

## **Funding Applications – summary**

### **Voices and Choices      (£5,000 requested)**

Voices & Choices are offering a Community Companionship service whereby trained volunteers will be matched with users and work closely with them to understand their interests and needs, and provide 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. The group has extensive knowledge of networks across the Missenden Community Board area and are very well respected by the community.

As part of the project, Voices and Choices will run local information sessions for residents to learn more about the services that can help. They already work closely with Trading Standards, local police and bank personnel and will initially focus on avoiding all forms of financial abuse. They have close relationships with many local organisations including Citizens Advice, AgeUK Bucks, Carers Bucks, the Alzheimer's Society, and local disability groups. They will also offer a quarterly meeting for group facilitators to share experiences and strategies for supporting lonely people who attend their groups and to help identify them in the future.

### **Comments from the board –**

- Concerns raised over lack of matched funding for the new service and how we can be sure that the service will be used for benefit of Board area residents.
- Members were also keen to point out the potential cross over-in services offered between this application and that from the CAB. Also Social Prescribers linked with our local surgeries offer similar signposting and support roles. It was also felt that there was a cross-over with support from Prevention Matters. Other comments suggested that there is already a good network of support for the elderly in the area and that the service would not be restricted to Missenden Board area residents
- Some support for a reduced contribution from the CB with Voices and Choices seeking the remainder from matched funding.
- The group has also applied to both Amersham & Chesham & villages CBs

### **Holy Trinity Garden     (£5,400 requested)**

Within the churchyard of Holy Trinity Prestwood (HTP), is an area reserved solely for the interment of ashes, this is a Christian space within the estate of the Church, but is open for the whole community of Prestwood and Great Kingshill, not just those who worship at HTP.

The garden is now nearly full and within two years will no longer be able to receive further interments. At this point, all future interments will typically, be in Amersham. We thus wish to build an appropriate memorial wall where ashes can be buried at the base of the proposed monument, rather than in caskets as present, and people can be commemorated by inscriptions on the wall, enabling a much higher usage density which should allow the garden to be kept open for many years to come (>50 years) and maintain a connection between the local community and the last resting place of the remains of their loved ones.

If we are unable to raise these funds, then the site would normally be handed over to the Council for admin/maintenance purposes.

### **Comments from the board –**

- Sub group members split between supporting and not.
- Comments against argue that there is a perfectly good service already on offer at Amersham. Also felt that it is not generally appreciated that this facility is open to all and not just to those who use Holy Trinity Church. However, transport links from the Board area to Amersham are not good and this could limit accessibility of the Amersham facility. Some residents think that the project should be funded by the Church.
- Comments for include the observation that local volunteers will get the opportunity to help with maintenance (felt to be good for mental health). The Church have demonstrated commitment to the project and raised a significant amount towards the cost. The application also acknowledges the importance of biodiversity on the site.
- Some support for a reduced amount to be awarded

**Chiltern Voice****(£5,530 requested)**

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.

The station will have the potential to reach all of the community in the Chilterns and everyone will be able to benefit from local news, interests and services. It will provide a platform of promotion for local people, groups and causes who will be invited to tell their stories as guests of the station.

Chiltern Voice will open up training and volunteering opportunities which may prove valuable during and post Covid-19. Schools and young people will be encouraged to participate and offered training and useful life skills.

The aim is to provide a feel-good, local community vibe which is educational, inspiring, entertaining and a voice and news channel for the local community.

**Comments from the board –**

- General scepticism from sub-groups on the value of this project. It is felt that local news operates through multiple social media platforms already and the area is supported by other radio stations but that it is a good way to keep people connected and give voice to local people and businesses. Also concerns that the station is very Chesham – based and there may some bias towards activity and content. Also concern that the target age for the station is 25-65 which leaves out our identified for support groups of youth and the elderly
- Suggestions that, if supported, the CB could request coverage of activities by the Board to increase people's awareness of the work of the Board.
- Broadcasting on FM allows them to be accessible to listeners in the same way as any other radio station, in their cars, homes and at work.
- Funding has also been sought from Amersham and Chesham & Villages CBs

**Chiltern Arts****(£1,000 requested)**

Requesting support for a concert by the Sacconi String Quartet in March 2021, to be held in St Peter & St Paul's Church in Great Missenden.

Social distancing means that fewer tickets than usual can be sold so support needed to subsidise the artist's fee.

