cleaned to enhance the experience for users of the facility.

Support for the Project

Ward Member Cllr Andrew Mier provides his support, along with Pett Sports Association, Pett Tennis Club and users of the tennis court.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Rother Equalities Officer questioned whether the area around the tennis courts is accessible to access. Since the Panel meeting, the Parish Clerk has confirmed that this is accessible, as the play park is next door and wheelchair users do use the tennis court.

The Panel recommend a full award of £5,000 subject to the usual conditions.

9. Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau

Total cost of project (ex VAT): £103,144

Funding secured: £73,144

Funding shortfall: £30,000

Amount requested: £30,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 29%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau is a registered charity.

The applicant wishes to use the grant to redevelop premises at a new location in Bexhill following a requirement to vacate their current premises and includes the

purchase of essential equipment, including computers, furniture, and chairs to replace existing equipment to required standards.

Benefits

The applicant serves the whole of the Rother District, providing advice that people need for the problems they face, and providing advice and support to residents. The volunteers to the Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau work to ensure that clients do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

This project will enable the organisation to continue with its aims and objectives, which in addition to the advice service, enables the development of social policies and services for the benefits of all residents in the District.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets The Council's aim of 'Stronger, Safer, Communities'.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant is contributing £65,144 towards the funding and has received funding from the Albert Hunt Trust (£3,000) and the 29th May 1961 Charity (£5,000).

Project Sustainability

The new premises are being acquired on a 15-year lease, with maintenance and repair obligations. The applicant will service, clean and maintain equipment, replacing it from its own funds when needed.

Support for the Project

Support for the project has been received from Cllr Polly Gray as the Rother District Councillor representative for the Council and has the support of Cabinet (CB19/84 & CB20/42).

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend an award of up to £20,000 towards essential equipment only, subject to the usual conditions.

10. Rye and District Chamber of Commerce

Total cost of project (inc.VAT): £3,500

Funding secured: £2,000

Funding shortfall: £1,500

Amount requested: £1,500

Percentage of total project costs requested: 43%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Rye and District Chamber of Commerce.

The funds will be used to progress the project 'Rye Blooms'. The grant will be used to purchase planters, compost, seeds, plants, hanging baskets and litter pick equipment for public areas across the town.

Benefits

The enhancement provided by the proposed floral displays throughout Rye covering

residential and commercial areas will be enjoyed by all through sight, smell and touch contributing to good mental wellbeing, bringing positiveness and happiness as we emerge from the current lockdown in the spring and summer to residents and visitors to Rye.

This community project plans to bring together residents of all ages, businesses and the Town Council to deliver working together to bring a sense of pride in the town.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project supports the aims 'Sustainable Economic Prosperity', 'Stronger, Safer Communities' and 'A Quality Physical Environment'.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant has committed £550, with Chamber members contributing £1,000. Rye Town Council has awarded £450.

Project Sustainability

Rye and District Chamber of Commerce will continue the lead on taking the project forward, maintaining the equipment as needed, with Chamber Members and community groups and volunteers maintaining displays through the summer.

The Chamber will fundraise for the project to continue for plants, seeds and ancillary items and replacement items as required. With positive results in 2021 it is hopeful for the project to grow with more residents and community groups participating in 'Rye Blooms' in future years.

Support for the Project

Support has been received from Ward Member Cllr Gennette Stevens, Rye Town Council, schools, residents, community groups and businesses.

The project supports the Rye Neighbourhood Plan and is part of the Chamber's "Phoenix Project" aiding Rye's recovery and the sustainability of the high street.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £1,500 subject to the usual conditions, including that:

- a) East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted are contacted and engaged with regards to the placement of the planters.

11. Rye Cricket Club

Total cost of project (inc.VAT): £4,242

Funding secured: £2,500

Funding shortfall: £2,242

Amount requested: £1,742

Percentage of total project costs requested: 41%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Rye Cricket Club who aim to foster and promote the sport of cricket at all levels within the community, providing opportunities for recreation, coaching and competition.

The grant is planned to be used to upgrade the artificial cricket wicket mat, originally laid in 1983 at The Rye Cricket Salts.

Benefits

The project will have a range of benefits. In the immediate future, it will increase the capacity to offer facilities for training; the Club has over 70 Colts and will provide a better experience.

In the longer term, by offering a better experience it will enable the Club to grow its player membership and the opportunity for the recruitment of key members to the club to support its future continuation and development.

The club has an open-door policy of inclusivity for all. The Club works with all the local schools to offer Free Taster Sessions in the winter and summer to encourage participation.

RDC Corporate Objectives

This project meets the 'Stronger Safer Communities' objective.

Other Funding Sources

Funding has been received from a private donation of £2,000 and Rye Town Council has received a private donation towards this project.

Project Sustainability

The mat will be serviced, and any maintenance would be carried out as needed to ensure that the mat remains fit for purpose. The Club is seeking to create a Girls Section and is in the process of improving the disabled access to the Pavilion, this mat will be an enhancement to the facilities the Club can offer.

Support for the Project

Support has been received from Rye Town Council, local schools, Club members and Ward Member Cllr Gennette Stevens.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel recommend a full award of £1,742 subject to the usual conditions.

12. Rye Heritage Centre

Total cost of project (inc. VAT): £8,010

Funding secured: £4,010

Funding shortfall: £4,000

Amount requested: £4,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Rye Heritage Centre, a registered charity. The main aims of the charity are to advance the education of the public, both visitors and residents in the history and heritage of the Ancient Town of Rye.

The grant will go towards the purchase of digital equipment to enhance displays to transform the facility to attract a sustainable income to support the charities future aspirations.

Benefits

The enhancements to be carried out by this project will greatly improve the offer to visitors and residents of the Rye Community, with the aim to be one of the top visitor attractions in Rye, supporting Rye Town Council's vision. Rye Heritage Centre will build a body of volunteers to operate the Centre, through the promotion of the spirit of volunteering and commitment to the community, providing a social return with the community.

Partnership work has been discussed with Rye College to develop the educational and creative experience to enrich the curriculum offer in the school, as well as potentially providing training and pathways to employment to young people.

RDC Corporate Objectives

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

Within the Council's corporate objectives: 'Sustainable Economic Prosperity' and 'Stronger Safer Communities'.

Other Funding Sources

The applicant is contributing £910, along with individual local gifts totalling £2,500, £200 from the Sussex Community Foundation and a Crowdfunder raising £400 towards the project.

Project Sustainability

Rye Heritage Centre will establish an annual maintenance and repair programme for the equipment purchased, alongside a regular monitoring of the equipment. A fund will be set up to repair and replace items, as necessary.

A detailed business and strategic plan and vision of many phases has been drawn up by the applicant. This initial project will kick-start community aspirations.

Support for the Project

The application has the support of Ward Member Cllr Genette Stevens. The application is strongly supported by Rye Town Council including a peppercorn rent of £1 per year for the initial 5-year lease of the building. The project has also received support from many members of the community including local schools and colleges who have shown interest.

Panel comments and recommendation:

The Panel noted this was a prime example of the community working together to build an asset based cultural project and was very pleased to recommend a full award of £4,000 subject to the usual conditions.