

COMMUNITY GRANTS**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 Cabinet recommend that Council approve:

- a) Community Grant awards, totalling £130,000 in revenue grants and £96,040 in capital grants, as set out in Appendix 1, and in more detail in Appendix 2, be approved for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and proposed budget for 2024/25.
- b) The proposed recommendations as set out in section 4.2
- c) The Community Transport grants totalling £51,100, as set out in section 5.5 along with the recommendation to respond to the HCC consultation, as detailed in 5.7.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following previous encouragement to promote the community grants, the Task and Finish Group were pleased to see many applications from new organisations, supporting a range of groups and that covered the whole district.
- 2.2 On 27, 28, 29 and 30 November 2023 the Community Grants Task and Finish Group met to consider the Revenue Community Grant applications received for the 2024/25 financial year. We received 43 applications from a range of organisations, including many new organisations. Due to the number of Revenue Grant applications, the Task and Finish Group met on 15 December 2023. We received 15 Capital Community Grants applications.
- 2.3 The value of Revenue grant applications totalled £617,199, (£249,430 in 2022) and Capital grant applications totalled £243,640 (£161,400 in 2022).
- 2.4 The recommended Revenue Community Grant amount includes £35,000 awarded to Community First Wessex as part of a two-year funding agreement which ends on 31 March 2025. Quarterly meetings are held to provide updates on activities undertaken as detailed in the agreement.
- 2.5 Due to the number and value of applications the Group sought to prioritise those that support our most vulnerable residents and communities and provided the most community benefit.
- 2.6 Applicants each gave a presentation to the Task & Finish Group and answered questions. The Task and Finish Group comprised Cllrs, Alvey (Chairman), Armstrong, Crisell, Dowd, Dunning (Vice Chairman), McCarthy and O'Sullivan, with input from key Council Officers.

3. PROCESS

- 3.1 Applications were reviewed by Officers, with clarification sought where there were queries with the application, for example the amount applied for, the organisations

status or the type of project seeking funding. Following the review some applications did not progress and were notified accordingly.

- 3.2 All Community Grant applicants were asked to present to the Task and Finish Group and provide details of their accounts, and how their application would meet the needs of, and benefit or support, 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 and their outcomes and key deliverables.
- 3.3 Following the presentations, the Task and Finish Group thoroughly discussed and reviewed the information submitted with the applications and presented at interview and responses to the Groups specific questions. In formulating a recommendation for each grant request, members considered the agreed criteria, the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, the value for money being offered, or if supported us in delivering our services. Due to the number and value of applications the Group had to make difficult decisions and in a number of instances the Group recommended grants of less than the amount being requested so as to support as many groups as possible and to recognise the benefits of the individual grant applications. Consideration was also given to sustaining organisations over expansions.
- 3.4 The recommendations, with reasons, of each of the grant requests, are summarised in **Appendix 1** and in further detail in **Appendix 2**. Some applicants, where a grant is not recommended, have been given advice and information to support their organisation, including alternative funding streams, details of other organisations that can offer support, such as Community First Wessex, and invitations to join the New Forest partnership meetings where they can network and understand what other organisations are doing across the district.

4. REVIEW OF THE PROCESS

- 4.1 After completing the interviews, the Task and Group reviewed the overall grants process. Whilst acknowledging the considerable administration and time involved, especially this year due to the increased number of applicants, the Group were very supportive of the Community Grants programme which supports the Council's aims and objectives. However, with the increased number of applications, which is likely to increase further in the future as the need for funding is great, it does mean that a significant amount of officers' time is spent on the scheme administration, including responding to enquiries, arranging appointments, five days' worth of meetings and listening to applicants and subsequent report writing and ongoing administration.
- 4.2 On reviewing the Community Grants process the Task and Finish Group recommend:
 - a) For applications for the 2025/26 year, that the minimum revenue grant application amount be increased from £1,000 to £3,000 and that a maximum revenue grant award is set at £20,000
 - b) That any unspent Councillor Engagement Grant at year end is transferred to the Revenue Community Grant budget
 - c) That the Capital Grant scheme is reviewed to consider aligning with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding

- d) That the Revenue Grant scheme is fully reviewed to consider whether alternative processes could be used to simplify administration, and to ensure awards match the Council's emerging Corporate Plan priorities.

5. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANTS

5.1 The Task and Finish Group also considered community transport grants. There are 3 Service Level Agreements with Hampshire County Council for transportation projects all funded from the overall budget for Community Grants. Community First Wessex administer the three schemes.

- Wheels to work – This is a moped loan service which aims to help people between 16 and 25 with no access to suitable transport get to work, apprenticeships, training, or job interviews.

Current NFDC grant funding is £7,396.21 match funded by HCC. The contract is being extended for a further year so that it now ends on 31 March 2025.

- Call and Go – This is a bookable community transport service for anyone whose transport needs are not met by public bus services to go, for example, shopping, to visit a library or to see family and friends. Drivers will assist with carrying shopping and wheelchair accessible minibuses collect users from their home at a pre-arranged time. The cost will vary according to the distance travelled.

Current NFDC funding is £28,675.21 match funded by HCC. The contract is being extended for a further year so that it now ends on 31 March 2025.

- Group Hire – This scheme provides affordable wheelchair accessible minibuses to hire for voluntary or charitable organisations for a period of 3 hours to 1 week. The cost of hire depends on the distance travelled and duration of hire period.

Current NFDC grant funding is £13,671.32 match funded by HCC. The contract is being extended for a further year so that it now ends on 31 March 2025.

5.2 The total current funding for the three community transport schemes is £49,742.74.

5.3 Following an HCC review and subsequent consultation due to the need to reduce budgets, the savings programme to 2023 (SP23) was agreed by HCC Cabinet in October 2021. HCC will be undertaking a review of the Community Transport Schemes, as part of their wider budgetary review, with a decision expected to be made in July 2024 on their future.

5.4 The Group reviewed the numbers using the three schemes, which are recovering following the pandemic, and the impact of the options on service provision.

5.5 The Group was of the view that NFDC should maintain the same level of funding to support our communities, especially those in rural areas with limited transport links. Therefore, The Group recommend the following:

- Funding for Call & Go for 2024/25 to be £29,409.99
- Funding for Group Hire for 2024/25 to be £14,080.04
- Funding for Wheels to Work for 2024/25 to be £7,609.87

5.6 The recommended support funding is within the annual budget available.

5.7 The Group were very supportive of the schemes and written confirmation will be sent to HCC through their current public Future Services consultation to confirm our commitment and support to these schemes and encouragement for their funding to continue beyond 31 March 2025. On HCC making their decision we will give due consideration and discuss and agree our response, however, we will not be in a position to fund any HCC reductions in grant funding.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Task and Finish Group were advised that the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan had allowed for up to £130,000 to be awarded on Revenue Grants and up to £100,000 for Capital Grants.

6.2 The proposals, as set out in Appendix 1, total £130,000 of Revenue grants (£129,600 in 2023/24), which includes the £35,000 grant to Community First Wessex, and £96,040 for Capital grants (£92,000 in 2023/24).

6.3 The proposed budget for 2024/25 for the Community Transport Service Level Agreements, as outlined in section 5 of this report, is £51,100.

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS / DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Community Grants have been awarded to support groups with capital projects to become more energy efficient.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Our Community Grants programme continues to support a wide range of organisations across the district that support, engage and benefit our diverse communities and residents, including those with mental health and disabilities, and vulnerable households.

9. HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

9.1 The Panel considered the Community Grants report and expressed their support to the proposed recommendations for Cabinet approval. It was recognised that a large number of organisations had applied for funding, and that the total value of capital and revenue applications far exceeded the budget allocation. Members recognised that there were a number of worthwhile organisations which had not been recommended to receive any funding and questioned whether it would be possible to consider an increase to the level of funding available to support such organisations in future years. Members noted that a review would be carried out of the Community Grant scheme and that this would align with the Corporate Plan priorities.

9.2 The Panel thanked members of the Task and Finish Group and officers for the work which had been involved in considering the grant applications and forming recommendations.

10. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

10.1 The Council is committed to continually supporting our annual Community Grants programme and the valued contributions this has to our communities. Decisions were particularly difficult, due to the increased number and value of applications received, and I am very pleased at the wide range of the grants awarded that will benefit our communities and support the emerging priorities of the Council. The grants cover all areas of the New Forest and include grants that promote and support physical and social activity and sports, arts and culture, and to local charities and organisations that support our communities and our most vulnerable residents, for example mental health. Considering the administration involved and the expected increase in demand, it is right we review the community grants scheme.

