

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Grant Aid Awards 2015 - 2016</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Graham Harris – Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

Recommendation

1.1 That Cabinet support the proposed allocation of Community Grant Aid Scheme funding as detailed in the report.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme helps enable local community organisation improve local services and facilities for residents. The projects detailed in appendices 1 and 2 are recommended to receive funding primarily because they support the council's key corporate objectives, have member support and represent good value for money. The scheme also helps attract significant external funding into the district, acting as leverage to the various applying organisations. For example, the forty one projects recommended for funding will collectively attract an additional £316,222 into the district.

2.2 Supporting 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 aid scheme support community participation that impacts positively a number of key objectives including community cohesion, health and wellbeing, the local environment and community safety.

3 Content of Report

3.1 The Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme supports a diverse range of local voluntary organisations. The total grant fund available for Chiltern's Community Grant Aid scheme is £32,000. The number and quality of applications has resulted in a challenging decision making process.

3.2 The scheme supports the Council in delivering the Five Ways to Wellbeing programme, helping enable local voluntary and community organisation, deliver a diverse and exciting range of services for local residents, older and younger people to;

- Connect with others in the community
- Be Active by participating in sports or community activities
- Take Notice of what is going on in the community
- Learn new skill or pass on their skills to others
- Give through volunteering

3.3 The projects are assessed on how well they directly support the Council's key corporate objectives, for example, improving health and well-being, reducing anti-social behaviour, developing volunteers, enhancing the local environment and supporting the local economy.

3.4 This year's scheme attracted forty seven applications that collectively requested funding totalling £69,944. The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totals £330,415 which would be achieved by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising reserves.

3.5 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 has resulted in the Council awarding £32,069 to 41 different community organisations.

3.6 All application forms were placed in the Members Room (from 15th July) along with a summary report highlighting each applicant's key strengths, weaknesses and associated councillor comments.

3.7 All applications were arranged into three distinct categories. Those attaining the **Green** standard strongly support a minimum of four of the Council's key objectives and also have councillor support. It is proposed that applicants achieving Green status should receive 60% of their requested grant apart from those requesting £500 or less who will receive 100% funding. (Appendix 1)

3.8 Appendix 2, details those applicants that achieved **Amber** status, namely those community organisations that strongly support three of the Council's key objectives and have councillor support. Applicants attaining this standard are recommended to be awarded 40% of their grant request.

3.9 Finally, applicants whose projects are classified as **Red** status do not strongly support the Council's objectives, have limited councillor support and/or can secure funding from an alternative source receive no funding and are listed in Appendix 3.

4 Consultation

4.1 Councillors were actively approached to comment on applications being proposed in their respective wards. The Leader and Portfolio holder for Community, Health and Housing were asked to comment on larger schemes that served the district as a whole.

4.2 All the applying organisations were approached and asked to comment on their experience of going through the community grant aid scheme and offer feedback to improve the scheme moving forward. As a result of this consultation the online application form has been simplified and broken down into two separate sections forms making it easier to complete.

4.3 The Community, Health & Housing Policy Advisory Group endorsed the recommendations contained in this report.

5 Corporate Implications

5.1. Financial

There is an approved budget of £32,000 to support the proposed community projects.

5.1 Environmental

Several of the projects have a positive impact on the local environment, including developing more energy efficient community facilities, encouraging green transport and offering educational opportunities to improve awareness and understanding of the local natural environment.

5.2 Equalities

The Community Grant Aid Scheme directly supports the voluntary sector to assist a diverse range of residents including the old and vulnerable, young people, disabled residents and socially disadvantaged.

6 Links to Council Objectives

Work towards safer and healthier local communities

Improve community safety

- Work with young people at risk of becoming involved with crime

Promote healthier communities

- Address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable

Promote local communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering

Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

- Promote energy efficiency and encourage the reduction of carbon emissions

7 Conclusion

- 7.1** The high volume and diversity of applications demonstrates the importance of the Council's community grant aid scheme in helping support local voluntary community groups. This increased level of demand has placed additional pressure on the Council's limited resources with £69,944 being requested from an available budget of £32,000. To reduce reliance of Chiltern District Council funding all applicants will also be invited to attend a Community Impact Bucks funding advice surgery session to help them attract further funding.
- 7.2** Members are asked to agree the proposed allocation of funding as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Appendix 1

Table 1 – Community Grant Applicants Awarded Green Status

Applying Body	Project Details	Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	60% Grant Awarded	Participants
All Saints Church	New youth clubs in Winchmore Hill and Coleshill	£2,291	£1,431	£859.00	40
Amersham Band	Professional level teaching support, conductor training and music resources.	£1,560	£1,200	£720.00	90
Bellingdon & Ashridge Village Hall & Recreation Ground Association	New industrial dishwasher and cooker for community centre	£5,300	£2,000	£1,200	2,500
Botley Playing Fields Association	Install a new playground at Botley Road playing fields	£56,334	£2,000	£1,200	1,500
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	Encourage Chiltern villages to enter the Bucks 'Best Village Competition'	£3,700	£350	£350	000's'
Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Revitalisation Steering Group	Chalfont St Giles Literary Festival	£14,000	£1,500	£900	6,000
Chalfont St Giles Youth Club	Purchase new chairs, sports and arts equipment	£3,100	£2,000	£1,200	350
Chalfont St Peter Youth Centre	Develop and provide programmes for young people including sports activities, film projects, Bike Doctor' sessions, games nights, and supporting local community events.	£10,000	£2,000	£1,200	400
Chalfont U3A	Laptop and two projectors to increase the range of classes and activities	£850	£850	£510	500

