

COMMUNITY GRANTS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 19 June 2018 (Minute 10 refers) this Community and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel supported the introduction of revised criteria for the consideration of community grants, and in addition the introduction of a firm budget to give greater certainty and transparency to the process. The Panel considered that in 2019/2020 the budget for capital grants should be up to £100,000 and the budget for revenue grants up to £350,000. The revenue budget must also cover this Council's contribution to the running costs of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- 1.2 On 28 and 29 November and 7 December the Community Grants Task and Finish Group re-convened to examine the Community Grant applications received for the 2019/2020 financial year. In total, twenty-two applications were received. Twenty applicants were invited to give a presentation to the Task & Finish Group. Two applications (from the 1st Milton Scout Group and Avon Valley Concerts) did not meet the Council's adopted eligibility criteria for varying reasons and the organisations were not invited for interview. In addition, having heard the presentation from Mencap, the Task and Finish Group concluded that, as the organisation was a tenant in a building that was the responsibility of the Housing Revenue Account, the community grants process was not appropriate for their needs and the issue has been forwarded on to the housing service for further consideration.
- 1.3 The Task and Finish Group comprised Cllrs Armstrong, Davies, L Harris, O'Sullivan, Penman and White, with input from key Council Officers. Meetings were also attended by Cllr Mrs D Andrews, the Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs.

2 PROCESS

- 2.2 As part of their interview, all grant 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.
- 2.3 Following the presentations, the Task and Finish Group fully discussed and reviewed the information submitted with the applications and presented at interview. In formulating a recommendation for each grant request, members referred to the agreed criteria, the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, and the value for money being offered.
- 2.4 The recommendations, with reasons, for the determination of each of the grant requests, are set out in paragraph 4.1 below and in further detail in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 In addition to the process outlined above, the Council has also held discussions with Citizen's Advice New Forest (formerly Citizen's Advice Bureau, but now known as CANF). CANF is an independent charity serving the community of the New Forest District. It gives free, confidential and independent advice on a wide range of problems, including family issues, debt, benefits, employment, legal, housing and

consumer matters. In recent times, CANF has been supporting customers with Universal Credit. CANF has offices on Lymington, Totton, Hythe, Ringwood and New Milton, with outreach services in Fordingbridge.

- 2.6 Over the past 18 months, the Council's CANF Task and Finish Working Group has been holding regular meetings with CANF representatives to discuss the role of CANF and ways to modernise services and management arrangements, to enable better long term financial planning, both for CANF and the Council. Among efficiency measures in progress are rationalisation of office accommodation and the introduction of new technology and systems. CANF has recently moved its Ringwood office to the Ringwood library.
- 2.7 The CANF Task and Finish Group is very supportive of CANF and the range of complex issues it undertakes, as well its dedicated employees and many volunteers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total amount to be awarded, should the Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 4.1, is £131,500 of revenue expenditure and £61,000 of capital. The total amount of awards granted last year was £218,020 plus the grant aid to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- 3.2 In considering the grant applications the Task and Finish Group noted that the applications from the New Forest Centre and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust were new this year. In both cases the organisations had previously been funded partly by this Council under partnership agreements that had now expired, with this being the first year of the new arrangements. The Group considered that a further period of grant aid should be given as a transitional arrangement to allow the organisations to explore and secure alternative sources of funding. On this basis, the Head of Finance has agreed that additional monies, outside the community grants budget, can be found to support these organisations in 2019/20.
- 3.3 With respect to CANF, having taken into account all of the information set out in paragraph 2.5 above, including the Council's overall ongoing financial constraints, the recommended 3 year rolling programme from 1 April 2019 is as follows:

2019/20 - £229,500

2020/21 - £206,550

2021/22 - £185,895

The funding will be attached to a Joint Funding Agreement which has been agreed by both parties, and the second two years' funding will be reviewed every year. The Council will continue to support and work with CANF to assist with modernising their service.

- 3.3 This would bring the total revenue grant expenditure to £361,000 In 2019/20.

4. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

4.1 Summary of Applications Received

ITEM	APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION
A	Forest Arts Centre	£17,000	£17,000
B	Forest Forge	£32,000	£20,000
C	CODA	£2,500	£3,000
D	The Handy Trust	£3,740	£4,000
E	Youth and Families Matter	£10,000	£5,000
F	Yellow Door	£5,000	£5,000
G	Compass Counselling	£2,000	£4,000
H	Families matter	£6,000	£5,000
I	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	£25,000	£10,000
J	hArt	£6,000	£6,000
K	St Barbe's Museum	£30,250	0
L	New Forest Centre	£35,875	£10,000
M	New Forest Disability Information Service	£15,000	£10,000
N	Community First New Forest - Nightstop	£22,500	£0
	Community First New Forest – Healthy Walks	£2,500	£2,500
	Community First New Forest – Volunteer Centre	£58,373	£30,000
	Total for revenue grants	£273,238	£131,500
O	The Garage Youth Club	£12,000	£12,000
P	King George V Cricket Pitch	£5,000	£5,000
Q	Fordingbridge Skate Park	£25,000	£25,000
R	Hale Village Hall	£5,000	£14,000
S	New Forest Disability Information Service	£0	£5,000
	Total for capital grants	£47,000	£61,000

5. FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Community Grants Task and Finish Group is a standing Group of the Panel and will meet annually every November/December to determine applications received for the forthcoming financial year. The Task and Finish Group will be guided by the Council's projected financial position in determining the level of awards granted.
- 5.2 The Council's resources to grant aid such projects in the future will come under increasing pressure and it is therefore important that all organisations seeking grant aid from this Council understand that they need to be very pro-active in seeking funding from a wide variety of the various sources that are available. This Council should no longer be seen as a guaranteed resource, but more to act as a reserve resource to make up any shortfall.

5.3 On this basis, the Task and Finish Group consider that it would be productive firstly to invite all grant awardees to attend an interview in July to update the Council on progress with their projects; and also to be given advice about potential sources of funding that may be available to them as an alternative to the Council.

6. COMMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6.1 The Panel welcomed the new process which gave much greater clarity and introduced a firm budget. The Task and Finish Group were commended for their careful consideration of each application leading to the formulation of the recommendations, which were supported by the Panel.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS

7.1 I am pleased that the new process is bringing much greater clarity to decision making on the awarding of community grants and that, in future, the scarce resources that are available will be directed towards projects that bring clear benefits to our communities and are consistent with our priorities in our corporate plan. The introduction of a follow-up interview in July, to assess progress on the grant aided projects, will allow the Council to make sure that the money is being spent as intended and will also provide an opportunity to advise the applicants on other potential sources of grant funding for the future.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That the community grant awards as set out in paragraph 4.1, and in more detail in **Appendix 1**, be recommended to the Cabinet for approval and inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan; and

8.2 That CANF be awarded a revenue grant of £229,500 in 2019/20; and

8.3 That, in future, grant awardees be invited to a second interview in July to update the Council on progress with their projects and also to be advised of alternative sources of funding should they be considering further grant applications to the Council.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Grant application forms

APPENDIX 1

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£329,280	£312,280	£17,000	£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 and project work, for example with young people with mental health issues; adults with learning disabilities, working with older people with long term conditions such as dementia or Parkinson's disease have produced excellent outcomes. They have also worked hard to ensure that residents from more deprived backgrounds are not excluded from the programmes on offer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £17,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Panel considered that the organisation met many of the Council's objectives with respect to health and wellbeing and were delivering services for the benefit of local people across the District. In particular it was noted that they worked with CAMHS and people with learning difficulties.

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£ 183,250	£110,772	£32,000	£28,000

SUMMARY:

Forest Forge provides creative learning and outreach activities, whilst ensuring opportunities to participate in high quality theatre productions. There is a professional touring theatre which tours to communities and schools across the New Forest with an emphasis on creative learning and using theatre to tackle wider social issues such as bullying and poor mental health.

The organisation targets local residents to encourage participation in a variety of activities such as workshops; work experience and targeted outreach projects (e.g. the Gypsy/Roma/Traveller community). The Youth Theatre is based in Ringwood and is very popular. 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 a grant of £20,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group concluded that Forest Forge were delivering fewer of the council's objectives than Forest Arts, but were still offering services of benefit to local people across the District. The Group could not however see any justification for awarding a higher grant than last year given the overall restrictions on the level of available grant funding.