10.2 We are also continuing our support to the three Community Transport schemes, which benefit many of our residents, and we will respond to Hampshire County Council's consultation to confirm our support of their continuation beyond 31 March 2025.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Community Grants Appendix 1 and 2

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS

Appendix 1

A. REVENUE GRANTS

ITEM	APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION	2023/24 AWARD
1	Applemore Waterside Swimming Club	2,000	0	N/A
2	Aquaponics	28,000	0	N/A
3	Avon Valley Community	25,000	0	N/A
4	Avon Valley Shed	6,200	0	N/A
5	Eling Tidemill Experience	25,000	0	N/A
6	Families Matter	5,000	5,000	N/A
7	Flutterby Fund	5,000	0	N/A
8	Forest Forge	15,000	7,000	10,000
9	Hammersley Homes	15,000	4,000	5,000
10	Hampshire Cultural Trust (Forest Arts)	15,000	7,500	10,000
11	Headway	12,000	0	N/A
12	Helping Older people	35,000	0	N/A
13	Honeypot Childrens Charity	10,000	5,000	N/A
14	Living After Loss	30,000	0	N/A
15	Lyndhurst and District Community Association	30,000	0	N/A
16	Marchwood Men's Shed	1,200	0	0
17	Memory Box	3,500	0	N/A
18	New Forest Baseball	5,000	0	N/A
19	New Forest Basics Bank	20,000	5,000	N/A
20	New Forest Bike Project	10,000	1,000	2,000
21	New Forest Cricket Association	5,000	0	N/A
22	New Forest Disability Info Services	28,500	17,000	18,500
23	New Forest Heritage Trust	10,000	0	0
24	New Forest Mencap	10,000	5,000	N/A
25	New Forest Pride	5,000	0	0
26	Parkinson UK	2,500	1,000	N/A
27	PEDALL	10,000	0	N/A
28	Positive Path	15,000	5,000	N/A
29	Ringwood Veterans Club	5,484	0	N/A
30	Solent Mind	24,000	0	N/A
31	SPUD	15,000	5,000	10,000
32	St Barbe	12,000	5,000	10,000
33	St Wins Church	18,733	0	N/A
34	Stepping Stones Pre School	12,000	0	N/A
35	The Crossings	10,000	8,000	5,000
36	The Green Gram	24,720	0	0
37	The Handy Trust	8,000	5,000	7,000
38	Totton and Eling Community Association	26,362	0	N/A
39	Totton Sharks Basketball Club	1,000	0	N/A
40	Wessex Cancer Trust	21,000	0	N/A
41	WetWheels	10,000	0	N/A
42	Woodlands Pre School	35,000	0	N/A
43	Youth and Families Matter	10,000	9,500	10,000
Total		£617,199	£95,000	
	Community First Wessex - SLA		35,000	35,000
Total			£130,000	

B. CAPITAL GRANTS

ITEM	APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION
1	Boldre Parish Council	18,500	9,000
2	Brockenhurst Cricket Club	40,000	0
3	Burley Cricket Club	1,600	2,000
4	Fawley Parish Council	15,000	15,000
5	Fordingbridge Town Council	25,000	0
6	Foxies Future	20,000	10,000
7	Lymington Community Association	26,000	7,500
8	Lymington Cricket Club	1,500	1,000
9	Lyndhurst Drama and Music Society	25,000	15,000
10	Lyndhurst Drama and Music Society	5,500	2,500
11	Ringwood Community Association	10,615	10,615
12	Ringwood Round Table	5,915	5,915
13	Sway Cricket Club	15,000	7,500
14	Sway Parish Council	10,000	10,000
15	Totton Town Council	24,000	0
Total		£243,640	£96,040

A. REVENUE GRANTS**APPENDIX 2**

1	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Applemore Waterside Swimming Club	The club, which has been running for 40 years, provides swimming lessons via qualified instructors, with a current membership of 130

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£ 2,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the club but since the application the club have improved their financial stability. It was considered that alternative funding sources could be explored, including Councillor Community Engagement grants. Although the Group support the promotion of physical activity, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

2	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Aquaponics	New Forest Aquaponics CIC is the UK's first regenerative aquaponics farm. Aquaponics is a nutrient-rich, chemical-free way of 'companion farming' in a system of interconnected tanks where fish and plants grow and nurture each other, providing healthy food in a regenerative and waste-free way. They also support the community with clothes swap, a repair café, and distribute food waste from supermarkets.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£28,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the work of Aquaponics, which is a new organisation, but had concerns over their focus and undertaking several activities, some of which may be being done elsewhere by other organisations, and that limited fundraising had been applied for and obtained.

