

## Rother District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	27 February 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Community Grants Scheme – Round 2 and Community Lottery Update
<b>Report of:</b>	Director – Place and Climate Change
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Dixon
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To present and recommend approval of Community Grants applications for Round 2, 2022/23
<b>Decision Type:</b>	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 £10,000 from the Community Grants Scheme be approved for supporting community events to celebrate the forthcoming King's Coronation (6 – 8 May 2023)
- 3) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Community Grants Panel to award or refuse the King's Coronation 2023 grant scheme within the criteria set out within Appendix B to the report; and
- 4) all Members be requested to promote the various Community Grants schemes and the Rother Community Lottery within their wards.

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### 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. Two applicants were awarded in Round 2 for these small grants to Hurst Green Parish Council for £1,000 and Strandliners CIC for £400.50.

3. Round 2 of the Rother CGS for 2022/23 closed on 15 December 2022. Four applications were received requesting £40,311 in total. The Panel met on 26 January 2023 and have recommended awards for four 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 Local Action Plan	£1,723	£1,723
2. Burwash Playing Field Association	£30,000	£30,000
3. Icklesham Parish Council	£5,588	£5,588
4. Staplecross Club	£3,000	£3,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£40,311</b>	<b>£40,311</b>

Table 1: Grants Panel recommendations

### **The King's Coronation 2023 Grant Scheme**

5. It is proposed that Parish and Town Councils (P&TCs) and properly constituted community groups are encouraged to organise commemorative or celebratory events for the King's Coronation on the weekend of 6 May - 8 May 2023.
6. To support this activity, it is proposed that RDC match funds, pound for pound, relevant expenditure to a limit of £500 of grant funding per application. A total fund of £10,000 is recommended, with the scheme opening 8 March 2023. The closing date is when all the funds have been allocated or 23 April 2023, whichever is sooner, allocated on a first come, first served basis. A scheme guidance and application questions (online application form) are attached at Appendix B for consideration.
7. Should Cabinet agree with the Panel's recommendation to award the applications as set in table 1 and approve the King's Coronation 2023 grant scheme, this will result in a maximum of £50,311 being awarded in Round 2.

### **Rother Community Grants 2023/24**

8. Members are reminded of the following grants schemes available in 2023/24:
  - a. Small Community grant – up to £1,000 per application with a ringfenced total of £5,000 per annum. Open all year until the fund is allocated.
  - b. Rother Reduce Re-use Recycle grant – up to £1,000 per application with ringfenced total of £15,000 per annum. Open all year until the fund is allocated.
  - c. Medium and Large Community grants - £5,000 - £30,000. £110,000 available. Round 1 opens 1 April 2023, closing 6 July 2023.
9. 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.

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 Parish and Town Councils.
11. Conditions are applied when awarding 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.
12. Further information on all grants schemes are available via the CGS section of the Council's website: <https://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/>

### **Rother Community Lottery Update**

13. The first draw took place at the end of April 2022, with 56 causes on board. The Lottery now has 74 causes signed up and over 630 players for the current draw. £4,600 has been awarded in prizes, with ten lucky people winning £250. 773 '3 extra tickets' have been won.
14. Since the first draw, approximately £27,000 has been facilitated by the Rother Community Lottery, with £15,900 going to the various good causes. £500 of prize money has been donated back to the cause supported.
15. If ticket sales continue as they are (same number, same cause), the potential annualised income facilitated to the various good causes is approximately £33,500, with a further £15,700 of income to RDC.

### **Conclusion**

16. 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.
17. Members are requested to consider that a fund of £10,000 be approved for supporting the King's Coronation 2023 grant scheme and that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Community Grants panel to approve grants up to the value of £500.
18. Members be requested to promote the various Community Grants schemes and Rother Community Lottery within their wards.

### **Financial Implications**

19. 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

20. All community grants applications request for environmental considerations to be noted.

## Risk Implications

21. 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 2 2022-23 Summary Appendix B – Kings Coronation 2023 grant scheme application and criteria
Relevant Previous Minutes:	CB08/115
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Document:	None.

