

Dear Councillor

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2017

Please find attached, for consideration at the meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday, 17 January 2017, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Please bring this document with you to the meeting.

Agenda No Item

5. **Community Grants Task & Finish Group (Pages 1 - 14)**

To consider the findings of the Group for recommendation to the Cabinet and the Council.

Yours sincerely

Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL: 17 JANUARY 2017

COMMUNITY GRANTS TASK & FINISH GROUP

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the 20 September 2016 Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting, Members established a Task & Finish group to examine the Council's community grant process including assessing the grant applications for 2017-18. Key to the work of the Group was to ensure that the Council's grants system was robust and transparent and, in response to the increasing financial pressures facing the Council, to ensure that the Council continued to receive value for money.
- 1.2 The Task & Finish Group comprised Cllrs Mrs Cerasoli, Davies, Penman and White with input from key Council Officers as well as attendance by Cllr M Harris, Chairman of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel at the presentation with Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 1.3 The Group held their first meeting on 31 October 2016. At this meeting the Group reviewed the current process and agreed a draft eligibility criteria (**Appendix 1**) which was presented and agreed by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel at their meeting in November 2016. This criteria was used to assist the Group in their interviews with individual grant applicants. .
- 1.4 This report provides recommendations on each of the individual grant applications for recommendation to the Cabinet as part of their budget setting in February 2017.
- 1.5 All members of the Council have been invited to attend the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel to provide them with an opportunity to input into the discussion on grant applications and the process moving forward before recommendations are made to the Cabinet.

2. PROCESS

- 2.1 All grant applicants (17 in total) were invited to attend a meeting with the Task & Finish Group to provide a 20 minute presentation (with the exception of Community First New Forest & Citizens Advice Bureau who were allocated a longer time slot in light of the larger grant amounts being applied for. Applicants were asked to evidence their accounts, business case and how their request would meet the needs of, and benefit, residents in the District. Applicants were also asked to explain how their funding request linked to the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The presentations with the applicants were held over two days on 5 and 6 January 2017.
- 2.2 Following the presentations the Task & Finish Group fully discussed and reviewed the information submitted and presented. In formulating a recommendation on the grant requests, members referred to the agreed criteria, the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities, and the value for money being offered.
- 2.3 As mentioned above, the Group extended the presentation/interview time for Citizens Advice Bureau and Community First New Forest due to the larger scale of funding support awarded to these organisations in previous years.

- 2.4 The recommendations, with reasons, determining each of the grant requests, is set out in **Appendix 2**. However, in respect of the larger funding request from Community First New Forest (£80,000) members felt that further clarification was needed on how this money is used, to the benefit of the residents of the New Forest. As such, the organisation has been invited to the full Panel meeting to give a further presentation. The Panel will then need to determine what level of funding this organisation should be awarded for 2017/18.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All requests will be considered by the Cabinet in February as part of the budget setting process. The total amount to be awarded, should the Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in Appendix 2, is £492,000.

4. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

4.1 Summary of Applications Received

Applications E & M are funding requests for one-off projects. The remaining applications are for the annual operating costs of key partner organisations with which the Council has a relationship.

ITEM	APPLICANT	RECOMMENDATION (£)
A	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	£25,000
B	Forest Arts Centre	£17,000
C	CODA	£2,500
D	The Waterside Scrap Store	No award
E	St Winifred's Church	No award
F	Ringwood School of Arts	£6,000
G	Citizen Advice Service	£255,000
H	Forest Forge Theatre Company	£32,000
I	New Forest Disability Information Service	£10,000
J	hArt	£6,000
K	Avon Valley Concerts	£1,000
L	Yellow Door	£5,000
M	Lymington Rowing Club	£35,000
N	Community First New Forest: Management and Advice	outstanding
	Community First New Forest: Nightstop	£15,000
	Community First New Forest: Healthy Walks	£2,500
Total (minus £80,000)		£412,000
Total (plus £80,000)		£492,000

5. FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following the determination of the level of funding to be awarded under the grants process for the 2017 financial year, the Group discussed how future grant requests should be managed. The Group felt that clear timescale for receiving applications should be set, so that all applications could be considered, by a member Panel, on mass, at the same time. This also means that applicants have a clearer understanding of when their application will be determined. In order to meet the Council's budget setting timescales, it is proposed that grant applications be submitted during August – November.