Applying Body	Project Details	Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	60% Grant Awarded	Participants
Chesham Over 50" Positive Action Group	Broaden the range of social activities for elderly residents living in Chesham which includes day trips, IT training and coffee mornings.	£1,050	£400	£400	60
Chesham Rugby Club	Develop a new permanent club house/changing facility	£51,000	£2,000	£1,200	300
Chesham Walkers are Welcome	Develop 4 new heritage walk leaflets to encourage healthy lifestyles and visitors to Chesham	£1,500	£1,500	£900	000's'
Chiltern Youth Projects	Deliver outreach summer diversionary programme, involving outreach youth workers	£10,000	£2,000	£1,200	250
Drug FAM	Family support network that is affected by a drug/alcohol user within their family.	£2,000	£2,000	£1,200	100
Holmer Green Youth Club	Replace and improve old and damaged furniture	£1,800	£1,800	£1,080	250
Little Chalfont Good Companions Club	Social activities for vulnerable older Residents	£2,500	£500	£500	30
Pond Park Community Association	Deliver a range of community activities including older people's social group, youth club activities and mother and toddlers Group	£2,425	£2,000	£1,200	2,500
Pond Park Rangers	Expansion of the youth diversionary programme, helping reduce ASB	£18,900	£2,000	£1,200	
Prestwood Youth & Community Action Group (PYCAG)	Train and develop volunteers and offer external trips for young people attending youth club activities	£3,100	£1,748	£1,050	30
RCCG Christ Liberty House	To establish a new boys brigade club in Amersham	£2,000	£500	£500	40
Total		£193,410	£29,779	£18,569	

Appendix 2

Table 2 – Community Grant Applicants Awarded Amber Status

Applying Body	Project Details	Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	Amount Awarded	Participants
Amerindis	Cultural, health and sports activities for the Indian community	£5,000	£1,500	£600	500
Amersham Community Association Short Mat Bowls Club	Purchase two new indoor bowls mats	£2,000	£2,000	£800	62
Artic One Foundation	Run the Chiltern Junior Para Triathlon at Chesham Leisure Centre	£1,350	£1,000	£500	75
Chesham Cricket Club	Furniture for pavilions at Chesham and Chartridge and outreach girls coaching programme	£2,000	£1,700	£680	500
Chalfont Bee Keeping Association	Purchase ten specialist bee suits to enable students and visitors to train and become members to the club	£1,000	£1,000	£500	200
Change4Chalfont	Worm Magic a composting project delivered in local schools	£800	£800	500	1750
Chesham Waterside 50+ Stretch & Flex Group	Develop a new additional weekly class to attract new members into the club	£1,799	£1,000	£500	23
Chiltern Open Air Museum	Literacy workshops for local children from disadvantaged backgrounds	£900	£900	£500	90
Friends of Lowndes Park	Organise a Chesham wide picnic/classical music event for the whole community in Lowndes Park	£2,400	£1,300	£520	500
Gold Hill Baptist Church	Purchase a mini bus to enable vulnerable and isolated residents to access local activities	£7,000	£2,000	£800	100
Hospice of St Francis	Support the travelling cost of specialist nurses to visit and support terminally ill patients and their families	£2,000	£2,000	£800	1,000

Ley Hill School PTA	Ley-Fest '15 is a community music festival for adults and children.	£2,850	£2,000	£800	1,000
Little Chalfont Charitable Trust	Two disabled accessible picnic table and benches for new nature parks.	£2,350	£2,000	£800	2,000
Little Missenden Festival	Community Festival	£36,360	£1,000	£500	1,500
Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases	Develop 25 volunteers to develop specialist childcare disabled children and their siblings	£2,600	£1,000	£500	25
SPACE	Redevelop the group's website to encourage on line discussion and access to information for parents who have children with ADHD	£2,300	£2,000	£800	200
The Source HP16	Develop five community newspapers, print and distribute throughout Great Missenden	£4,000	£2,000	£800	000's'
Toy Bank	Offer disadvantaged parents new and nearly new Christmas presents for their children	£3,300	£2,000	£800	500
Victoria Road Residents Association	Organise a street party, develop local newsletter and undertake a community consultation programme to address residents' concerns	£1,165	£865	£500	120
Village Older People's Action Group	Support social activities for older people from Chalfont St Peter and surrounding villages	£1,638	£500	£500	100
Winchmore Hill Methodist Church	Renovate church building to improve community space provision in the village	£40,000	£2,000	£800	100+
Total		£122,012	£29,765	£13,500	

Appendix 3

Table 3 – Community Grant Applicants Attaining Red Status

Appling Body	Project Details	Requested Funding	Funding Awarded	Justification
Amersham Artisans	Train local artists and exhibit their work	£2,000	£0.00	Group received funding for a similar project last year and project does not strongly three of Council's key objectives
Chesham Action Partnership	'Christmas in Chesham' festival ' brings together the local community, attracting visitors from across the community to celebrate the festive season	£500	£0.00	Chesham Action Partnership already receives £2,000 core funding from CDC
Chesham Bois Combined School PTA	Purchase computer tablets for the new school library	£1,500	£0.00	Project does not support the Council's corporate objectives
Coleshill Parish Council	Relocate a new play area into a more appropriate position within the village	£2,000	£0.00	As a precepting authority, Coleshill PC has the power raise funds internally
Mums for Mums	Support group for young mums within the Amersham community	£2,000	£0.00	Project does not support the Council's corporate objectives
Wycombe Woman's Aid	Train volunteers to run a new self-esteem programme for women in Chesham who have been victims of domestic violence	£1,600	£0.00	The group is already funded via a council service level agreement, not eligible for community grant scheme
		£9,600	£0.00	