## **Rother Community Grants Summary of Applications – Round 2, 2022/23**

### **1. Battle Local Action Plan**

Total cost of project: £4,323.00 (inc VAT)

Funding secured: £2,600.00

Funding shortfall: £1,723.00

Amount requested: £1,723.00

Percentage of total project costs requested: 40%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: Nil

#### **Applicant and Grant Request Details**

The applicant is Battle Local Action Plan, a community group established to enhance the quality of life for the local community.

It is planned to establish a weekly 2km junior park run for children aged 4-14 each Sunday at 9am on Battle Recreation Ground. The grant will be used for the one-off initial set up fee to Park Run UK.

#### **Benefits**

The free and accessible runs will provide local children with a weekly focal point for outdoor physical activity, whether it be running/walking or jogging. This will help develop their physical and mental wellbeing supported by the local community. The weekly meets will also give the opportunity for local community groups to interact and promote their values and provide volunteering opportunities for members of the local community.

Park runs are renowned for their inclusivity, with children of all abilities and backgrounds welcome. Battle Recreation Ground is a fully accessible site. There is no fee for children to participate.

#### **Support for the Project**

Support has been widely received from local organisations, Battle Muffin Club, Hastings Runners and Hastings Lions. Residents and their children who wish to attend participate in the weekly runs. Councillor Field is in support of the project as well as Battle Town Council who have granted permission for the use of the Recreation Ground and provided funding. Active Rother has also added support, stating: "We would encourage people to be more active and use assets like outdoor spaces and recreation grounds. I know they have worked hard to get groups to the Rec. Park Runs are popular in general, so it seems added opportunity to make the Rec a hub."

#### **Project Sustainability**

The park run will be sustained through further fund raising or grant applications for specific items. It is anticipated that support is given through Park Run UK for basic running resources throughout the projects' life. The on-going needs will also be supported by local running clubs and organisations.

#### **Funding Details**

Battle Town Council and Hastings Lions have each contributed £500 and Rural Past Times have given £100. Hastings Runners have pledged £1,000 and Battle Muffins Club have ringfenced £500 towards this project. This funding totals £2,600.

Should the grant be successful, RDC's contribution will be acknowledged via social media, press releases for the inaugural event and recognition as a partner moving forward. Local Councillors will also be invited to get involved with the runs.

### Environmental Considerations

The event utilises existing facilities and parents and children will have a local event, rather than travelling to either Goudhurst or Eastbourne reducing travel impact.

Battle Recreation Ground already has waste and recycling bins in place. Battle Local Action Plan will encourage attendees to bring their own re-usable/recyclable water bottles; this message will be included in social media promotions for the events.

### Panel recommendation:

Grant £1,723, subject to standard grant conditions.

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## **2. Burwash Playing Field Association**

Total cost of project: £60,858.85 (exc.VAT)

Funding secured: £30,858.85

Funding shortfall: £30,000

Amount requested: £30,000

Percentage of total project costs requested:49%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: Nil

### Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Burwash Playing Field Association (BPFA) which is a registered charity who maintain Swan Meadow Playing Field and buildings on its site and to provide adequate playing field and recreational facilities for the residents of Burwash. BPFA wish to redesign the playground layout at the Swan Meadow playing field, provide new playground equipment and convert identified space into a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA) as phase one of a wider programme of facility improvements.

### Benefits

The applicant has reviewed in consultation from residents the current use of the facilities at Swan Meadow playing field.

By carrying out this project the BPFA will improve the playground area to allow greater play options and facilities for children between the ages of 1-14. It also gives residents within the village the opportunity to make use of a key asset and promote a wider range of healthy outdoor activities, improving physical and mental wellbeing. With the cost of living crisis, it is even more important that residents have free or low-cost options to access facilities especially if they wish to lead more active lifestyles.

### Playground:

The current layout of the playground does not make the best use of the space or have enough variety of equipment for children across the ages and ability. The outdoor gym equipment within the boundary of the playground could be dangerous for younger children to use. The current multiple play unit is over 10 years old and is not inclusive. The only accesses are via a rope wall, monkey bars or a steep wooden climb.

