

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET 27 AUGUST 2013**

Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report

COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS 2013

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet to agree the allocation of funding from the 2013 Community Grant Aid Scheme.

Relationship to Council Objectives

Objective 2 – Safe, healthy and cohesive communities

Implications

- (i) This is a key decision.*
- (ii) Within the policy and budgetary framework.*

Financial Implications

There is sufficient Community Grant funding available to meet the recommendations in this report.

Risk Implications

None

Equalities Implications

Support to the voluntary sector assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities.

Sustainability Implications

Support to the voluntary sector assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities and in building sustainable communities, through empowering community action. Projects funded through the community grants programme support community participation that impacts positively a number of key objectives including community cohesion, health and wellbeing, the local environment and community safety.

Background

- 1 Chiltern District Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme has been in operation for over ten years supporting a diverse range of local voluntary organisations. Following the completion of the 2012 grants programme, Cabinet requested a review of the scheme to focus on simplifying the application form, increasing member involvement and developing a more consistent scoring process. (See **Appendix 1**).
- 2 The new arrangements were introduced for the 2013/2014 scheme and included;
 - a. A new streamlined application form
 - b. Members invited to feedback on projects delivered in their own respective wards
 - c. A traffic light evaluation system highlighting how each application supports the Council's key corporate objectives in relation to developing community capacity, improving health, supporting the local economy, enhancing community cohesion, protecting the environment and improving community safety
- 3 Responses to the new scheme have been positive. For example, fifty three application forms were submitted, the highest number ever received. There has also been positive feedback from applicants regarding the new application form and specifically comments regarding how much easier and less complicated it is to complete.

"This updated form was certainly more straightforward and concise than the previous one. The previous application form seemed rather confusing when it came to answers about the Chiltern District Council objectives and how our work matched the local aims etc. I liked this new one much better."(Relate)

"I was impressed by the clarity of the web application, particularly the flow of questions. It was more logical than many others I have used."
(Amersham Rugby Club)

- 4 Councillors have been more involved in the scheme not only feeding back their views on applications but also being made aware of the diverse range of activities that are delivered within their respective wards.

Evaluation Process - 2013/14 Community Grant Aid Scheme

- 5 This year's scheme attracted fifty three applications that collectively requested funding totalling £85,188. The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totals £801,754, which would be achieved by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising reserves. The total grant fund available for Chiltern's Community Grant Aid scheme is £32,000 which includes a £2,000 contribution from the Community

Safety budget. The higher volume and improved quality of applications has resulted in the decision making process becoming even more challenging.

6 All applications were arranged into three distinct categories. Those attaining the **Green** standard strongly support a broad cross section of the Council's key objectives, have strong councillor support and have successfully secured additional funding. It is proposed that applicants achieving Green status receive 60% of their requested grant apart from those requesting £500 or less who will receive 100% funding. Applicants achieving **Amber** status partially support the Council's objectives, have councillor support and contribute funding towards their project receive up to 25% of their grant request. Applicants classified as **Red** status do not strongly support the Council's objectives, have limited or no match funding, have limited/no councillor support and/or can secure funding from an alternative source receive no funding.

7 Details of how the applying organisations are categorised is detailed in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

8 **Table 1- Applications Awarded Green Status**

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	No of Beneficiaries
Age Concern Amersham & District	Good Neighbour Scheme & Lunch Club	2,000	1,200	124
Alzheimer's Society South Bucks Office	Chiltern wide Support/Social Group	1,378	827	25 (Carers trained)
Amersham Band	Establish a New Beginners Band Increasing the Number of Community Events Supported	1,200	720	60
Amersham Stroke Association	Chiltern Wide Support Group	2,000	1200	20
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	Best Village Competition	300	300	000's'
Buckinghamshire Mind Employment Support	Chiltern Wide New IT Support Employment Programme for	1,000	600	36

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	No of Beneficiaries
Camaraderie	Social Group – Vulnerable Elderly Residents	556	333	26
Chalfont St Giles Revitalisation Steering Group	Literary Festival	2,000	1,200	5000
Chalfont St Peter Youth Centre	Diversionsary Activities	2,000	1,200	250
Chenies & Chalfont District Guides	First Aid and Volunteer Development	780	468	200+
Chesham Community Hub	Support Local Businesses	2,000	1, 200	4000
Chesham Over 50" Positive Action Group	Social Activities for Vulnerable Elderly Residents	500	500	60
Chiltern Credit Union Working Group	Credit Union Provision District Wide	2,000	1,200	600
Cholesbury-Cum-St Leonards Local History Group	New IT – Archive and Share Local Historical Documents	1,650	990	500
Friends Of Little Chalfont Library	New Carpet Fitted	2,000	1,200	000's'
Hivings Free Church	Pond Park Diversionsary Football Programme	2,000	1200	83
Holmer Green Youth Club	New Friday Night Session 15-16 yrs	2,000	1,200	60
Little Chalfont Good Companions Club	Social Activities – Vulnerable Older Residents	500	500	40
Mind The Gap	Chiltern Wide Support group – Residents with Mental Health Conditions	1,980	1,188	40
Moor Stars	Waterside Diversionsary Sports Programme	,2000	1,200	70