- 5.2 Furthermore, the Group felt that in order to ensure a fair and clear process, the Council will no longer contact previous grant applicants inviting their submissions (as in previous years), placing the responsibility on the organisation seeking funding.
- 5.3 In discussing the funding request from the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Group felt that given the amount of the funding support, this organisation should not be considered under the grants process but rather a formal agreement should be set up with the Council. Members felt that a separate Task & Finish Group should be established to review the future relationship and funding support with this organisation.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the following recommendations be put forward to the Cabinet and Council for approval: -
- a) That the grant eligibility criteria as set out in **Appendix 1** be approved and advertised on the Council's website;
 - b) That the Panel determine the level of funding to be awarded to Community First New Forest following the presentation from this organisation to the Panel;
 - c) That the grant awards as set out in **Appendix 2** be agreed for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan; and
 - d) That a Task & Finish Group be established to determine the future relationship and funding support for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Grant application forms

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APPENDIX 1

New Forest District Council Community Grants Scheme and Eligibility Criteria

Context

New Forest District Council aims to support a range of voluntary and community organisations to provide activities for local people. The funding programme reinforces the Council's corporate priorities of being "collaborative, proud and customer focused", securing a better future for the New Forest by "assisting the well-being of those people who live and work within the District".

Aim

The Community Grants programme aims to provide opportunities for discretionary grants to be awarded in support of local not-for-profit community and voluntary services.

Categories

There are two types of grants that can be awarded in the scheme: -

Small grants – (£600* - £2,000) – these are open to applicants from local community and voluntary groups.

Large grants – (over £2,000**) – these are available for local projects/services provided by registered charities and not-for-profit voluntary/community organisations.

Partnership/Contractual Agreements - these are not "grants" as NFDC have a requirement to contribute to or are subject to an agreement for deliverer of agreed services.

*Applicants requiring monies less than £600 are encouraged to contact their local ward member(s) who hold funds of up to £600 from their community engagement grant awards.

**Maximum limit of £10,000 will be awarded. Anything exceeding this amount, the Council will consider entering into a formal Service Level Agreement, if this is a requirement need that cannot be provided in-house.

Who can apply?

Any registered charity, community interest group, community or voluntary organisation, school, health body or town or parish council meeting the Council's eligibility criteria.

What can the funds be used for?

Grants may be applied for revenue schemes or construction projects.

The grants will be awarded towards various costs/expenditure items that relate to activity described in the application form that align with the councils priorities as laid out in the corporate plan. Only one grant per organisation will be awarded.

The funds cannot be used for the purchase of personal items.

When should applications be made?

The funding will be granted on an annual basis. Organisations must apply for their grants every year between **August – November**. Applications received outside of this period will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Once the application deadline has closed, the applications will be appraised and all those meeting the eligibility criteria will be asked to attend a short interview with a Panel of members. The member Panel will make a recommendation to the Cabinet of whether the awards should be granted.

The Council does not have an appeal system. If your application is not granted, then the Council will encourage organisations to make applications in the following years round of applications.

How to make an application

Applicants must provide evidence to support their application including the following: -

- Cost of the proposed activity
- Benefits to New Forest residents
- How they have identified the need for the activity
- Milestones – how will these be met
- Whether funds have been secured from other sources
- How the application delivers against the priorities of NFDC
- Organisations policies, procedures and relevant organisational documentation

What won't be funded?

- Individuals and items that mainly benefit individuals.
- Projects from private companies/profit-making/trading organisations/business enterprises
- Political or religious activities.
- Activities that happen or start before we confirm our grant
- Any costs incurred when putting together your application or before confirmation of grant.
- Construction projects where the ownership or lease is not yet in place (including any planning permissions)
- Purchasing of used vehicles or machinery
- Projects that take place outside of New Forest District Council area.
- 100% of required project funds.

After the grant has been awarded

- All applications will be required to sign a formal agreement.
- Applicants can only use the money that it has been awarded for.
- NFDC must be mentioned as a funding partner in marketing and promotional material and acknowledged on any appropriate signage.
- Successful applicants will be requested to submit a monitoring report giving progress on the scheme and following completion of the scheme and appraisal of whether key milestones were met.
- If the money is not used, for the specified purpose, for whatever reason, it should be returned.
- If the actual cost of the scheme is less than the estimate mentioned above, then the funding may be reduced proportionately. However, if the actual cost of the scheme exceeds the estimate, the funding will not be increased.
- The Council must be notified of the date on which the project will commence and the estimated completion date. The appropriate Executive Head must be informed of any delay which may result in a completion date later than that given.

- The Council shall have the right to inspect the project at all reasonable times.