C	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	CODA	Annual operating costs, providing music for health and wellbeing purposes.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£338,750	£336,250	£2,500	£2,500

SUMMARY:

CODA is an independent music trust, with links with local schools and community groups. There have been successful projects in the New Milton area and the application seeks to ensure that further project work can be undertaken, with aim to facilitate creative music making for all ages and sectors of the community through high quality participatory music programmes, workshops and projects. The funding would support particular work with children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £3,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group considered that CODA had done a lot with the small element of their budget that came from the District Council and were very active in providing services that met many of the Council's objectives in promoting health and wellbeing across the District. The Group considered that CODA offered good value for money from the Council's contribution and noted their intention to increase their involvement in this District, with a number of specific projects being the subject of bids for funding.

D	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Handy Trust	They are applying for a grant to run their school holiday project that is not already funded and we need to obtain funding for 10 weeks

<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>OTHER FUNDS/INCOME</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>PREVIOUS AWARD</u>
£67,268	£57300	£3,740	£3,740

SUMMARY:

The Handy Trust is a youth provision for children & young people aged 0 – 25 years old. They work with the whole community a 24/7 service at home, in school and in the community. Due to the economic climate they are working with children and young people from families who are experiencing poverty and hardship and this sometimes includes mental health, domestic violence and substance mis-use. They work in the Waterside area of the New Forest and have service level agreements with Marchwood and Hythe & Dibden Parish Council. The Handy Trust are applying for a grant to run their school holiday project that is not already funded and they need to obtain funding for 10 weeks

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £4,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group concluded that the project that was the subject of this application met many of the Council's objectives. The Trust was promoting good community engagement on a wide basis in the Hythe and Dibden, Marchwood and Fawley areas and had made their bid in respect of a clearly defined project that was of benefit to the local population.

E	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Youth & Families Matter	To support the delivery of YFM as their focus has increasingly come upon tackling bigger community-based issues and working with individuals whose needs aren't typically covered other programmes. The issues that we are seeing are more complex and challenging and there has been an increase in the number of cases we are having referred. We need to attract additional support to help this new Community Development programme succeed and translate projects into meaningful outcomes for beneficiaries.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£204809	£170,430	£10,000	£4,740

SUMMARY:

Youth and Families Matter (YFM) is a small registered charity that works from the heart of the community in Totton to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families whose lives are impacted by many forms of disadvantage, mental illness, serious illness, addiction or abuse. The application aims to support three projects that will assist the wellbeing of isolated, vulnerable and disadvantaged people under a new categorisation of Community Development work, namely: -

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be paid

REASON:

The Group was impressed with the organisation and the bid, which met many of the Council's objectives. The organisation was based in Totton, was heavily involved in the local community and responding to referrals from police and other agencies. There was increasing demand for their services. The Group could only justify a small increase in grant compared to last year.

F	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Yellow Door	To support the costs of support, outreach and education sessions

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£1,026,716	£1,021,000	£5,000	£5,000

SUMMARY:

Yellow Door provides a range 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 a grant of £5,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group noted that Yellow Door's main bid for funding was to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was recognised however that Yellow Door did important outreach work across the District. The group would encourage them actively seeking greater engagement with a wider range of secondary schools across the District.

G	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Compass Counselling	<p>Our budgets have increased for 2019 due to the following reasons: Recruitment of additional paid counsellors to deal with increased number of clients presenting with medium-severe life issues A reduction in the rental income as we anticipate having to use the room for counselling Increased salaries due to a small restructuring of support staff The cost of developing group work has been included as we aim to introduce this during 2019 but it does require using a consultant counsellor with group work qualifications. It would have the benefit of being held in the evening</p>

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£98,424	£87,891	£2,000	£0

SUMMARY:

Compass Counselling Services (New Forest) Ltd, a non-profit making registered charity number 1078724, is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 20 October 1998 and we are currently celebrating our 20th year in operation.

The charity's objectives and principle activities are those of preserving and protecting mental health by the provision of a professional, high quality counselling service for all sections of the local community who are suffering from psychological distress or relationship problems and to advance education and training in counselling. For many, the treatment programme available under the NHS involves long waiting lists or is not appropriate to their needs. We are committed to supporting those unable to afford private counselling by offering reduced rates – clients pay what they can afford. Our aim is to ensure no-one is excluded from counselling for financial reasons.