Much of the remaining play equipment is still useable and does not need replacing and has been reviewed for inclusivity in mind. The BPFA will rearrange the pieces within the playground. This will provide the space to install a larger accessible multiple play

unit by playground installer Eibe called the 'Mount Play Unit'. Adaptations to the standard unit include a low-grade ramp rather than wooden steps. The outdoor gym equipment would be repurposed outside the enclosed playground area.

#### The Tennis Courts:

By converting one of the two available tennis courts to a MUGA, this keeps the option of playing tennis open to the public, whilst increasing the offering to include the opportunity to play other sports. A new purpose-built fence would be erected with a full height gate, recessed goals and integrated basketball hoops. Adjustable height netball posts will also be provided, which can be set into the surface of the MUGA. Tennis, netball and basketball court play lines would be marked out as well as a set of five-a-side football D's.

The proposed MUGA will also provide a dry ground and safe space for children to play when the field is too wet during the winter months.

Organised groups would be charged to use the facility, creating a new revenue stream for the BPPFA for the upkeep of the site. For example, the football club currently rent space outside of the parish when the field is too wet to use and could use the MUGA instead and remain in the local area. There is no intention to charge the public for use of the MUGA.

#### Future project development

Due to budgetary constraints, phase two of this project would see the building of a track around the edge of the playing field as well as providing a step free access into the playground and down to the MUGA area itself. Once this has been implemented, it is planned for the installation of either an outdoor trampoline which can support a child who uses a wheelchair on it or a roundabout which is inclusive for wheelchair users. BPPFA are looking at potential CIL funds from a local development to implement this phase the project.

#### Support for the Project

The two Ward Members, Councillors John Barnes and Mrs Kirby-Green are in support of the project. Support has been received from the Burwash Parish Council. Local groups and organisations, including but not limited to Burwash Village Playgroup, Burwash Cricket Club and the Burwash Primary School PTFA welcome the proposed improvements. The BPPFA chair has consulted with the Young People Forum to gather ideas and suggestions.

The PTFA have highlighted how the playing field is at the heart of the village, and is a safe space enjoyed by parents and children.

#### Project Sustainability

The equipment planned has a low maintenance value. Running costs and annual equipment checks will be budgeted by the BPPFA, who have several funding streams, including the 100 Club which residents within the community pay an annual fee to support the BPPFA in maintaining available facilities. Additional income will be generated by charging clubs to use the facility for training.

#### Funding details

BPPFA have committed £6,858.85 of their own funds. Burwash Parish Council have recently awarded a grant of £20,000 and £4,000 has been received from Burwash CIC towards this project.

RDC's contribution to the project would be recognised at the opening ceremony of the new facilities, with Ward Members being asked to formally open the site. A plaque would be placed at the entrance to the MUGA and playground thanking the sponsors of the site. There will also be a press release in which RDC would be acknowledged.

#### Environmental Considerations

Rather than replacing equipment, the items will be re-purposed and re-used, as well as the grass matting. Any materials that cannot be used will be sent to be recycled.

The preferred playground installer has an environment policy noting that sustainability is an integral part of their business strategy and throughout the playground planning the natural vegetation and local environment is considered. Timber is sourced from sustainable forestry.

By increasing the offering at the Swan Meadow playing field, residents will be encouraged to spend more time outdoors and get the health and wellbeing benefits this brings. In addition, the local football club members will reduce carbon emissions by not having to travel outside the village to continue their classes.

Plans of the BPFA include the provision of an orchard at the playing field in partnership with 'Wild about Burwash'.

#### Panel recommendation:

Grant £30,000, subject to standard grant conditions.

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### **3. Icklesham Parish Council**

Total cost of project: £11,176 (exc.VAT).

Funding secured: £5,588

Funding shortfall: £5,588

Amount requested: £5,588

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: Nil

#### Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Icklesham Parish Council.

The grant will be used to install two adult outdoor exercise bikes in the recreation grounds around the parish to encourage residents to exercise.

