

Adur Competitive Community Grants Budget 2014/15 – Round 1

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the Cabinet Member to consider the allocation of the 2014/15 grants budget. Eleven applications were received before the closing date of 16 May 2014. The applications total £35,457 and the amount in the grants budget is £78,650.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 There is no legal obligation on the Council to provide financial or other assistance to voluntary and community groups. However, the Council recognises the vital part played by such groups in the life of the District e.g. in the Councils' corporate priorities 2011-14: 'Develop ways in which the Councils can commission the Community and Voluntary sector to deliver services'.
- 2.2 The Council currently provides grants to voluntary groups in two ways: through ongoing contracts and Service and Funding Agreements with a number of key providers, and through a small grants programme which is subject to applications made on the application form **see Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 The Council also supports voluntary groups through the granting of discretionary rate relief and subsidised rents. However, the recommendations in this report do not apply to these forms of support.
- 2.4 In 2013/14, grants to the value of **£121,765.44** were awarded to **24** local organisations.
- 2.5 The eleven applications received in the first round of 2014/15 grants will be scored against the criteria set out on the application form – see copy of scoring criteria in **Appendix 2**.

3.0 Proposals

A summary of each of the eleven applications can be seen below.

3.1 Adur Outdoor Activity Centre

AOAC are a registered charity whose charitable aims are;

- to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities primarily by reason of their youth, but also for the reasons of age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances, or for the public at large, with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- to advance education for the public benefit, primarily physical education for young people.

Funding of **£1,968** has been requested for the purchase of a storage facility for equipment such as bike's, canoes and kayaks used at the centre. New bikes have recently been purchased with funding from SDNP and a 20ft x 8ft container is needed for them to avoid the equipment deteriorating outside. Planning permission has been granted for the unit.

3.2 As You Are Centre

The As You Are Centre is a registered charity based at the Corner House in Southwick. The centre aims are to;

- relieve distress and enable people to develop their own personal resources to facilitate and maintain emotional and psychological wellbeing
- to promote counselling and group work as effective ways of responding to mental health issues including depression and anxiety, stress and relationship breakdown.
- to provide therapeutic services which are accessible to all in the community, including low cost for people on a restrictive income
- to provide training placements for trainee counsellors where they can obtain practical experience and develop their own professional identity
- to address factors causing or amplifying mental health problems and to actively challenge stigma associated with mental illness.

Funding of **£5000** has been requested to provide educational workshops to people across Adur to inform and educate people in the local community about issues related to or associated with mental ill health. Workshops will challenge stigma and reduce barriers to those affected therefore improving outcomes and access to support.

Workshops will include;

- Mental health first aid training
- Self-harm and suicide awareness
- Harm minimisation
- Eating disorders
- Living through trauma

3.3 Fishersgate Community Association

FCA is a registered charity which aims to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Funding of **£5,000** has been requested towards a variety of arts and cultural events to be held in Fishersgate over the coming year. In particular, to work with Wordfest and other partner organisations such as The Cornerhouse.

Funding has already been secured for events in the Adur Festival 2014 from the Arts Council and it is hoped that the addition of regular arts activities in the area will provide local residents with the opportunity to participate in things they would not usually have the chance to try.

3.4 Adur Community Leisure (Impulse Leisure)

Adur Community Leisure aim to launch a new initiative – Walking Basketball for the over 50s. This will provide opportunities to a target group to increase activity, to learn new skills and techniques and to improve social skills / interaction.

Funding of **£4710** has been requested to start a regular weekly session of walking basketball for the over 50's. The initiative will run at a low cost / free to concessions and is aimed to improve fitness, wellbeing and social activity specifically targeting deprived areas including the Mash Barn Ward to allow the same opportunity for all users to access sport and wellbeing to improve their way of life and to make new friends. The grant will be used to fund the venue hire, equipment, qualified coaches and marketing.

3.5 Lancing Art Club

Lancing Art Club started in January 1953 and aim to promote interest in visual arts within the local and surrounding communities.

Funding of **£1,349** has been requested for the purchase of two display boards , three pavement signs, room and van hire and publicity materials for this year's annual art exhibition.

3.6 Safe in Sussex (Worthing Women's Aid)

Safe in Sussex is a registered charity affiliated to Women's Aid nationally. Their mission is to break the cycle of domestic abuse; to support and empower women, children and young people to remain free from all forms of psychological and emotional abuse and physical and sexual violence. They provide information, advice, support and advocacy and facilitated group sessions throughout West Sussex. They also provide refuge accommodation for up to 12 families across their two refuges based in Worthing and a Children's Support Service for children in refuge.