3	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Avon Valley Partnership Youth & Community Trust	Avon Valley Partnership is based in a charity shop in Fordingbridge and is an outreach arm of Avon Valley churches with the aim of supporting the local community.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£25,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group acknowledged the work of the Avon Valley Partnership, but the grant requested was to employ someone for two years which the Group could not commit to, and there are organisations in the locality providing similar activities. Therefore, when considering the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, the Group considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

4	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Avon Valley Shed	The Avon Valley Shed brings people together in a social setting, to improve mental health, reduce isolation, give a sense of purpose, and to educate and share skills. The Group has 40 members, being open to all, with member involvement on running activities. The Group is a member of UK Association of Men's Shed and is applying for charitable status.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£6,200

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of Avon Valley Shed but considered that more could be done to generate funding, including seeking donations from work undertaken and Councillor Community Engagement grants. Therefore, when considering the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, the Group considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

5	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Eling Tide Mill Experience	Eling Tide Mill is a water mill with visitor centre and activity room with plans to employ a Community Worker to engage with residents from a hub setting.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£25,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group considered that the Town Council could provide financial support to the project, and had concerns about longer term funding for the project, and that there was already similar provision already in Totton.

6	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Families Matter	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 and mental health, and through a crisis, i.e. separation, domestic violence, behavioural problems. They work closely with local schools, supporting children and also run groups for people with dementia and their carers and for families with drug and/or alcohol addictions.
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Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The organisation contributes to the Council's priorities through assisting wellbeing of those in the District, working with vulnerable children and young people and parents. Families Matter work in partnership with other organisations, run parenting courses to those families struggling with their child's extreme angry behaviour, support elderly people with dementia, and their carers, with monthly groups. With an increasing demand, the grant would be used to continue this work in the context of general grant reduction from other organisations.

7	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Flutterby Fund	Based in Cadnam, Flutterby Fund provide equine therapy to children with special needs aged between 0 to 18.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the benefits of equine therapy but considered that although the grant would support 10 children with therapy sessions this was a relatively small number of beneficiaries compared to other applications when considering the grant amount requested, and that more could be done to generate income. Therefore, when considering the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, the Group considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

8	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Forest Forge Theatre Company	Forest Forge is theatre that provides creative learning and outreach activities and 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 mental health. The organisation encourages participation in a variety of activities such as workshops; work experience and targeted outreach projects (e.g., teenagers).

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£30,000	£10,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £7,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Forest Forge provides creative learning activities across the district and contributes to community cohesion and wellbeing. It supports local business and provides experience for young people's employability and seeks to be fully inclusive by engaging with all communities. It works in schools, tours a production about mental health, has set-up a youth theatre with over 100 attending and a trans youth theatre.

9	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Hammersley Homes	Hammersley Homes apply a person centred approach to provide emotional and practical support for people with mental health and aims to provide supported living accommodation for vulnerable adults so that they can live independently. They provide an outreach programme and aim to keep people out of hospital by providing support in their own home.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£20,000	£5,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £4,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group supported Hammersley Homes ambitions and aims and the importance of the work they do with supporting vulnerable people, focusing on those with mental illness and their families, and that the funding will enable them to increase their programme to support more people as demand is expected to increase.

