

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL: 20 JANUARY 2015

**HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO COMMUNITY GRANTS
INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS****1. PROCESS**

- 1.1 Through the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the Council has reviewed its process for the allocation of community grants. A new approach provides an opportunity for Members to comment on submitted grant requests ahead of consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Panel of the initial recommendations of the appropriate Portfolio Holder.
- 1.2 In respect of this Panel, community grant requests have been received and been made available for members' comments. Having considered the applications and comments received, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure has made an initial assessment and this report seeks the Panel's observations on these initial recommendations.
- 1.3 After the discussion at Panel, the Portfolio Holder will consider any comments made, before making final recommendations as part of the budget paper presented to the February Cabinet meeting.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The Council has established grant-aid criteria, which is available on Forestnet.

3. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All requests will be considered by the Cabinet in February as part of the budget setting process.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Members were consulted on the bids themselves before the Portfolio Holder considered their recommendations. Therefore the comments from Members are addressed at the principle of the bid, rather than the recommendation. The comments are included under each of the grant requests.

5. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY**Capital applications (Appendix 1)**

- 5.1 These are applications for one off projects for capital works and have been considered on their merits, reflecting the particular needs of each scheme. Member's comments have been considered in coming to these recommendations.

ITEM	APPLICANT	Recommendation (£)
A	Applemore College	50,000
B	Brockenhurst Anglican Church	25,000

C	Hampshire County Council (Lepe)	50,000
D	Lymington Community Association	25,000
E	Sandleheath Community Association	30,000

Revenue applications (Appendix 2)

- 5.2 These are applications for the annual operating costs of key partner organisations with which the Council has a relationship. Each is considered on their own merits but they have all been delivery partners with the Council for a number of years, the quality and value of their work being well established. In the current climate, the need for work which supports local communities and groups is ever apparent. It is therefore the initial recommendation that all are supported by maintaining support at current levels. Member's comments have been considered in coming to these recommendations.

ITEM	APPLICANT	Recommendation (£)
A	Coda	2,500
B	Community First New Forest	80,000
C	Forest Arts Centre	17,000
D	Forest Forge Theatre Company	32,000
E	Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust	25,000
F	Lymington Museum Trust	9,000
G	New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust	13,770
H	New Forest Disability Information Service	2,000
I	Totton and Eling Town Council	32,000

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 6.1 Cllr Alan Alvey declared an interest in respect of comments on the Applemore College bid, as a member of Fawley Parish Council.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the Panel note the contents of the report and submits any comments to the Portfolio Holder.

Further information

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Background Papers

Applicant project files

CAPITAL APPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 1

A	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Applemore College	Artificial Turf pitch

TOTAL COST

£ 667,188

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 617,188

SUMMARY: Applemore College are progressing this scheme for a full size all-weather pitch. It will occupy a part of the College site which is under-used for sport. They will not only build the facility but also operate it. Planning Permission has been obtained and there is strong support from the Governing Bodies of football and rugby. Close ties have also been made with the local Armed Forces and an innovative programme connecting them with local community is being devised. There is a bid to Sport England which is key to the ability to deliver the scheme. Community use would be secured through the Council's own Agreement but there will also be conditions attached to any award from them.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan Alvey: Agree that this is a worthwhile project. But would prefer to see funding going to NFDC or Parish projects. (Advised that all requests for grants are considered as part of the overall Budget process – so in effect the Council considers all of its spending at that one time))
 It is competition with Fawley Parish Council's development of grass rugby pitches. Has drainage and grass provision been discussed? ((Advised that this is an all weather multi sports pitch that is intended for all day use, every day, so is not equivalent to grass))
 The form shows a sum of £50,000 already committed from NFDC – is this just a rubber stamping exercise? ((Advised that this bid will go through the same process as all the others. Applicants will include sources to whom they've made bids))
 Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: support the project but does this require investment by NFDC at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre? ((Advised the Leisure Centre is not involved))

RECOMMENDATION

An allocation of £50,000

This scheme is a HIGH PRIORITY as additional playing facilities and floodlighting and a project that encourages participation.
 Previous grants: None

B	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Brockenhurst Anglican Church	Refurbishment of village hall

TOTAL COST

£ 300,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 271,000

SUMMARY: The application is for the extension and refurbishment of the current village hall. The Hall has an exceptional programme of community activities that ranges across the age spectrum. Their strong track record means that demand exceeds capacity and hence the need for the project. It will revise the kitchen arrangements; provide a dedicated space for young

people; a crèche; a new disabled WC and larger office. The fundraising has been very successful to date and has largely been raised locally.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: the application may be premature as £330k is a large target. There is a figure of £30K for charities we would need to be clear if this was being contributed to. ((Advised that any NFDC award would apply only to works))
Cllr Maureen Holding: It is crucial that Brockenhurst gets its money for the Church Hall. It is a much needed facility and serves the community well, including outreach, which it has done for a number of years. It is host to lots of youth organisations, young women’s groups; WI etc. Costs are high as it is attached to a listed building.