In order for grants to be successfully awarded, applicants must meet the following **eligibility criteria**: -

- Organisations must have a written governing document (eg, a constitution, articles of association, trust deed etc)
- Governing documents must include a suitable dissolution clause.
- Organisations must have a UK-based bank account in the name of your organisation (or for schools, a local authority bank account) and financial procedures, that both require at least two people who are unrelated and do not live at the same address to sign cheques or make a withdrawal.
- Your project must be completed within one year of award.
- The project must not be started (retrospective funding will not be considered).
- The application must expressly identify how it will meet NFDC outcomes.
- The service/activity that the grant will be used to fund **MUST** directly benefit New Forest residents.
- We are unlikely to fund organisations that are in poor financial health or those that have had a previous grant from us which has not been managed satisfactorily
- For applicants seeking “large grants” they must have a policy for financial risk
- Applicants must not sell or otherwise dispose of the facility, equipment or items purchased through grant fund money other than at full market value and in the event of such disposal an appropriate proportion of the proceeds (equal to the proportion of the original cost met by the funding) will be surrendered to the Council.
- Facilities must be fully insured on the basis of full replacement cost evidence that suitable policies of insurance are in existence.
- No part of the balance of the cost of construction projects will be raised by means of a mortgage secured on the facility without the previous written consent of the Council having been obtained.
- Facilities or projects that are granted an award must be open and accessible to the New Forest District Council community. For private or educational facilities this must be secured through a community use agreement.
- Organisations delivering projects aimed at children, young people or vulnerable adults must have suitable safeguarding policies and appropriate checks.

APPENDIX 2

A	APPLICANT: Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual operating costs Blashford Lakes community activities and site management
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£133,114	£133,089	£25,000

SUMMARY: The Trust operates the Blashford Study Centre and nature reserve on behalf of NFDC; Wessex Water and Bournemouth Water. All the partners contribute core operational funding. Indeed, both water companies individually contribute more per annum than the Council, in what is a discretionary activity for these commercial companies. 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. Targeted programmes such as “buggy walks” for young parents; “walking for health” are all part of the broad appeal and impact of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £25,000 be agreed.

REASON: This organisation has already seen a reduction in its funding through the loss of approximately £14,000 of administration support previously given by the Council. The management agreement between this organisation and the Council is due for renewal in July.

B	APPLICANT: Forest Arts Centre	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual operating cost Arts Centre and outreach activities
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£283,288	£266,852	£17,000

SUMMARY: Forest Arts Centre provides a leading venue for live arts events and has an extensive outreach programme. The Centre is operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust. The backing of the Trust has brought about new projects and opportunities, and the centre programming has led to an increase of throughput and continues to be well supported.

Targeted work through regular session such as SCARF (Supporting Special Children and their Relatives and Friends) are very well established and project work, for example with young people around drug education; adults with learning disabilities, work with older people tackling issues such as dementia and social isolation through the Better Life Chance team, and with young people in deprived areas of the district, have produced excellent outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £17,000 be agreed.

REASON: This organisation offers value for money through the numerous and extensive community based projects across the Forest particularly aimed at young people and hard to reach groups.

C	APPLICANT: Coda	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual operating costs, providing music for health and wellbeing purposes.
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£360,000	£355,000	£2,500

SUMMARY CODA are an independent music trust, which is developing its links with local schools and community groups. 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. Their funding will support particular work with children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £5,000 not be supported but that the funding levels of the previous year, namely £2,500 be awarded.

REASON: The Council will continue to support this organisation at the same funding level as previous years. The evidence to support the request for additional funds was unclear. In addition, due to the location of this organisation, only a small section of New Forest residents benefited from the services provided.

D	APPLICANT: The Waterside Scrap Store	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Annual running costs towards the collection and distribution of re-useable materials for creative purposes
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£3760	£3217	£0

SUMMARY: The Waterside Scrap Store is a small, local organisation which is part of a national network of scrap stores. The Scrap Store provides low cost recycled arts and craft resources for the local community. The volunteers at the organisation collect quality re-useable “scrap” from groups, businesses and organisations around the district. They then sort and clean the materials so that members (schools, play groups etc) and individuals can come and obtain affordable resources for creative projects. On the basis that this organisation is not a registered charity the task and finish group recommended that the grant application not be supported.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £1,500 not be supported.

REASON: The applicant is not a registered charity and as such does not meet the Council's eligibility criteria. It was felt that the applicant could approach Totton District Councillors to request support through the Councillors Community Grant Scheme.