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	No of Beneficiaries
Pond Park Community Association	Community activities, Mums, Young People & Elderly	2,000	1,200	1,500
Prestwood Youth & Community Action Group (PYCAG)	Diversiory Friday Night Youth Club Session	2,000	1,200	30
Relate Mid Thames & Buckinghamshire	Chiltern Wide Counselling Service – Family Disputes	2,000	1,200	30
Shed @ The Park	Chiltern Wide Environmental Theatre Production For Disabled Young People	1,000	600	70
Skidz	Chiltern Wide Diversiory car Maintenance Programme	2,000	1200	20
Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases	Chiltern Wide Developing Volunteers to Support Families Who have a Child who suffers from the Condition	2000	1,200	20
ThamesValley Partnership	Offender Mentoring Programme	2,000	1,200	24
Lantern Club	Holmer Green Music Therapy Disabled/Elderly Residents	500	500	14
Little Missenden Festival	Community Festival	500	500	2,000
Village Appraisal Group (Chalfont St Peter)	Town Centre regeneration programme	2,000	1,200	000's'
Waterside Community Association	Diversiory Activities, Website & Newsletter	2,000	1,200	1,000

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	No of Beneficiaries
Total		£45,844	£28,426	

9 Table 2 - Organisations Awarded Amber Status

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	No of Beneficiaries
1st Holmer Green Scouts	Refurbish Scout Hut	2,000	500	115
Amersham Old Town Community Revitalisation Group	Remembrance Book stimulate Intergenerational Activities & Community Resource	2,000	500	60
Chalfont St Giles Youth Club	Energy Efficiency – Lighting & Cavity Wall Installation	2,000	500	100
Chesham Cricket Club	Refurbish new Clubhouse/Pavilion	2,000	500	300
Friends Of Lowndes Park	60 Year Community Festival	2,000	500	1,200
FSC Amersham Field Centre (Mop End)	Field Trip - Disadvantaged Pupils	1,490	372	30
Great Missenden District Guides	Improve HQ building	1,600	400	160
Moving on Theatre	Acting/Production Training Disabled Women 45+	2,000	500	Not confirmed
Prestwood Colts & Girls FC	Coach Education Programme	2,000	500	300
Total		£17,090	£4,272	

10 Table 3 - Organisations Awarded Red Status

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	Justification
Amersham And Chiltern Rugby	Solar Panels	2,000	0	Club Already Holds a High

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	Justification
Football Club				Level of Reserves £157k
Amersham And Chiltern Rugby Football Club	Coach Development	2,000	0	High Level of Reserves and Potential Funding Available via Bucks Sports Bursary Scheme
Bucks Play Association	Toy Library	2,000	0	Limited Evidence of Need, Councillors Questioned the Value of the Scheme
Business & Traders For Chalfont St Giles	Community Fete/Festival	2,000	0	Chiltern District Council Have Already Supported the Project – Covering Printing & Road Closure Costs
Chesham Youth Centre	Film Night Project	1,900	0	Funding Available to Deliver the Programme via Addaction
Chiltern Youth Project	Diversionsary Project	2,000	0	Funding Through CDC Community Safety Team
Emmanuel Church	Debt Advice Service	2,000	0	Duplication with CAB
Hindu Cultural Association	Health/Exercise Programme	2,000	0	Poor Quality Application, Lack of Evidence of Financial Sustainability and no Match Funding

Organisation	Project	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	Justification
Holmer Green Cricket Club	Cricket Mats	1,556	0	Limited Value for Money, no Match Funding & no Councillor Support
Little Missenden Parish Council	Play Equipment	2,000	0	Funded through Parish Council/No Councillor Support
Seer Green Parish Council	Play Equipment	2,000	0	Funded Through Parish Council/No Councillor Support
The Chiltern Dial-a-Ride Ltd	Install Cameras in all Vehicles to Improve the Security of Service Users and Drivers	798	0	No Match Funding and Limited Evidence to Demonstrate How the Project Supports the Council's Objectives
Victoria Road Residents Association (VRRRA)	New Community Association	2,000	0	Community Team Will Support the Group providing a grant of £300 to Cover Initial Set up Costs
Total		£24,254	£0.00	

Conclusion

- 11 Positive applicant feedback and the high volume of application forms demonstrate a promising start for the new community grant aid scheme. This increased level of demand has placed additional pressure on the Council's limited resources with £85,188 being requested from an available budget of £32,000. To reduce reliance of Chiltern District Council funding all applicants were invited to attend a

Community Impact Bucks funding advice surgery session to help lever in more external funding.

- 12 To provide a fair and consistent approach, all applications were assessed and evaluated with their overall quality categorised as Green, Amber or Red. Using this assessment approach results in the Council awarding £32,698 to forty different community organisations.
- 13 All application forms have been placed in the Members' Room (since 19th July) along with a summary report highlighting each applicant's key strengths and weaknesses along with associated councillor comments.
- 14 Members are asked to agree the proposed allocation of funding as detailed in Tables, 1, 2 and 3 of this report.
- 15 Following the completion of this year's programme a review of the scheme will be undertaken to identify areas for improvement that can be introduced next year.

Background Papers: Appendix 1 - 2012/13 Community Grants Member Summary + Report