10	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Hampshire Cultural Trust (Forest Arts Centre)	Forest Arts Centre is part of FOLIO, a collaboration of arts and heritage organisations, and provides a leading venue for quality live music, comedy, theatre, arts, activities, and events based in New Milton and has an extensive outreach programme. The Centre's priorities include providing high quality cultural programming and community benefit and targets working with schools, including Greenwood, adults with learning disabilities, and older people with dementia or Parkinson's disease.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£15,000	£10,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £7,500 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Forest Arts contributes to the Council's priorities by helping local business grow by supporting artists and attracting visitors to the area, and service outcomes for the community with events, activities, and projects. The venue also seeks to provide accessible and affordable space for hire, e.g., Hampshire Autism, host activities and events, offering opportunities to showcase

artistic output at affordable process. Forest Arts seeks to improve mental and physical wellbeing, for example Dance for Parkinson's, and seeks to develop outreach work, as well as a LGBTQ+ youth drop-in. The grant is ring-fenced to the Centre and the work in the district, ensuring our residents benefit, and the Group recommended exploring business sponsorship to increase fundraising income.

11	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Headway	Headway are based in Totton and support people and their families affected by brain injuries

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£12,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the work Headway do but considered that they are currently well funded and that the NHS should be providing support. Therefore, when considering the number of grant applications received, the Group considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

12	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Helping Older People	Helping Older People provide free support, advice and befriending services as well as running two charity shops.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£35,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The application was to expand service provision, and although the Group acknowledge their work, with limited funding available priority is given to sustaining organisations. The Group considered that therefore, when considering the number of grant applications received, the Group considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

13	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Honeypot Childrens Charity	Honeypot Childrens Charity support young carers aged between 5 and 12, including offering respite breaks at their home

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of Honeypot and their plans to reach out to more young carers, a cohort who have very limited support available from other sources.

14	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Living After Loss	Living After Loss provide counselling sessions to those affected by a bereavement and are seeking a permanent location for drop-in sessions.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£30,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group were supportive of the application, it was considered that an application to secure a permanent building space could be resolved with partnership working with other organisations.

15	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Lyndhurst and District Community Association	Lyndhurst and District Community Centre has halls, meeting rooms and a charity shop that serve the local community and plan on recruiting a Centre Manager to manage the hall and generate income.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£30,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group recognise the value of community buildings, it considered that funding a centre manager was not a priority, when considering other grant applicants, and that the position could be self-financing with initial support from other organisations.

16	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Marchwood Men's Shed	The Men's Shed has recently formed with the purpose being to bring people together in a social setting, to improve mental health, reduce isolation, give a sense of purpose, and to educate and share skills. The Group has 20 members, being open to all, with member involvement on running activities. It intends to make links with the community, already undertaking a bird box and planter project. The Group is a member of UK Association of Men's Shed and is applying for charitable status.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£1,2000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group fully supported the project, and recognise its benefits, it was considered the group could do more to be self-sustaining, for example membership fees like other Men's Sheds, and apply for alternative grant funding. When considering this, and the membership numbers, the Group did not consider a grant appropriate when considering other priorities.

17	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Memory Box	Memory Box are based in Southampton and aim to combat loneliness and social isolation for those aged 50 plus, working in Ringwood and Fordingbridge libraries, through their "Memories, me and tea" project.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£3,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

18	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Baseball	New Forest Baseball are a club seeking to promote and expand participation of baseball in the area, including having their own maintained pitch

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the promotion of physical activity, it considered that the group could seek alternative funding and sponsorship, and with the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, it considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

19	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Basics Bank	New Forest Basics Bank operate a Food Bank from Lymington which supports the surrounding areas, including schools and community hubs.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£20,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the support given to vulnerable families, especially with the cost of living, and the work New Forest Basics Bank do with schools and supporting the Food Larders, along with the reduction in donations and increasing demand resulting in having to purchase items.

20	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Bike Project	New Forest Bike Project (NFBP) is a Not for profit Community Interest Company and re-cycles bikes and sells them at reduced rates, benefiting residents by offering an affordable source of bikes and parts, especially to those on a low income, to keep people on the road, fit and healthy, reducing the need for car journeys and the impact on the environment. It provides opportunities and a place to help those with issues in their lives improve their confidence, self-esteem, practical and social skills.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£5,000	£2,000	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £1,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group support the work of this project, especially as part of the greener agenda and to encourage recycling and cycling, providing more affordable access to bicycles for households struggling with the cost of transport, as well as providing volunteering opportunities and training.