E	APPLICANT: St Winifred's Church	REASON FOR APPLICATION: To redevelop the church to create a facility to expand the existing preschool to serve a community need.
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£250,000	£0	£250,000

SUMMARY: St Winifred's Church in Totton is an inter-generational hub for the local community. The larger project sees the development of the whole church. This application relates to the development of a new purpose built facility to address the needs to expand our existing preschool with dedicated toilets, and provide a space that can be used flexibly for sports and arts.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £250,000 not be supported.

REASON: The funding application was to support 100% of the overall project costs of the scheme which did not meet the Council's eligibility criteria. Furthermore, the Task & Finish Group felt that the Preschool currently on site, as a private enterprise should support this scheme. In addition, the lack of business case to support the application was of concern to the Group.

F	APPLICANT: Ringwood School Arts Foundation	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Replacing existing seating at the theatre based at Ringwood School.
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£73,971	£61,902	£6,000

SUMMARY: The existing tiered seating at Ringwood School is utilised by the community for a wide range of mainly musical, theatrical and drama performance. These seats are no longer fit for purpose and may be withdrawn on health and safety grounds. This is the only theatre environment in Ringwood for more than 50 seats.

The facility is used by a range of community groups for regular performances such as Ringwood Musical & Dramatic Society, Steppin' Out Dance Academy, Swish of the Curtain, Ringwood Market Town Performers.

All of the groups use the facility in out of School term periods and in extra-curricular times, which opens the facility for community use.

The project objectives are;

- Replace the existing seating with modern seating which will deliver greater seating capacity and enhanced experience with tiered seating that can be installed through automation allowing a set up period of less than 3 hours by one person.
- Open up the availability of the hall to further community groups. This can be achieved due to the ability to use the hall for shorter bookings because of the greater flexibility of installing the seating and taking it down in such a short period.
- Support and raise funds for further projects to additionally enhance the quality and theatrical experience from both the community user's and the audience's perspective.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £12,000 not be supported. A grant of £6,000 would be awarded.

REASON: The applicant had already purchased and installed the chairs at the school through their own fundraising efforts. The applicant continues to make great effort in its fundraising. The Task & Finish Group felt that the award of £6,000 was appropriate. They also considered that as the award be conditional on the basis that the chairs being subject to a community use of asset clause.

G	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Citizens Advice Service	For support with the annual operating costs of the charitable organisation.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£304,968	£28,221	£255,000

SUMMARY: The Citizens Advice Service is a charity which offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice. They offer fully trained advisers and can offer advice on a wide range of problems faced by local residence, such as employment, consumer issues and housing. They are an independent New Forest charity serving the community of the New Forest District, we are open to everyone who lives or works in the New Forest. They run clinics out of six bases across the district.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £255,000 be supported. However, in noting that the leases on a number of CAB offices were due for renewal in 2018, a Task & Finish Group should be set up to examine the gradual reduction of future funding support, with particular focus on assistance with accommodation and investigation into modernising the service through greater use of new technologies.

REASON: The organisation should, in advance of renewing the leases on several of their offices, look to examine more efficient and modern ways of working, in light of the fact that future funding support may well decrease over a staged period of time. In addition, the Group felt that the funding support of this organisation should be considered outside of the grants process, with a more formalised agreement being established, owing to the fact that the services provided by CAB greatly assist the Council's housing department through the information and advice offered to residents on welfare and benefits.

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£174,772	£142,772	£32,000

SUMMARY: Forest Forge has undergone a fundamental re-structure with the intention of providing creative learning and outreach activities at its core, whilst reflecting the changing funding climate. There is still professional touring theatre to communities across the New Forest but the emphasis is clearly on creative learning.

Involving local people directly in activities such as workshops; work experience; targeted outreach (eg the Gypsy / Roma / Traveller community) and the Youth Theatre is based in Ringwood and is very strong. The Company has a particular reputation for the quality of its work with those with additional needs and provides opportunities for older people to tackle social isolation and improve cross-generational understanding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request for £32,000 be supported.

REASON: The organisation offers value for money through its diverse and wide ranging community outreach projects which benefit the wellbeing of many young people and families across the whole of the District.

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£85,000	£61,500	£10,000

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.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £20,000 not be supported as this would be an increase of 800% on their 2016-17 grant but in recognition of the excellent work they have been achieving in the community an increased grant award of £10,000 be given.

REASON: This organisation offers vulnerable residents in the New Forest specialist advice which the Council does not currently have the resource to provide. With the changes to welfare legislation, the Council will inevitably receive more and more queries from residents regarding benefits and the expertise of this organisation will relieve the pressure on the Council's Housing Benefit team as such offering the Council value for money.