RECOMMENDATION

An allocation of £25,000

This scheme is a HIGH PRIORITY as an extension of an existing facility and a project that encourages participation.
Previous grants: None

C	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Hampshire County Council	Refurbishment of Lepe Country Park

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£2,350,000	£ 1,768,000

SUMMARY: The County Council are seeking to refurbish and develop the provision at Lepe Country Park. They have pursued bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund without success to date. In light of this the County is developing the project having first recognised it as a priority in their own capital planning. It is still in its formative stages but the intention is to improve visitor facilities (e.g. catering; toilets; parking) and the visitor experience (e.g. trails; signage; play equipment) with the aim of moving towards a facility that is self funding operationally. Without investment there are risks associated with temporary planning permissions and flood risk.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: support

RECOMMENDATION

An allocation of £50,000

This scheme is a HIGH PRIORITY as additional built facilities and programmes to increase participation.
Previous grants: None

D	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Lymington Community Association	Phase 1 pre-school re-development

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 250,000	£ 225,000

SUMMARY: The Association is faced with a long term need to refurbish the Centre. Taking a phased approach, this is the first project to be developed. The scheme is to provide a totally revised Pre School that offers 50% more places to two to five year olds. This is in an area which HCC advise is under provided with places. It will mean the provision meets current regulatory requirements and will provide facilities which give the children the best of learning environments. It is also a project which has to be done first to enable subsequent phases to follow.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: Excellent community project. Could consider solar panels on the roof.
Cllr Elizabeth Lewis: Support the scheme wholeheartedly. It is the centre of the social an intellectual life in the Lymington area, with extensive programme of activities, as well as the cinema and theatre. The major alterations to the Centre will make it even more accessible to all. Support the Trustees by giving a grant to help the imaginative work they have begun.

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £25,000

This scheme is a HIGH PRIORITY as extension of an existing facility and one that will develop their programme of activity and participation.
 Previous grants: 2007: £25,000 to equip a new hall; 1983: £7,000 for an extension; 1979: £1,000 for fire and safety works

E	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Sandleheath Community Association	Change of use to community hall

TOTAL COST
£ 74,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ Just started fundraising

SUMMARY: The Association have short term tenure of what was St Aldhelm’s Church in Sandleheath. There is some community use at present but this project aims to secure longer term tenure and to refurbish the building; upgrade toilets including a new disabled WC; improved insulation / lighting and so forth, so as to suit the needs of community use. It is the only community facility in the village and indications are that demand will be strong and it will make a positive contribution to village identity and community spirit. There are still important formalities to conclude – for example the lease and any award would be subject to successful conclusion of those matters.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: good idea subject to leasing arrangements

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £30,000

This scheme is a HIGH PRIORITY as effectively a new community facility with a programme of activities that will encourage more participation.
 Previous grants: None

REVENUE APPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 2

A	APPLICANT: Coda	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual operating costs 2015/16 Professional music services
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TOTAL COST
£ 422,950

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 415,500

SUMMARY: Coda is an independent music trust, provides music therapy and outreach activities across the age range. There have been successful projects in the New Milton area and this application will enable more project work to be done. The aim is to facilitate creative music making for all ages and sectors of the community through high quality participatory music programmes, workshops and projects. Outreach work with young people and support for dementia are particularly noted.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £2,500

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional arts delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation
Previous grants: 2014/15: £2,500; 2013/14: £2,500

B	APPLICANT: Community First New Forest	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual operating cost Voluntary sector support and Volunteer Centre
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TOTAL COST
£ 137,384

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 57,509

SUMMARY: Community First New Forest is the body which provides support across the whole of the voluntary sector in the New Forest. This involves activities such as training; DBS checks; funding advice; assistance with setting up and operating groups and operating the volunteer centre. It also acts as a representative voice for the sector and is involved in many technical working groups. Hampshire County Council is the other major funder and it has recognised the value of these organisations across the County.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £80,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as the organisation is active across the high priorities for community and youth support.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £80,000 2013/14: £80,000

