



Chesham Community Board Funding – Summary from the Funding working group

The funding working group (Cllr Emily Culverhouse, Cllr Patricia Birchley, Cllr Jane Macbean, Cllr Peter Jones) met on 19 February to review the funding applications received to date. This update provides a summary of the applications received, the amounts requested and the comments and recommendations of the group to be considered and agreed by the board in its meeting on 3 December.

The funding summary reports for each application are attached with the agenda for more information. If anyone would like to see the full application they are more than welcome to request these from the Chairman.

Overview of funding available:

£90,014	Communities Area Priorities Fund
£14,408	Health & Wellbeing Fund (£2000 recently to CHCV)
£24,375	Local Infrastructure Fund
Total	£128,797 remaining

Funding Applications Received and funding group recommendations to the board:

Group	Amount Requested	Overview	Recommendation to the Board from Funding Working Group (Emily Culverhouse, Patricia Birchley, Jane Macbean, Peter Jones)
1. Voices and Choices		Community Companionship service - trained volunteers matched with users and work closely with them to understand their interests and needs, and provide	The group would like to know the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many people the project will reach and benefit in Chesham?

	£5000	information and referrals to local support networks or activities. The aim of the project is to reduce loneliness in older people, and has come at a particular time where more people are socially isolated and may be in need of support and companionship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is new about the project as opposed to what was already being delivered? • How will the group ensure they are not duplicating what other orgs deliver - e.g. the county connections support service, the role of council community link officers and others reaching socially isolated individuals. • Do they reach out into the villages surrounding Chesham? <p>The group have received funding from Amersham CB £5k and have applied to Missenden's CB (meeting on 1 Dec).</p> <p>Recommendation – to approve £3000 to go towards the costs of the volunteer, not the other costs.</p>
2. Chiltern Voice	£10,000	Chiltern Voice Community Radio won an FM Broadcast Licence for the term of 5 years. Funding is being sought to finance additional equipment and installation work to enable the radio station to launch on FM wavelength in April 2021.	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the group receive money from Amersham and Missenden's and how much (applications were £5k to each board?) <p>Recommendation: The group recommends that the funding of £5,200 should be awarded to bring it in line with the amounts requested of the other boards on the basis that the radio station will service all communities equally.</p>
3. Restore Hope	£2000	The FoodLife Christmas Hamper project aims to bring joy to families who would not otherwise be able to afford a Christmas meal. Restore Hope aim to deliver 225 Christmas hamper boxes and 75 Alternative Boxing Day Treat boxes to local families.	<p>Recommendation: To agree the application in full - £2k.</p>

4. Oasis Education	£9,000	The Oasis Partnership requires funds to part finance a project worker, in order to launch its Employment, Training, Education and Volunteering, (ETEV) project for the Chesham and Villages community. This project provides a wide range of different opportunities that focus on supporting people to move towards employment, breaking down barriers that may be in their way. This project will also support the Chesham and Villages community as a whole by supporting people to become economically stable and in employment.	<p>Due to the huge increase in unemployment in the Chesham area the group feel that this project will help address the life chances of individuals in a sustainable way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of men in Chesham claiming UC and JSA in September 2020 was 948, (ages 18-50+), compared with 318 in February of 2020. • The number of women in Chesham claiming UC and JSA in September 2020 was 711 (ages 18-50+), compared with 242 in February of 2020. <p>Recommendation Approve in full - £9k</p>
5. Oasis Food & Fun	£5,000	A new pilot project to run every Friday for 1 year and is aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged families in Chesham. Providing healthy and nutritious food to families. Teaching families how to prepare and cook on a budget.	<p>The group feel that there is a huge amount of funding going into food in the area. Whilst both this and the education project above are new, they will support the education one to fill a clear need for extra support. The group feel that they would like to see how Oasis projects are having an impact locally and how the food and fun projects embeds and would welcome an application on this further down the line, if a need is demonstrated.</p> <p>Recommendation – to not fund at this stage but to consider at a later stage when impact can be demonstrated.</p>
6. CAB	£5128	The project will upskill advisers with specialist benefits training. The objective is to continue to assist local people in Chesham and the surrounding villages with the most up to date, accurate and detailed welfare benefits advice. The benefits system is complex, ever changing and more clients are reliant on it since the outbreak of the pandemic.	<p>Recommendation: to approve the full amount £5128</p> <p>Question: Would like to see evidence of how this advisor will link in with other projects e.g. the Oasis education project.</p>

7. AG Parish Council	£1314	The funding is for the installation and operation of Fibre Wi-Fi in the Memorial Hall and Old School for the benefit of the whole Community and will be free to all. Once the Wi-Fi is installed the AGDCA will offer free training for both computer use and smart phone usage to all demographics in need.	<p>Recommendation: To approve the total £1300</p> <p>The group feel this is a modest amount to provide digital connectivity training opportunities to the whole community, particularly elderly and socially isolated.</p>
8. Cricket Club	£11000 is total costs, but applicant only seeking £7500 from the board to cover equipment costs.		<p>The group felt that this was beneficial for a village community as a community physical activity facility. However, if funding, they would like to see evidence of how the volunteer time freed up as a result of the equipment has resulted in increased physical health and wellbeing activity support for local residents.</p> <p>The group felt that there may be opportunities to seek match funding from other funding sources, due to the physical activity nature of the application.</p> <p>Recommendation: The group feel that providing funding of £7,500 would contribute significantly to the local community and would encourage the applicant to seek match funding.</p>
Total	£37,442 (Requested)		Total (recommended funding to approve): £33,128