21	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Cricket Association	New Forest Cricket Association support the local village and town cricket teams, who are members, and runs competitions and promotes the game.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the promotion of physical activity, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

22	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Disability Information Service	New Forest Disability Information Service (NFDIS) provides specialised, free, impartial, and confidential disability related information, advice, and guidance to anyone with a disability who lives or works within the New Forest area. NFDIS are the only organisation within the New

		Forest that support and represent the most vulnerable disabled clients at welfare benefit tribunals. NFDIS specialise in providing mobility aids and equipment, and collaborate with community and other organisations to help people maximise their wellbeing and live safely and as independently as possible in their own home.
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Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£18,500	£18,500	£28,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £17,000 be given

REASON FOR DECISION:

NFDIS is the only organisation of its kind in the district and provides an essential service to the vulnerable in the face of ever-increasing demand and supports the council in many ways, including with the Just Got Home, working from Lymington and Fordingbridge hospital, and Independence Matters projects. The Group acknowledged the great work of NFDIS in supporting vulnerable and disabled residents.

23	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Heritage Centre	The free entry New Forest Heritage Centre is the only museum dedicated to the social and natural history of the New Forest. Their aim is to inspire visitors to explore and value the New Forest by collecting, conserving, and interpreting 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 an accredited Museum, Reference Library, which preserves historical artefacts, shop, and Exhibition Gallery.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£5,000	£0	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group took into consideration the work of the Heritage Trust, but considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
24	New Forest Mencap	New Forest Mencap support residents with disabilities, including through sessions, and their families, and operate a charity shop.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the work Mencap do to support those with learning disabilities and the work with partner organisations.

25	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Pride	New Forest Pride (NFP) is a registered charity which supports the LGBTQ+ community. NFP aim to host another free event in Lymington, with an estimate of between 5,000 and 6,000 attending, after the first Pride festival which took place there in 2023.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£1,500	£0	£1,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Whilst the Group supported the aims of NFP, it considered that funding for one-off events are not within the scope of the Community Grants. The Group wished NFP well for the event and stated that the Council is keen to work with the group on future projects and provide information on other grants available.

26	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Parkinson's UK New Forest Branch	Parkinson's UK New Forest Branch support those living with Parkinson's and their families, and host coffee mornings and meetings, seminars and events.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£2,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £1,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the tailored and specialist work Parkinson's UK New Forest do across the district to support those affected by Parkinson's

27	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	PEDALL	PEDALL provide inclusive cycling opportunities for all ages and abilities and needs

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the promotion of physical activity, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

28	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Positive Path	Positive Path provides mentoring, support and advice to people with mental health issues

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group acknowledged the hard work of Positive Path and the impact it has on the lives of people that it has supported, along with the work with partner organisations to maximise the benefits with their limited resources.

29	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Ringwood Veterans Club	Ringwood Veteran Club support veterans with a group meetings to provide a social environment to reduce isolation

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,484

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the group, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

30	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Solent Mind	Solent Mind is an independent charity covering Hampshire providing help, support, advice and information to those with mental health issues, and works with partner organisations.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£24,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group were supportive of the work Solent Mind does to help those suffering with mental health, it considered that this work should be funded by alternative means through the National Health Service or Public Health.

31	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	SPUD	SPUD is an arts and education charity that creates opportunities for people to creatively engage with art, architecture, design, and the environment. SPUD supports people works with and support various groups including, youth, disabled, autism, LGBTQ+ and dementia.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£15,000	£10,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group support the work SPUD does with vulnerable groups, which aligns closely with the 'Culture in Common' programme that the Council is involved in delivering across the district. SPUD's work with residents with dementia and with young people to support their mental wellbeing was noted, as was their outreach programme that builds on the community partnerships. The Group supports the work SPUD does, acknowledging the increase in utility costs, and was impressed with the impact of SPUD. With limited funding, the Group unfortunately could not support the full grant request.

32	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery	St Barbe is a museum and art gallery providing a cultural hub and educational facilities on the heritage, culture, history, and character of the New Forest. It is part of FOLIO, and provides learning services for schools and interest groups, including workshops, exhibitions, and curriculum-based activities. St Barbe also has a coffee shop which is used to support groups, e.g., an Elderly Programme for "memories" and works with low-income families, e.g. holiday workshops and activities and Food programme and outreach work.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£16,000	£10,000	£12,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

St Barbe supports NFDC priorities through assisting with the wellbeing of those in the district, as well as attracting visitors. St Barbe provide a wide range of activities, for all ages, and is a vibrant community hub, working with schools, disabled groups, those suffering with dementia or autism, holiday programmes, and a Young Curator group, as well as working with apprentices as part of the government Kickstart programme. The Group were very supportive of the outreach programmes and the summer camps for children eligible for free school meals. Whilst the Group

fully supported its work, regrettably pressures and limitations on budgets meant that it was not able to recommend meeting the grant request in full.