Operating out of our offices in Lymington we attract clients from around the New Forest area including New Milton, around to Ringwood, Lyndhurst, Ashurst and down to Dibden Purlieu and the Waterside areas. We are one of the few organisations offering subsidised counselling in the local area.

All new clients are offered a 90 minute initial consultation after which a clinical assessment report is written. This report is used by our Counselling Coordinator to allocate the client to a counsellor best suited to meet the needs of that client.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £4,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group was very impressed with the bid and the service offered to vulnerable people in the District. It was noted that the Charity was limited by their ability to attract additional counsellors and group leaders to carry out important work. It was also noted that the Trust appeared to fall into a gap in what various funding sources saw as their areas of responsibility. The lack of NHS funding for their work was particularly disappointing. The service offered met Council objectives. The need for additional resourcing to protect and promote the mental wellbeing of local people was a priority.

H	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Families Matter	The NFDC grant last year was significant and highly appreciated. It enabled us to take on one new member of staff to help with the schools work and the parenting courses. The demand for these is growing and we are looking to support further work in these areas.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£46,700	£42,200	£6,000	£3000

SUMMARY: Families Matter is a small local charity based in Hythe which helps families in need in the Waterside area. They support parents through parenting classes and groups for parents and children with special needs, autism, mental health needs etc. We visit families in their own home and support them through a crisis with their children (ie separation, domestic violence, behavioural problems etc). They work closely local schools, supporting children in the transition to secondary. They have a puppet project that goes in to schools to deliver presentation on bullying, staying safe online recycling etc. They also run groups for people with dementia and their carers and for families with drug alcohol additions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £6,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group supported the work of this organisation and recognised their community engagement, which met many of the Council's objectives. The charity worked in the Hythe area.

I	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust	To manage the Blashford Lakes area to the agreed standard, to ensure there is public access to the site and to provide educational outcomes for local residents.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£144,721	£119,721	£25,000	£25,000 (as legal agreement)

SUMMARY:

Blashford Lakes is an area of land in the Avon Valley to the north of Ringwood, Hampshire, incorporating a series of lakes formed by sand and gravel extraction over the last sixty years. The Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve encompasses approximately 360 acres of this wider area, including Ibsley Water, Ellingham Lake, Ivy Lake, Blashford Lake and the land surrounding them. There are a wide variety of habitats (lake, pond, river, ancient woodland and secondary woodland, grassland and reedbed).

As a result its wildlife is very diverse and it is an attractive destination for visitors throughout the year. The Blashford Lakes are important nature conservation habitats, recognised by national and international designations (SSSI, SPA and SAC) for migratory over-wintering wildfowl. Most activity by the Blashford Project occurs on and around Ibsley Water and Ivy Lake - the lakes and adjoining tracts of land provide a significant recreational resource for local residents, with an extensive educational role provided through the Blashford Lakes Centre. This was opened in 1996 by Professor David Bellamy and general public access to the nature reserve has been permitted and promoted since 2006. During that time the permissive footpath network has been extended to 8km of rolled gravel footpaths and the reserve also boasts 8 bird watching hides and screens. Ease of accessibility has been considered throughout the reserves development and as a result the reserve is visited and enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities.

The nature reserve is managed as the Blashford Project by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with the New Forest District Council and the owners of the land comprising the site, Bournemouth Water and Wessex Water. Partner representatives meet regularly throughout the year to discuss and agree project work.

The project currently employs 3 full-time members of staff, supported by an invaluable and enthusiastic team of volunteers. In addition, education activity on site is supported by three Outdoor Learning Tutors employed on a sessional basis.

Notwithstanding extraordinary circumstances, the nature reserve is open daily, from 9 am-4.30 pm, 364 days of the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be paid

REASON:

The Group felt that the Trust was approaching the Council as they had been an historic source of funding through the service level agreement that had recently ceased. Although the project would meet some Council objectives the Group considered that this Council's support for this project must reflect the overall restriction on the budget available. It was also noted that Blashford Lakes have a much wider appeal than just to the residents of the New Forest District and this may be an opportunity for the Trust to explore a greater range of options for funding for the future.

J	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	hArt	To support the generic running costs and to deliver some targeted project work.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£61030	£62,000	£6,000	£6,000

SUMMARY:

hArt are an 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 a grant of £6,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group was impressed that there was a clear 5 year plan and vision to develop the work of the Charity. The services offered were valuable, meeting Council objectives, and were available across the District. They also showed good partnership working.