Funding of **£3,770** has been requested in order to start running the Freedom Programme in Adur, and in particular Eastbrook Ward. At the moment this cannot run as there are no funds available to run a free crèche facility for women with children who need to attend. There is also a need to run Stay Free and Recovery Toolkit. These are both programmes for women who have left abusive relationships. These programmes will be run from the Children and Family Centres in Adur.

3.7 Spotlight UK

Spotlight UK is a registered charity which based in Basingstoke, which provides activities in West Sussex, Hampshire and London. Spotlight UK aims to provide affordable activities for all to increase confidence through social interaction.

Funding of **£2,700** has been requested to run an intergenerational project working with young people (ages 5 – 16 years) to research 'The History of Britain'. This will include interviewing local older residents. They will then produce a film documentary or play based on what they have discovered. This will lead to an arts award.

3.8 Shoreham & Adur Debt Centre

Shoreham & Adur Debt Centre, in partnership with Christians Against Poverty charity (CAP) debt counselling service, offers a free and confidential debt counselling service and debt resolution service to all people groups in the Adur District who are suffering from severe financial issues and unmanageable debt for whatever reason. They also provide ongoing support through volunteer support workers (befrienders).

Funding of **£2,000** has been requested to continue the essential work of the debt centre. Funding will contribute to training a debt coach to assist the Debt Centre Manager as the need and client list increases and towards promotion and publicity to raise awareness of the help the centre can give.

3.9 Shoreham Wordfest 2014

Shoreham Wordfest aims to advance education, health and wellbeing for the benefit of the public of all ages, to promote the District and to benefit the local economy.

They achieve this by running events and activities which promote the spoken and written word including readings, discussions, poetry, song, books, plays and other writings, and the arts in general.

Funding of **£2,500** has been requested towards:

- funding writing workshops and author readings for children and young people during our autumn festival and occasional events throughout the year
- writing workshops for adults of all ages, encouraging wide participation amongst target groups, and from more deprived localities in Adur
- Ensuring all events are accessible and affordable with some free events, to ensure maximum participation from a wide cross-section of the community
- Promoting inter-generational work with parents, grandparents and children
- Work with primary and secondary schools locally to encourage inter-school collaborations on writing, reading and creative activity

- Developing a volunteer scheme, including work experience for young people
- Building a membership scheme to help sustain the organisation and events in the future
- The organisation of all our events is entirely voluntary, so there is 100% return on grant investment

3.10 West Sussex Mediation Service

West Sussex Mediation Service is a registered charity committed to improving wellbeing / quality of life by helping individuals to resolve conflict and disputes through mediation without the need for recourse to courts or other sanctions.

Funding of **£2,500** has been requested to promote the use of mediation in the Adur community to resolve conflicts and provide education on the use of alternative dispute resolution and to service the resulting casework. Efforts will be made to target areas of deprivation.

3.11 Worthing Thunder ‘Dunk Start’

Worthing thunder is a Community Interest company which aims to provide benefit to the local community throughout Adur, Worthing and Sussex, in particular to school children, schools, youth groups and sports organisations. Also to local charities and similar organisations.

Funding of **£3,960** has been requested to introduce the Dunk Start Basketball Programme to primary school children in Adur, from years 6. The emphasis will be on teaching the skills and learning the rules of the sport and the coaching will be delivered by professional sportspeople and coaches with a further emphasis on health education and basic sports science. The grant will enable the coaches and players to go into Adur schools to deliver:

- 12 hours of coaching/health education per school
- To provide each school with 10 basketballs
- To provide a basketball delivery guide
- To take part in a free of charge basketball tournament at the end of the sessions at Worthing Leisure Centre
- Free tickets to watch the professional Men’s side Worthing Thunder
- A match day programme for participating children and an opportunity to meet the players and obtain autographs.

4.0 Legal

4.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act, 2000 allows a Council to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This includes the giving of grants.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There will be approximately £43,193 remaining in this grants pot following the allocation of these grants, if all the applications are agreed by the Cabinet Member.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member

Makes decisions concerning the allocation of the 2014/15 Adur Community Grants budget in line with the suggested scoring criteria. A further two rounds of grants will take place in September and January.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

None

Contact Officer:

Jo Marshall-Inns
Communities Team Support Officer
01273 263311

Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 Work more closely with and commission our communities, the voluntary sector, public organisations, business and commercial sectors to develop and deliver services

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 Develop ways in which the Councils can commission the Community and Voluntary sector to deliver services.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 Scoring criteria include: 'targeting inequalities and deprivation' and 'target local neighbourhood improvement areas'

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 Supporting the voluntary sector locally enhances the Council's reputation

8.0 Consultations

- 8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

- 10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

- 11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

- 12.1 Partnership working with the voluntary and community sector