

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL: 19 JANUARY 2016

HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO COMMUNITY GRANTS INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PROCESS

- 1.1 The approach to the allocation of community grants provides all Members with an opportunity to comment on submitted grant requests, ahead of consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Panel of the initial recommendations made by 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 their initial assessment and this report seeks the Panel's observations on their initial recommendations.
- 1.3 After the discussion at Panel, the Portfolio Holder will consider any comments made, before making their 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 on Forestnet.
http://forestnet2/media/adobe/6/o/Funding_Criteria.pdf

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 submitted bid, rather than the recommendation. Where the comments are specific to a scheme, they are included under that particular grant request.
- 4.2 Overall comments on the grants were received from Cllrs Jill Cleary and Alan Alvey and these are noted against each of the applications.
- 4.3 On a matter of process, Cllr Alexis McEvoy noted it would be preferable if applicants were asked to specify more clearly the amount requested. This can be considered in a future review of the process.

5. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

5.1 Construction applications (Appendix 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	Lyndhurst Sports and Social Club	No award
B	Milford on Sea Guide Hut (Arnewood branch)	12,000

5.2 Annual Revenue applications (Appendix 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 funding 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 Councillor Sophie Beeton declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application by Milford on Sea Girl Guides, through knowing the District leaders when previously helping at the Ashley Brownies Branch.

7. RECOMMENDATION

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

Further information:

Martin Devine
Head of Leisure and Employment
Tel: 02380 285588
martin.devine@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Applicant project files

CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 1

A	APPLICANT: Lyndhurst Sports and Social Club	REASON FOR APPLICATION: Resurfacing of shared car parking area
----------	---	--

TOTAL COST

£ 12,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 6,000

SUMMARY: The club comprises sections for bowls; tennis and the Vernon Theatre. All the functions share the small area for parking at the front of the building. The area is in very poor condition and drainage is poor. Both matters are a concern for proper operation of the building and impact on neighbours. This scheme would improve the operation of the building and would aid recruitment of new members. Undertaking this joint project would be of benefit to this important community facility in the village.

However, this is a modest scheme for a facility where the three sections have invested in their own facilities to good effect. The parking area is small and in context will have limited added benefit to the operation of the facilities. It should be noted there is a replacement fund in the balance sheet of the Tennis section, in order to provide for court replacement in 2021. It is currently held at around 1/3rd of the £60,000 sum that will be required. Given the nature of the facilities it is likely there are other future needs likely on site that would have a greater impact on what takes place there and be a higher priority.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Pat Wyeth: Very happy to support a grant. The facility is badly in need of restoration.

Cllr Jeremy Heron: I do not think that I can support this, having looked at their accounts, their rate of saving will easily cover the predicted costs of the re-surfacing of the courts and would also enable them to fund the work to the car park.

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant

Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

RECOMMENDATION

An allocation is not made

This scheme is a MEDIUM PRIORITY as the resurfacing of an existing area for parking and drainage.

Previous grants: None overall but £5,000 Bowls section in 2015/16 and historically, to the Tennis section for floodlights and court resurfacing of £1,000 in 1988 and £8,000 in 1990.

B	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Milford on Sea Guide Hut (Arnewood branch)	Replacement of roof

TOTAL COST

£25,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£12,500

SUMMARY: Built in 1936, the roof is now nearly 80 years old and is beyond repair. It has been leaking for some time but it cannot continue. It is a well used facility for Rainbows; Brownies and Guides. In addition, it is an affordable venue well supported by local bands; community choir; Arthritis Care; WI; Royal British Legion and many other groups. It is a very valuable community focus for the village and without a new roof will be substantially under threat.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Sophie Beeton: Support the scheme. I support the great work they do for our local young girls every week through the Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers. The hall is also available for hire for small events such as children's parties. Please support their grant request with money and advice.

Cllr Alan Alvey: I would strongly support the Guide hut application.
--

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
--

RECOMMENDATION

An allocation of £12,000

This scheme is a MEDIUM PRIORITY as a replacement of the existing roof. There is however distinct betterment as the roof is asbestos and without replacement the hall will, in due course, not be usable.

Previous grants: None

REVENUE APPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 2

A	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Coda	Annual operating costs 2015/16 Professional music services

TOTAL COST

£ 354,360

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 352,140

SUMMARY: Coda is an independent music trust, providing 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. This has been augmented by recent transformation of the Music Centre through the conversion of decaying farm buildings into new workshops and rehearsal spaces. 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 Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

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: 2015/16: £2,500; 2014/15: £2,500; 2013/14: £2,500

B	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Community First New Forest	Annual operating cost Voluntary sector support and Volunteer Centre

TOTAL COST

£ 146,076

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 63,510

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: 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. The organisation has undertaken a fundamental review of its structure in the light of funding restrictions. Hampshire County Council is the other major funder and it has recognised the value of these organisations across the County through a funding Agreement and a contribution in excess of £40,000p.a.

(Community first contd/.)

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

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: 2015/16: £80,000; 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
£ 285,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£ 268,000

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 backing of the Trust has brought about new projects and opportunities, and the in – Centre programme 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 who are NEET; adults with learning disabilities at the Nedderman Centre and Young Carers groups have produced excellent outcomes.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

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: 2015/16: £17,000; 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

£ 162,318

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 131,852

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 autism and other additional needs. Hampshire County Council has continued its funding for 2016/17.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

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: 2015/16: £32,000; 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

£ 143,100

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 118,000

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 with Childrens' Centres; "buggy walks" for young parents; "walking for health" are all part of the broad appeal and impact of the project.

(HIOWWT contd/.)

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application

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: 2015/16: £25,000; 2014/15: £ 25,000; 2013/14: £25,000

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

TOTAL COST

£ 198,795

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 190,315

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. 2016/17 is a transition year whilst the major HLF funded project is planned to be implemented. During that time there will be the loss of entry income but there will be programmes of outreach activity, taking the work of the Trust across the collecting area.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jeremy Heron: I think that we should support them either through this revenue support or the proposed Heritage Lottery Fund capital scheme, not both.
Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.

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: 2015/16: £9,000; 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

£ 79,500

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 63,000

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 Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
--

Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.
--

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: 2015/16: £2,000; 2014/15: £ 2,000

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

TOTAL COST

£ 437,400

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£ 411,700

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, whose funding has been maintained. The Trust is introducing free entry as part of their effort to increase throughput in the museum and build its audience. This will help boost donations and secondary spend in the Centre.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
--

Cllr Alan Alvey: I have no objection in principle to this application.
--

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: 2015/16: £13,770; 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 under a Management Agreement and Lease with the Council, 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. The outreach work has been taking place during the closure has been valuable in itself and has also contributed greatly to the Activity Plan which will be delivered out of the new building.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Cllr Jill Cleary: I have no problems with this grant
Cllr Alan Alvey: I am not so happy about the Eling Tide Mill as I do not think sufficient information has been provided to make a judgement. I am sure that, if necessary, the information is available somewhere. However in my experience if one is asking for help then it helps if the request is clear and fully complete. I think a bit too much is taken for granted here. (Note – a response was made noting the Council’s Management Agreement with the Town Council and the business plan that accompanies this and the Heritage Lottery Fund application) However I have no objection in principle to any of these applications.

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: 2015/16: £32,000; 2014/15: £32,000; 2013/14: £ 32,000