C	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Forest Arts Centre	Annual operating cost Arts Centre and outreach activities

TOTAL COST

£ 267,050

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 250,050

SUMMARY: Forest Arts Centre provides a leading venue for live arts events and has an extensive outreach programme. The Centre is now operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust, with which the Council has reached a three year agreement for standstill funding. The transition has been seamless to date and the programme continues to be well supported.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

Recommendation:

An allocation of £17,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional arts delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £17,000; 2013/14: £17,000

D	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Forest Forge Theatre Company	Annual operating costs Touring professional theatre and creative learning

TOTAL COST

£ 414,498

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 382,498

SUMMARY: Forest Forge provides creative learning and professional touring theatre to communities across the New Forest and beyond. The Youth Theatre is based in Ringwood and is very strong. The Company has a particular reputation for the quality of its work with autism and other additional needs.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £32,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional arts delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £ 32,000; 2013/14: £ 32,000

E	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust	Annual operating costs Blashford Lakes. Community activity and site management

TOTAL COST

£ 151,900

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 126,900

SUMMARY: The Trust operates the Blashford Study Centre and nature reserve on behalf of NFDC; Wessex Water and Sembcorp Bournemouth Water. All the partners contribute core operational funding. The Trust provides informal and formal education opportunities for adults and young people. They are also able to offer a number of regular education and conservation volunteering opportunities. As they are a Trust, they have been able to attract significant investment in capital works, such that the site has won awards for its accessibility across the Reserve.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £25,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a scheme extending the use of a community facility; providing programmes to increase participation and training.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £ 25,000; 2013/14: £25,000

F	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Lymington Museum Trust	Annual operating costs Museum and outreach

TOTAL COST

£ 176,307

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 165,525

SUMMARY: The Trust operates the St Barbe Museum (a building owned by NFDC). The Museum tells the story of the southern coastal parishes and has an art gallery of National standing. The gallery is able to accept works from major national institutions and bring these works to our area. There is also an extensive outreach programme which involves young and old alike.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently
Cllr Elizabeth Lewis: Lymington is extremely fortunate to have St Barbe Museum. It's outreach has been extensive and valuable, enabling residents of New Milton and elsewhere in the New Forest to appreciate and enjoy their history. This amazing museum, with its very significant art gallery, deserves a grant

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £9,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional arts and heritage delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation
Previous grants: 2014/15: £ 9,000; 2013//14: £ 9,000

G	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	New Forest Disability Information Service	Annual operating costs Advice to individuals and organisations

TOTAL COST
£ 78,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 58,000

SUMMARY: The Service provides advice and information on disability issues with an emphasis on empowering individuals. With the consistent stream of changes to benefits and support arrangements for disabled people, demands on the Service are considerable.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £2,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as enabling use of community facilities; supporting training and enabling people to be active and take part in the community.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £ 2,000

H	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust	Annual operating costs Museum and outreach activities

TOTAL COST
£ 404,100

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 389,300

SUMMARY: The Trust operates the Centre, telling the story of the New Forest. It has a unique specialist research library; runs creative learning programmes; gallery events and also outreach. It is the primary visitor centre for the New Forest and is supported in that role by the National Park Authority.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £13,770

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional arts and heritage delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation.
Previous grants: 2014/15:£13,770; 2013/14: £13,770

I	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Totton and Eling Town Council	Annual operating costs Eling Experience.

TOTAL COST

£ 60,000*

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 28,000*

* These are the budget figures for the coming year. A more detailed budget will be developed alongside the delivery phase of the Heritage Lottery funded Project.

SUMMARY: The Town Council operates the Eling Experience which comprises the 2* Listed Mill (owned by NFDC) and the adjacent Learning Centre (owned by TETC). As partners in a successful HLF bid to improve what the Eling Experience has to offer, the partnership will bring forward greater benefits in future for activities and education work on site as well as outreach programmes.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Alan Alvey: Is the grant ring fenced? ((advised that it is specifically for the Eling Experience)

If closed why do they need funds for exhibitions? ((advised that there are projects being undertaken out in the community for education and marketing purposes))

Cllr Allan Glass: Need to ensure it is for a particular activity ((advised that it is specifically for the Eling Experience)

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan: Although a worthy cause, should be considered prudently

RECOMMENDATION:

An allocation of £32,000

This is a HIGH PRIORITY as a programme of professional heritage and arts delivery; providing services to target groups and increasing participation.
Previous grants: 2014/15: £32,000; 2013/14: £ 32,000