

Rother District Council

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 5 September 2022

Title: Community Grants Scheme – Round 1

Report of: Director – Place and Climate Change

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dixon

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Report: To present and recommend approval of Community Grants applications for Round 1, 2022/23

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) a fund of £15,000 ringfenced from the Community Grants Scheme budget be approved for the Rother Reduce, Reuse and Recycle scheme for 2023/24; and
- 3) all Members be requested to promote the round 2 Community 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.

Community Grants

2. The Community Grants Panel has delegated authority to award grants up to £1,000. One application was awarded in Round 1 for these small grants to The Archive Resource Centre for £1,000.
3. Round 1 of the Rother CGS for 2022/23 closed on 30 June 2022. Five applications were received requesting £65,435 in total. The Panel met on 28 July 2022 and have recommended awards for five 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. Brede Parish Council	£11,000	£11,000
2. Fairlight Parish Council	£5,060	£5,060
3. Northiam Village Hall	£10,500	£10,500
4. Rye Harbour Sailability	£8,875	£8,875
5. Winchelsea Beach Community Association	£30,000	£30,000
Total:	£65,435	£65,435

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 £65,435 being awarded in Round 1. This leaves £59,565 for grants for the Round 2, 2022/23 opening on 1 October 2022 and closing 15 December 2022 (£5,000 is ring-fenced each year for the small community grants scheme).
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

7. 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 Rother Voluntary Action (RVA) and it is recommended applicants contact RVA before the submission of an application. A balance of £4,000 remains for applications for 2022/23.
8. 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 Parish and Town Councils.
9. Further information is available via the CGS section of the Council's website: <https://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/>

The Rother Reduce, Reuse and Recycle 2023 Scheme

10. The proposed Rother Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Grants scheme offers funding to Parish and Town Councils and properly constituted community groups and charities who are committed to helping the Rother District to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and meet its environmental aims. Funding can be granted for a variety of projects and activities including workshops, practical equipment, education and awareness raising.
11. It is proposed that RDC match funds, pound for pound, relevant expenditure to a limit of £1,000 of grant funding per application. A total fund of £15,000 is

recommended and would be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A scheme guidance and application questions (online application form) are attached at Appendix B for consideration.

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 CGS 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 requested to consider that a fund of £15,000 be ringfenced for supporting the Rother Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Grants scheme for 2023/24 leaving £110,000 available for the Medium and Large Grants Scheme and that delegated authority be granted to the Community Grants Panel to approve grants up to the value of £1,000.

Rother Community Lottery Update

14. The first draw took place at the end of April 2022, with 56 organisations on board. This exceeded our initial target of 40 organisations. Gatherwell, our Lottery Provider, has commended the Council on its successful lottery launch, and are using Rother District Council (RDC) as a good example case study.
15. Lottery sales dipped as expected after Week 5 but are now steadily increasing back towards the first draw levels. We now have 68 causes signed up and over 625 players for the current draw. £2,175 has been awarded in prizes, with five lucky people winning £250. 357 '3 extra tickets' have been won.
16. After 17 weeks, approximately £12,000 has been facilitated by the Rother Community Lottery, with £7,000 of this sum to the various good causes. £75 of prize money has been donated back to the cause supported.
17. If ticket sales remain steady (same number, same cause), the potential annualised income facilitated to the various good causes is approximately £23,500, with a further £17,000 of income to RDC.

Financial Implications

18. 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.

Environmental Implications

19. All community grant applications request environmental considerations to be noted.

Risk Implications

20. 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	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	Appendix A - Community Grants Round 1 2022-23 Summary Appendix B – Rother Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Community Grants application and criteria
Relevant Previous Minutes:	CB08/115
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Document:	None.