#### Benefits

Exercise can be an enormous benefit to people of all ages. Regular exercise can help maintain a healthy weight and therefore reduces the risk of serious medical conditions such as heart attacks, diabetes and many types of cancer. Regular exercise is not only good for physical health and wellbeing but also mental health and can help to reduce stress, anxiety and depression.

The Parish Council wishes to support their local community and want to help improve the health and fitness of residents of all ages by providing outdoor gym equipment.

Icklesham Parish Council have chosen exercise bikes to start this project following consultation with other local parish councils who have already installed similar



equipment as they will be easier for people to get on and off. Cycling is a great low impact workout that is safe for people of all ages.

The exercise bikes are also arm and pedal bikes, so wheelchair users will be able to use the arm pedal by having their wheelchair on the opposite side to the bike. The Parish Council may look to install further equipment in the future and would look for equipment that is specifically for those with disabilities.

The idea behind two bikes at each site is to encourage companionship and reduce loneliness whilst exercising with many single older residents in the parish. There is only one gym in the parish. The bikes will be free to use.

The equipment will be in areas that are accessible and away from main roads. The proposed sites are:

- Harbour Field in Winchelsea Beach
- Coronation Field in Rye Harbour
- Icklesham Recreation Ground
- Jubilee Field in Winchelsea

### Support for the Project

Support for the project has been received from residents who welcome the proposed gym equipment as they are keen to remain active and socialise with others. Councillor Osborne has provided his support for the project, along with enthusiastic support from Icklesham Trust, Winchelsea Beach Community Association and the Rye Harbour Village Hall Management Committee, all of whom believe this project will benefit the local community.

### Project Sustainability

Icklesham Parish Council will include any on-going maintenance or repair costs within their budget as with all other equipment they maintain. Upon review of the use of the exercise bikes, the Parish Council will consider adding more outdoor fitness equipment to these locations.

### Other Funding Sources

Icklesham Parish Council have received a payment of £3,481.97 in CIL funding which they are using for this project. They will use £2,106.03 of their own funds, leaving a shortfall of £5,588 (nil if full award granted).

The Parish Council plan to erect plaques next to the equipment promoting RDC's contribution to the project. An article will also go out in the Parish Newsletter which will include RDC's recognition.

### Environmental Considerations

By having exercise equipment installed in all areas of the parish, it is hoped this will encourage people to exercise locally, reducing to travel to the nearest gyms in either Hastings or Rye. Residents will benefit from the health and wellbeing of being outside within nature.

### Panel recommendation:

Grant full award of £5,588, subject to standard grant conditions.

#### **4. Staplecross Club**

Total cost of project: £6,000 (inc VAT)

Funding secured: £3,000

Funding shortfall: £3,000

Amount requested: £3,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £ nil

#### **Applicant and Grant Request Details**

The applicant is Staplecross Social Club, a sports and social club who promote good fellowship, social and games evenings for the community of Staplecross and surrounding area. It is run entirely by volunteers and is a not-for-profit organisation with no restriction on membership.

The grant will be used to convert an existing space within Staplecross Social Club to enable the supply and fit of an inclusive toilet and baby changing facility.

#### **Benefits**

Staplecross Club wish to create a more inclusive, welcoming, and affordable community hub for its current and future members.

Baby changing currently takes place on the floor; the addition of a baby changing facility will provide parents with an extra level of privacy and comfort. Members and visitors of the Staplecross Social Club with severe disabilities rely on being carried to use the existing toilet facilities.

The committee and members have observed that the current arrangement is not fit for purpose and have identified an area within the club that can be reconfigured to install a new disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. The Social Club will become more open and inclusive to those of all ages, including families with young children to enjoy the community activities that the social club facilitates. This project is vital for the future of this valuable community asset.

#### **Support for the Project**

There has been a large amount of support from the community and users of the club who would greatly benefit from a disabled facility due to their mobility issues or age.

One member has summed up the need for this project perfectly: "As a disabled member with a young family I totally support this plan. Access to the toilets is difficult and not designed for people with mobility issues. Plus changing our baby/young children on the floor is not ideal or hygienic. We really enjoy using the Social Club and feel this would benefit new and old members alike. Young, Old and Disabled. The Social Club is an important part of the growing community in Staplecross and surrounding areas."