K	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	St Barbes Museum	<p>We are applying for this grant to support both the Museum and the Council's priorities and objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly benefiting the people of the New Forest and their wellbeing • To attract more visitors to Lymington thereby helping boost the economy and local businesses • To preserve and protect the special and unique character of the New Forest. <p>Following a complete refurbishment, St Barbe re-opened in August 2017. We are undertaking organisational development, with a new Chair of Trustees, new Director and new Fundraising Manager. We are trying out new approaches and reaching out to new and different audiences to ensure that we can provide the greatest possible social and cultural benefit to the local community. St Barbe was extremely fortunate to have been able to attract funding for the capital project. However, we need to establish strong and committed relationships with the local councils, businesses and other organisations as well as maintaining our excellent relationships with HLF and the Arts Council.</p> <p>We are in the final year of Arts Council grant 'resilience fund' which has put St Barbe in a good position to establish ourselves. However, going forward, this funding will need to be replaced by</p>

	<p>new income in year 2019/20 to ensure we can become sustainable and resilient for the future.</p> <p>The grant will be used to support Operational structure of the Museum and support the very small team of staff to deliver the programme for local schools, community groups, outreach, volunteer training and support and that has been successfully developed over the last year.</p> <p>We are very keen to develop a programme that would enable us to take on school student placements, university interns and apprentices. To do this, we will need to have a strong staffing structure to ensure that there is always someone in the Museum to supervise, manage, teach and train these people.</p> <p>A funding commitment from the NFDC will signal to other funding bodies that we have relevance in the local community and are fulfilling an important role in the cultural life of the New Forest.</p>
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£277,500	£247,250	£30,250	£0

SUMMARY: St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery is a registered charity governed by the Lymington Museum Trust whose principal activity is that of running a Museum and Art Gallery, the advancement of education and the stimulation of interest in the care of the beauty, history and character of the New Forest. St Barbe is governed by a board of 14 Trustees led by Chairman Sir John de Trafford.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be paid.

REASON:

On 6 April 2016 (minute 62 refers, the Cabinet made the following recommendation to the Council with respect to the St Barbe's Museum:

RECOMMENDED:

(a) That, should the Trust secure all the other sources of funding necessary for the project to proceed, a capital grant award of £65,000 be made to the St Barbe's Trust through the contribution grant application process as a contribution towards the cost of the planned development project that has attracted funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund; and

(b) That should be the capital grant be paid, it be agreed in principle that no future revenue support grants shall be paid.

This recommendation was approved by the Council. The Group concluded that there was no compelling case to justify an exception being made, and the organisation was not therefore eligible for grant aid.

L	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
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	<p>New Forest Centre</p>	<p>Financial resilience – following the decision to introduce free entry, the challenge we face is to increase income from a range of streams to build our resilience. Our New Forest National Park Authority association agreement is coming to a natural end. This negatively affects our income by £30,000 a year but also gives us the opportunity to differentiate ourselves and develop a unique identity. It will help grow understanding that we are an independent charity and without the support of local people and organisations our existence is in jeopardy. The appointment of the Fundraising Development Manager is enabling us to develop relationships with potential major donors, companies and charitable trusts. A target of £50,000 towards core funding from new sources by the end of January 2019 has been set and good progress is being made. However, it will take 12 months for the full effect of her appointment to be felt.</p> <p>Changes to the curriculum - The removal of Tourism as a topic on the Key Stage 4 curriculum has hit the number of pupils accessing our education sessions. A third of our school visits were related to Key Stage 4. Teachers are reporting that the high cost of travel is affecting their ability to come and visit. Education providers pay to attend our education sessions so this is another threat to our income.</p> <p>A grant would provide security during this period of change and while we implement measures to broaden and grow financial support from individuals and organisations.</p>
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£502,891	£487,285	£35,875	£33,770 (via SLA)

SUMMARY: The free entry New Forest Centre (registered charity) is the only museum dedicated to the social and natural history of the New Forest. Our aim is to inspire our visitors to explore and value the New Forest by collecting, conserving and interpreting our collections and by providing educational activities and information to children, young people and adults visiting the Forest and living in the community. The Centre includes a free to enter accredited Museum, Reference Library and Exhibition Gallery, and our Education Team run a year-round exhibitions and events programme. Each year we share the heritage of the New Forest with more than 220,000 people of whom 70,000 visit the Museum.