33	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	St Wins Church	St Wins Church is based in Totton and runs various community projects from the church, including Tots and Toddlers group, café and warm space and youth group.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£18,733

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the work of the church, it considered as the application was not separated from church and any grant would be used to support church activities and aims it was not within scope of the grants scheme.

34	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Stepping Stones Pre-school	Stepping Stones pre-school is a pre-school based in Fordingbridge for 2 to 5 years olds.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£12,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group acknowledge the importance of pre-schools it did not consider that subsidising a lack of government funding was within the community grants scheme.

35	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	The Crossings	The Crossings offer support and help to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness and marginalised in the Waterside area. They operate three drop-in centres which provide a welcoming, non-judgemental space in which people can feel safe to discuss their current issues, which can be multiple and complex. The Crossings support people to make Homesearch, Universal Credit or other benefits applications, some of whom struggle with literacy or numeracy, or they are digitally excluded, and provide signposting advice and information.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£15,000	£5,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the valuable work done to support vulnerable people and the joined up working with our Homelessness Teams where there is joint attendance and collaboration at drop-ins. The grant will enable The Crossings to continue their drop-in and expand their home visits capacity. The longer-term plan is for The Crossings to expand beyond the Waterside and The Group fully support this.

36	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	The Green Gram	The Green Gram is a community refill shop in Fordingbridge which enables residents to purchase everyday food and household supplies without single use packaging and reusing their own containers. The Green Gram aim to reduce food waste, increase recycling and reducing the environmental impact.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£24,720

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the Green Gram's vision and environmental impact but did not feel able to support the application and this was for a two year post which could not be committed too.

37	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	The Handy Trust	The Handy Trust provides full youth support services to children and young people aged up to 25. They work in the Waterside area offering a 24/7 service at home, in schools, providing drop-ins and advice and support on relationship, sex and drug issues, as well as in the community with supporting families, and provide holiday clubs and run youth clubs.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£7,000	£7,000	£8,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the value of the grant and the huge work and outcomes achieved by The Handy Trust in supporting young people, families and support to those in crisis.

38	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Totton and Eling Community Association	Totton and Eling Community Association rent a building from Totton Town Council to provide space for services and groups to meet

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£26,362

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the promotion of activities at the community centre, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

39	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Totton Sharks Basketball Club	Totton Sharks Basketball club provide opportunities for juniors and adults to play basketball

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£1,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the promotion of physical activity, it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

40	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Wessex Cancer Trust	Wessex Cancer Trust provide emotional support to people, and their families, affected by cancer, including counselling, therapy, support groups and a befriending service.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£21,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were not presented with financial information relating to the New Forest and the application was to expand existing service provision. Although the Group support their work it considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, and considered that at this time. priority is given to sustaining organisations.

41	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Wetwheels	Wetwheels are based in Hamble and provide boating experiences for people with disabilities

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group were supportive of Wetwheels, it is not fully established in the district and needs to develop this further before considering a grant. The Group considered the limited funding available, the number of grant applications received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

42	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Woodlands Pre School	Woodlands pre-school is a pre-school based in Netley Marsh.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£35,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group acknowledge the importance of pre-schools it did not consider that subsidising a lack of government funding was within the community grants scheme.

43	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Youth & Families Matter	Youth and Families Matter (YFM) is a small charity that works in Totton to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families whose lives are complex and impacted by many forms of disadvantage, mental illness, serious illness, addiction, or abuse.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£10,000	£10,000	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £9,500 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

YFM met the Council's objectives by assisting in the wellbeing of local people and supporting families, through working with young people and vulnerable families at risk by a combination of support sessions and groups. YFM actively work with many partner organisations, run a foodbank supports the Food Larder, with 30-40 households being supported each week, as well as providing a warm space this winter and works with the Council as part of the Cost of Living Steering Group.