J	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	hArt (Hampshire Art for Recreation and Therapy)	To support the generic running costs and to deliver some targeted project work.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£42,275	£16,000	£6,000

SUMMARY: hArt are a fairly new art therapy charity that looks to provide support for the mental health needs of people of all ages and abilities. They organise workshops and projects across a range of artistic mediums, in the more remote areas of Hampshire (primarily the New Forest) where limited access to services and opportunities for social contact add to the increase in mental health issues by making loneliness and isolation a factor.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £30,000 not be supported but that an award of £6,000 be given.

REASON: This is a new application for grant aid funding support from a relatively new organisation. The Task & Finish Group had some concerns regarding the lack of business case and limited account information. However, the Group considered that the services provided by the organisation, in seeking to assist residents with Mental Health difficulties an emerging priority of the Council and its key partners, should be supported. As such, the Group felt that an award of £6,000 should be given to support outreach work focusing on loneliness, depression and isolation, which is often experienced by the older residents of the New Forest given its rural location.

K	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Avon Valley Concerts	To contribute to the running costs of the charitable organisation.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£11,375	£10,365	£1,000

SUMMARY: Avon Valley Concerts is a charity which promotes a series of classical music concerts each year in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge areas, presenting artists of national and international status.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £1,000 be supported.

REASON: To support the promotion and provision of classical music for residents of the New Forest.

L	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Yellow Door (Formerly Southampton Rape Crisis)	To support the costs of support, outreach and education sessions

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£	£	£5,000

SUMMARY: Yellow Door provides a range of integrated, specialist services to those who are at risk of or who have been affected by unwanted Sexual Experience or Domestic Abuse (DSA). This may include anything from rape, childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault to harassment, coercion or domestic abuse. The group covers the New Forest, Southampton and Eastleigh areas.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £5,000 be supported.

REASON: This organisation offers specialist sexual and domestic services to an increasing number of vulnerable residents within the District with the aim of ending sexual, domestic violence and abuse. The services offered included specialist therapeutic support, family counselling sessions and education awareness raising sessions aimed at preventing exploitation and abuse. This offers value for money as this specialist service could not be provided by the Council. The Council supports the safeguarding and protection of its most vulnerable residents.

M	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Lymington Rowing Club	To complete the internal construction of a new club house.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£96,788	£21,000	Up to £35,000

SUMMARY: Lymington Rowing Club are an amateur rowing club that offers affordable and quality coastal rowing experience for people of all ages and abilities. The club have existed in a very outdated and unexciting building for many years and have been offered a shell of a club house as part of the Redrow development in Lymington. The club are seeking support to complete the construction of the premises and ensuring that the facility is fit for purpose and can be operational for the function with which it has been designated.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £50,000 not be supported. That the Council match funds raised by the Rowing Club up to the value of £35,000.

REASON: The Task & Finish Group supported the promotion of rowing as a valuable sport, particularly engagement of children and young people to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

N	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Community First New Forest	a) Annual operating cost Voluntary sector support and Volunteer Centre b) Operating the Night Stop programme to tackle homelessness c) Contribution towards the Healthy Walks partnership

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
a) £80,000	£144,000	£ TBC
b) £60,000	£45,000	£15,000
c) £11,000	£1,500	£2,500

SUMMARY: a) 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: advising on DBS checks; funding advice; assistance with setting up and operating groups. With its work in training and operating the volunteer centre / volunteer placement, it also contributes to routes to work. It also acts as a representative voice for the sector and is involved in many technical working groups and strategic bodies across the district. Community First New Forest also works in partnership with statutory organisations to deliver a range of projects that support local New Forest residents.

b) Night stop is a programme which helps to tackle homelessness in those aged 16-24 by emergency overnight accommodation with local volunteers, and support in to longer term housing.

c) The Healthy Walks programme is a partnership between the National Park, NFDC and Community First New Forest which sees the New Forest walking for health programme administered and volunteer walk leaders trained and supported to deliver walks at various locations across the district.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Community First New Forest be invited to provide further detail regarding its funding request of £80,000 through a presentation to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 17 January 2017;
- (b) That the funding request of £15,000 for Nightstop be supported but the panel noted their disappointment that a grant application was not forthcoming for the continued support of the over 25 scheme; and
- (c) That the funding request of £2,500 for healthy walks be supported.

REASON:

- (a) The Task & Finish Group were unclear as to how the previous award of £80,000 has been used in particular how the services provided are specialist and do not duplicate work already provided by other organisations.
- (b) The services provided by Nightstop protect vulnerable young people in the District and take the pressure of bed and breakfast usage.
- (c) The health walks project offers value for money by providing a popular service to residents across the District which could not otherwise be provided by the Council.