We preserve artefacts and archives relating to the natural, social, economic, political and cultural history of the New Forest. The Museum collections contain within the region of 2,000 objects. The Library has a unique collection of approximately 10,000 books. It also has some archives relating to the ancient Verderers' Court and the administration of Forest Law dating back centuries.

Since 2003 the Museum has been accredited, recognising that the quality of its displays, curation and the management and planning of the organisation meet the highest of standards. In 2016, the Museum was awarded a 'Hidden Gem' accolade by Visit England that recognised the high-quality displays and activities on offer at the Museum. A recent evaluation found that 82% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the Museum and exhibition either a 5 or a 6 (where 1 is low satisfaction and 6 is high). Our Education Service

is rated an average of 4.88/5 for 'Did the trip meet your learning outcomes?' and 100% would book with us again and recommend us to someone else.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group felt that the Trust's project would meet some Council objectives. Some reduction in the grant paid, compared to the funding arrangement under the previous service level agreement was however inevitable in the light of the Council's financial position. It was noted that the grant given to the New Forest Centre in the last 2 years had reflected the agreed transitional arrangements following this Council's withdrawal of the Tourist Information Centre. That space had now been let for use by a café making up that shortfall in income. The historic grant for running costs, through the community grants process, had been £14,000. The proposed grant reflected the overall level of cuts against the budget available.

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£103,200	£88,200	£15,000	£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 a revenue grant of £10,000 be paid, together with a capital grant of £5,000 towards the cost of the installation of a lift at the Services premises.

REASON:

The Group considered that this group provided an excellent service to a group of residents, across the District, who were particularly vulnerable. They were meeting Council objectives in a very specific niche role and providing good value for money for the funding provided. They were also proactive in seeking alternative sources of funding. The Group was aware that the Disability Information Service had applied to District Councillors for assistance, under their community engagement grants, for grant aid for the installation of a lift to allow access to the first floor of their premises, which had recently become available to them. The Group considered that organisations should only receive funding from 1 source within the Council, and that funding through the Councillor community engagement grants was not

therefore appropriate. However, there was scope to provide a grant from the capital budget to assist them with the installation of the lift.

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	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
a £109,378	a £51,005	a £58,373	a £40,000
b £61900	b £39,400	b £22,500	b £15,000
c £4,000	c £1,500	c £2,500	c £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: 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 and 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 administrated and volunteer walk leaders trained and supported to deliver walks at various locations across the district.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following grants be paid:

Nightstop - £0.

Healthy Walks - £2,500

Volunteer Centre Running Costs - £30,000

REASON:

Nightstop – The Group had established that, under the Council’s newly adopted Housing Strategy, the Council would in future be providing alternatives to the Nightstop provision that were more flexible and responsive, better able to meet the needs of homeless households in a timely manner. The continued funding of Nightstop could not therefore be justified

Healthy Walks - the Group queried whether this should be a grant as the service had been commissioned by this Council and the National Park Authority. The Healthy Walks were aimed at a different market to the ranger led walks organised by the NPA and other bodies.

Volunteer Centre Running Costs - The Centre was providing a service to the benefit of local people across the District. However the Group noted the services provided directly by other

charities operating in the District; that a significant proportion of the work of the Volunteer Centre was in signposting rather than carrying out work; and that they charged for some services such as DBS checks. The Group considered that an increase in the grant payable by this Council towards general running costs could not be justified.

O	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	The Garage Youth Club	Bespoke teenage play areas

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£26,000	£14,000	£12000	

SUMMARY:

We want to build a bespoke soft play unit within the building and an outdoor play area in the grounds aimed at encouraging and increasing participation in safe recreational 'play'. We believe this will actively encourage more young people to engage with the centre, targeting groups at risk of mental health issues, substance misuse and crime related behaviours.

These resources will be specifically designed to appeal to this older teenage range and consist of an indoor adult sized ball pool with safety wall enclosure and feature slides and other accessories and an outdoor climbing and swing area to meet the needs and level of stimulation young people desire.

