

APPENDIX 2

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

SUMMARY: The Trust operates the Blashford Study Centre and nature reserve on behalf of NFDC; Wessex Water and Bournemouth Water. All the partners contribute core operational funding. Indeed, both water companies individually contribute more per annum than the Council, in what is a discretionary activity for these commercial companies. The Trust provides informal and formal education opportunities for adults and young people. They are also able to offer a number of regular education and conservation volunteering opportunities. As they are a Trust, they have been able to attract significant investment in capital works, such that the site has won awards for its accessibility across the Reserve. Targeted programmes such as “buggy walks” for young parents; “walking for health” are all part of the broad appeal and impact of the project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMARY CODA are an independent music trust, which is developing its links with local schools and community groups. There have been successful projects in the New Milton area and this application will enable more project work to be done. The aim is to facilitate creative music making for all ages and sectors of the community through high quality participatory music programmes, workshops and projects. Their funding will support particular work with children and young people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The project objectives are;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
a)£80000	£144,000	£ TBC
b)£60,000	£45,000	£15,000
c)£11,000	£1,500	£2,500

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REASON:

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