Full attribution would be given in all our publicity and on our website. It would also be a way of giving the Board some valuable, visible publicity.

**Comments from the board –**

- There was limited support for this application. Members felt that the reach was limited and the money could be better spent at the moment. Uncertainty about the viability of the event also cited as a reason for rejecting the application.
- It was suggested that the money would be better spent on equipment for live-streaming which could be loaned to venues. This would make the reach from events wider and more accessible. A new application from an organisation prepared to manage the equipment would be required for this idea. There is support for the arts in the area and for projects that will help with social isolation or youth engagement.

**CAB (£8,755 requested)**

A specialist adviser to give one to one advice to people over 65 or in poor health in the Missendens.

The objective is to address clients' isolation, maximise their income and help them find a way forward.

Now in its third year, Home Advice was set up as a home visit service to address isolation in older people and those in poor health. Many are unable to travel to our offices or outreach locations due to health reasons and often struggle financially. Our Home Adviser reviews clients' welfare benefit entitlements, helps to reduce their utility bills, arranges food bank parcels, helps clients with issues such as housing, debt, income tax and applying for a Blue Badge. Pre-COVID, he also provided information on socialising in the community.

During the pandemic, we have adapted our service to give telephone support and have a fast-track direct line.

This is more important than ever as isolation is enforced on the elderly and vulnerable. Our Home Adviser also has an increasing amount of work relating to appeals – particularly for Personal Independence Payment (a disability benefit) – which are often complex and can last for many months. Our adviser will revert to home visits subject to the lifting of government restrictions and our own COVID-19 risk assessment.

The referral process with other local partners such as Chequers Surgery, Prospect House Surgery, Buckinghamshire Council, Connection Support, Bucks Mind, Carers Bucks, Paradigm Housing - as well as our own internal referrals – is well established.

**Comments from the board –**

- Social Prescribers linked with our local surgeries have indicated support for the application as it will help them to signpost residents to appropriate help and will support their roles. Generally felt that this advisor is needed locally and would be an important asset
- The scheme will complement another funded by the Amersham Board to provide advice on debt
- Concerns raised over lack of matched funding for the new service and how we can be sure that the service will be used for benefit of Missenden Board area residents. How will this be funded going forward? Another application next year?
- Members were also keen to point out the potential cross over-in services offered between this application and that from Voices & Choices.
- CAB have also applied for funding from the Amersham board for a different project (debt advice).

**GMPC for Great Missenden Traders group**

**(£500 requested)**

We aim to raise funds to purchase and install Christmas tree decorations in Great Missenden High Street and Station Approach.

This is an annual event which helps to raise awareness of the High Street and stimulate trade for the shops and restaurants. Particularly necessary this year to raise spirits during these difficult times.

**Comments from the board –**

- Some members are in favour and an equal number against. Those in favour think it will offer a much needed boost to the community at this time and will offer support to local traders struggling to keep business going at this time
- It should be pointed out that both PC's have been offered the opportunity to apply for support with Christmas decorations this year in order to support the local area and raise some Christmas cheer. Traders would normally support these initiatives but have had a tough year.

In addition to this application for Christmas support from GMPC, we have 2 late applications for similar support with no time to request feedback from the board in terms of support –

**Prestwood Events Group**

**(£1.184 requested)**

Match funded by the group, for additional lights for the village to replace their usual Christmas Spirit event

**Little Missenden Parish Council**

**(£1,291 requested)**

For Christmas trees and lights for Holmer Green village, particularly the area around the shops in the village centre.

All 3 applications are submitted in the spirit of raising community spirit in the Christmas season and to support traders who would normally contribute to the events but who have had a tough year financially.

**Weedon Hill crossing (PID)**      **(£7966.30 total cost of works)**

Safe crossing place for those attending Hyde Heath School

The revised PID came in at a much lower cost than the original.

LMPC have had a lower quote through an approved contractor and have elected to pursue that option rather than TfB

NO DECISION TO MAKE

**Frith Hill path (PID)**      **(£37,527.17 cost of works)**

There is support for this scheme as it will increase safety for pedestrians at a time when traffic from HS2 access is increased.

Great Missenden PC have indicated that they have a financial reserve set up for potential funding required by the Community Board projects, however no resolution was made to contribute a specific sum towards this project.

I am informed that GMPC will consider at their next meeting

NO DECISION TO MAKE AT THIS MEETING