Ewhurst Parish Council and Councillors Ganly and Mooney have also provided their support for this project.

#### **Project Sustainability**

All costs for future maintenance and cleaning will be covered by club funds raised by membership. It is aimed to increase membership through the provision of these facilities and the offering of more activities.

### Funding details

The applicant has committed £3,000 towards the project. They have raised the funds through ticketed events, barbeques, children's parties, door entry for social events and membership fees.

If the application is successful, RDC's funding would be acknowledged on their notice board and the local Ward Members invited to an opening ceremony.

### Environmental Considerations

All electrical installations will be low voltage. The preferred trader is local to the area and all deliveries will be minimised.

### Panel recommendation:

Grant £3,000, subject to standard grant conditions, and

- a) That compliance to [Approved Document M: Volume 2 - Buildings other than dwellings - Part M - Access to and use of buildings](#) is met.
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# ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL KING CHARLES III CORONATION 2023 GRANTS SCHEME GUIDANCE



Rother District Council has agreed to set up a grants fund to recognise the

## KING'S CORONATION

The official celebration weekend will be held from 6 May until 8 May 2023.

Grants can be made for a maximum of £500, and the maximum number of grants has not been set. The grant pot is set at a maximum of £10,000 and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Applications will be assessed on their individual merits and against the criteria within this guidance.

1. Rother District Council Grants will be offered to properly constituted community groups and Parish and Town Councils within the Rother District.
2. The fund will open on 8 March 2023. The closing date for this Grant scheme is when all funds have been allocated or 23 April 2023, whichever is sooner.
3. The expectation is that events will take place on the celebration weekend between 6-8 May 2023.
4. Applications will be considered on its own merit as they are received by the Council and applicants will be notified of the decision within 14 days of receipt.
5. All projects must demonstrate a clear link to the King's Coronation Celebrations and actively benefit Rother residents, promoting access for all and community wellbeing.
6. Funding will not be granted towards firework displays.
7. Applicants will have to demonstrate that Rother District Council funding is at least matched pound for pound by other funds and will need to show they have a bank account in place to process the grant.
8. All community events must, in some way, acknowledge Rother District Council's contribution.
9. Advice about obtaining public liability insurance, licences etc may be sought from Town and Parish Councils and Rother Voluntary Action (RVA).

Online applications are accessed at our website: <https://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/>

# **Kings Coronation 2023 Grants Scheme Application Questions**

## **About your organisation**

Organisation name:

Contact name:

Position in organisation:

Your address:

Email:

Phone number:

Website:

How would you describe your organisation? *(select from drop down list)*

Do you have a formal structure? *(upload)\* (if no unable to proceed, refer to RVA for support)*

Bank account details:

## **About your application**

1. What is the name of your project/event?
2. When do you expect your project to start and finish?
3. Is your project taking place at your organisation's correspondence address?  
*Yes, if no select address*
4. What will you use the grant for? How will it celebrate the King's Coronation?
5. Describe the main groups of people who will benefit from your project
6. Please provide evidence of support from local community groups and those who will benefit from your project *(upload)\* letters/consultation/questionnaires*
7. Do you have written (including email) observations from the RDC Ward Member where your project is taking place? *(upload)\* (unable to proceed if no)*
8. What actions are in your project that address its impact on the environment and contribute to the climate change agenda? *\*materials used, using local suppliers*

## **Costs and Funding**

9. Are you able to reclaim VAT? yes/no
  - a. What is the cost of the project excluding/including VAT?
10. How much are you requesting from Rother District Council? *\*maximum £500 / 50% of project*
11. How much has your organisation committed to the project?
12. Do you have other sources of funding?
  - a. Please list other sources of funding
  - b. Please provide evidence of other sources of funding *(upload)*
13. Please provide a clear project budget which sets out each cost identified to complete your project. *(upload)*

My files are too large to upload to this form: I will email to [communitygrants@rother.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@rother.gov.uk).

Tick box

## **Submit**