The bespoke play units will enhance the youth centres ability to maintain and increase a high level of participation in safe, fun physical activities that continue to provide opportunities for local young people to make a positive contribution, raise their aspirations, encourage excellence, enjoy, achieve and learn in a safe comfortable environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, reducing inequalities, focusing on mental, physical, social and emotional health to increase life choices

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £12,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group was impressed with a well thought bid for a specific project that met Council objectives. The organisation took a very proactive approach to fundraising from a variety of sources. In general they provided an excellent service that diverted young people from potential problem behaviours. They responded to referrals from the police and other agencies.

P	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Totton Town Council – King George V Playing Fields	To provide an artificial cricket wicket at King George V cricket pitch.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£10,000	£5,000	£5,000	

SUMMARY: The project will look to reinstate the cricket wicket at King George V playing field to enable matches to take place and to allow a greater usage of the cricket pitch that has always been poorly drained, an issue that has impact on the playability of the pitch. This will also give the Calmore Cricket Club the ability to continue to expand its women and junior sections but having this pitch available in close proximity to its main ground whilst ensuring that a facility is available in close proximity to a main centre of the Calmore population.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group considered that a contribution from this Council could be justified particularly to enable the development of women’s and junior cricket as well as improving a facility that has suffered from drainage issues. The Group supported the activities of this local sporting group that contributed to mental and social wellbeing.

Q	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Fordingbridge Town Council – Skate Park	To renovate, rejuvenate and improve the local skate park.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£135,000	£110,000	£25,000	£0

SUMMARY: The scheme is to replace and enhance the existing skate park facility at the Recreation Ground in Fordingbridge. The existing park was installed over 15 years ago of metal construction and is rotting from underneath. The facility is well used and the project aims to replace the park with a concrete park which has a longer life span and lower maintenance cost. The park is a much loved facility in the town. The skate park is aimed at a wide range of users from young children with scooters to older BMX and skateboard riders, it provides an additional feature to the play area for families and focal point for older children from the town and surrounding area – it is a safe location for everyone to visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £25,000 be paid.

REASON:

The Group supported the value of the proposed replacement of the skate park. The scheme met many council objectives. The replacement of metal skate parks with concrete ones, elsewhere in the District, had brought many benefits for local residents, not least as the noise created by the ramps was significantly reduced. The Group noted the exceptionally successful way in which this particular scheme operated for the benefit of a wide range of users, who successfully and respectfully shared the use of the existing skate park.

R	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:

	Hale Village Hall	.To provide a single story extension to the village hall
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TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	REQUEST	PREVIOUS AWARD
£37,000	£32,000	£5000	

PROJECT SUMMARY:

A single storey extension to Hale Village Hall to enable a range of new activities to enhance the social cohesion and physical and mental wellbeing of the residents of Hale and surrounding villages.

Hale Pre-school sadly closed in July 2018 and had been a regular hirer of the downstairs committee room in Hale Village Hall. A number of new activities are being considered by the hall committee and some new hirers have shown an interest in the downstairs area but are disadvantaged by the lack of a kitchen and food storage area.

By including a kitchen and sitting/eating area as an extension to the downstairs room and including storage for books, DVDs and village archives, we can introduce a book club, book and DVD lending service and area where villagers can relax and ponder the history of the village.

The Cricket Club is doing very well and has increased its use of Hale Village Hall. There is only one changing room and they have been asking for years for a second changing area for the home team. They are happy to use the new kitchen area as their second changing room when hiring the hall.

We have plans to use the extended downstairs area for Yoga, Tai-Chi, Qi Gong, Music Therapy, Language Classes, Bridge/Games evenings and Saturday morning films for children. There is interest from an organisation offering an after-school club for Martial Arts and from "Imagine This" an educational group for pre-school children. We are also exploring University of the Third Age and Pilates.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £14,000 be paid.

REASONS:

The Group concluded that this was a well thought out bid with clear benefits for the local community that used the hall. The Trustees had been very dynamic in their approach to developing the hall and to fundraising for the various initiatives that they had introduced. The hall was the hub for providing important services to a rural community that has limited access to alternative community provision, which significantly increased its value.

Subsequent to the Group's initial consideration of the bid the applicant advised the Council that one of their funders had dropped out, leaving a shortfall of £14,000. The Group was sufficiently impressed with the project to invite the applicants to amend their application to make up part of the shortfall.