B. CAPITAL GRANTS

1	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Boldre Parish Council	To renovate the recreation ground and play area, providing facilities for all ages to a rural and surrounding community

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£18,000	£4,000	£18,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £9,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of regenerating the play area in a rural area with a range of equipment, which was done in consultation with local residents, where opportunities for recreation are limited.

2	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Brockenhurst Cricket Club	To build a new club pavilion which is accessible, safe, secure, sustainable, and fit for purpose for a growing club.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£175,000	£70,000	£40,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group support the project, there were concerns as planning permission had not been granted and that the costings of the project needed further exploration. A future application is encouraged once these issues are resolved.

3	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Burley Cricket Club	To replace the existing nets which need replacing due to wear and tear and the unavailability of spare parts.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£3,200	£1,600	£1,600

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £2,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project and recommended a higher grant award to ensure better quality and more robust nets could be purchased to ensure a greater return on the investment given the unique challenges of playing on the open forest.

4	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Fawley Parish Council	To purchase new equipment of a Thera trainer to support people with their rehabilitation and to replace the existing lift to ensure compliance with safety standards.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£35,185	£20,185	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £15,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were complementary of the work done to ensure opportunities for disabled residents to be active and supportive of the provision of additional services and the lift replacement project to ensure the building could be used and accessible for all and to ensure wider community use.

5	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Fordingbridge Town Council	To create a 5km circular path to be used by a new Park Run and improve accessibility for residents.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£100,000	£75,000	£25,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant is given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of encouraging physical activity but concerns were raised that approval had not been confirmed from relevant governing bodies that changes to pitches and layout met standards and that no negative impacts will be incurred on the site.

6	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Foxies Future	To purchase the Girl Guiding activity centre at Foxlease to ensure it is retained for Girl Guides and other groups and organisations to use.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£3,134,000	£830,000	£20,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the value and benefit of the activity centre to the community and were encouraged by the plans for wider usage and funding secured to date. It was considered that a grant from the Council would demonstrate the Council's support for the facility and help leverage other grant funding.

7	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Lymington Community Association	To renew and renovate the café to include improving access, kitchen and bar facilities, a courtyard garden and the installation of solar panels.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£52,413	£26,413	£26,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £7,500 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognise the Lymington Community Centre is a community asset with wide and extensive community use of the building which would be enhanced by the project and the environmental benefits, which would also support the financial sustainability of the building.

8	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Lymington Cricket Club	To purchase a bowling machine for practice by club members.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£3,000	£1,000	£1,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £1,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project to support a vibrant club with their cricketing activities for all sections of the local community.

9 and 10	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Lyndhurst Drama and Musical Society	The project is twofold, firstly, to improve the existing changing facilities, toilets, kitchen, and bar and secondly to undertake electrical works to ensure safe and regulations met.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£61,000	£22,500	£25,000 and £5,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £15,000 and £2,500 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project to support a community building which would be used by more groups across the community and support further work and funding applications, such as Arts Council England.

11	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Ringwood Community Association	To replace the wooden flooring which is 60 years old which is damaged and unsafe

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£21,251	£10,636	£10,615

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,615 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project to support a community building which is used by many groups which benefits the local community.

12	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Ringwood Round Table	To build a new skate ramp in Poulner

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£11,830	£1,020	£5,915

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,915 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project to improve physical activity in the area which has been identified by the Town Council as lacking through consultation with local young people. The Group were impressed with the fundraising efforts to date and that consideration had been given to the impacts of the project and materials to be used.

13	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Sway Cricket Club	To replace the existing nets which need replacing due to wear and tear and the unavailability of spare parts with a permanent structure.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£30,000	£15,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £7,500 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of the project which will enable promotion of junior cricket and promote physical activity.

14	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Sway Parish Council	To replace and improve the playground equipment which is over 20 years old to provide a bigger, safe, inclusive and more challenging facility for the community.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£70,000	£60,000	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were supportive of improving the playground to provide facilities for all ages, and which are accessible, safe and used by many local residents.

15	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Totton Town Council	To enhance the space available for community events

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£48,000	£6,000	£24,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant is given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group considered that there are already venues within Totton and Eling which provide space for community events, which have access and are suitable and have capacity.