



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	Delegated Decisions Meeting – Cabinet Member for Customer Delivery 5 January 2022
Report Number	Agenda Item I
Subject	Community Activity Grants
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jane Doughty Cabinet Member for Customer Delivery Tel: 01993 774945 Email: jane.doughty@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Heather McCulloch Community Wellbeing Manager Tel: 01993 861562 Email: heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	The purpose of the meeting is to determine applications to the Community Activity Grant scheme.
Annexes	Annex A - List of all applications
Recommendation/s	<i>a) To approve, under delegated authority, the applications as set out in Annex A to the report</i>
Corporate priorities	Healthy Towns and Villages - Facilitating healthy lifestyles and better wellbeing for everyone. Strong Local Communities - Supporting and building prosperous and inclusive local communities.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	None

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.** Community Activity Grants aim to support grassroots community groups wishing to undertake community based activity which contributes to the health and wellbeing of residents and quality of community life. This year, following Covid, the Council especially wants to encourage activity which helps residents to safely re-connect with each other and the community around them, especially those who face barriers to achieving this.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1.** The current round for applications closed on 8th December 2021. The scheme had been paused until that point as many activities were on hold due to Covid restrictions and the fact that the public remained cautious about attending events.
- 2.2.** The Council received 16 applications. The applications were reviewed against the compliance checklist. Any outstanding information was requested from applicants. All eligible applications were scored using a scoring matrix and reviewed by an officer panel.

The scoring measures the degree to which each application :

- offers opportunities to the wider community
- is designed to improve physical or mental wellbeing
- connects people who are isolated
- is innovative
- can demonstrate value for money

- 2.3.** A table showing details of all eligible applications is attached as Annex A.

- 2.4.** One application has been withdrawn and deferred to the next round in April 2022 to give more time to establish key processes.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1.** The total budget for Community Activities grants in 2021/22 is £11,000. The maximum grant award available is £500. The total value of the projects proposed is £115,698. Should all applications be approved as per Annex A the total cost to the Council will be £6,946.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1.** All applications were received ahead of the deadline. One application is being withdrawn as not meeting the compliance check. The level of funding recommended for each application is in line with the criteria of the scheme. The organisations and activities described in the applications, which are being recommended for an award, are judged to comply with the terms of the grant scheme and meet the criteria.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.** The risks posed by the decisions in this report are very low to the business/Council. There is a low risk that despite receiving the funding an applicant could fail to carry out the activity as specified. This risk is mitigated by only allowing certain types of organisations to apply. Furthermore a report is requested at the end of the activity to show how the Council's funding has been spent. The maximum grant awarded is £500 and the application process is rigorous having a compliance check, a set of criteria and an application form.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1. The recommendations will have a positive impact on the communities which are the focus for the activities detailed in the applications. No Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out for this scheme.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

7.1. There are no implications in relation to climate change although 3 applications relate to activity which is promoting growing food and protection of natural habitats. All activities take place in West Oxfordshire and are local community activities. This means that attendance is less reliant on having a car or access to public transport.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. The Council could decide not to award the grants as set out in Annex A or award them at different levels.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Community Activity Grants 2021 - Application forms

9.2. These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Woodgreen, Witney. OX28 1NB during normal office hours for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. Please contact the author of the report.

Community Activity Grant applications 2021/22

Ref No	Applicant Organisation	Project Details	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Amount recommended
CAG/2122/01	Oxfordshire Play Association	Free, Community Playday event in Eynsham	£4,500	£500	£500
CAG/2122/02	Thomas Gifford Trust	Scrabble Club - intergenerational	£600	£500	£500
CAG/2122/03	Oxfordshire Play Association	Free, Community Playday event in Carterton	£4,500	£500	£500
CAG/2122/04	Witney Allotment Association	Community orchard	£1,050	£500	£500
CAG/2122/05	Oxfordshire Play Association	Free, Community Playday event in Witney	£4,500	£500	£500
CAG/2122/06	Bampton Classical Opera	2022 summer opera in Bampton	£61,900	£500	£375
CAG/2122/07	Charlbury Bowls Club	2022 summer camp for young people	£2,665	£321	£321
CAG/2122/08	Yellow Submarine Holidays	Reach is a project to help over 18's to achieve their goals and reach their full potential	£16,685	£500	£500
CAG/2122/09	2120 (Witney) Squadron RAF Air Cadets, Civilian Welfare Committee	Equipment to enable more participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	£1,030	£500	£500
CAG/2122/10	West Oxfordshire Community Transport Limited	Training Volunteers to cover Ops Control shifts	£250	£250	£250

CAG/2122/12	Dance Creative	Dance for Life Witney classes for people with long term conditions - Live Again	£3,450	£500	£500
CAG/2122/13	Lunchtime Recitals	Series of free accessible lunchtime concerts in Witney, popular with older residents	£1700	£500	£500
CAG/2122/14	Burford Environmental Action Group	Build some raised beds and purchase some more tools and a bench for the allotment	£700	£500	£500
CAG/2122/15	Carterton Methodist Church	Equipment for the new community garden space for people to grow food and share with the community	£11,606	£500	£500
CAG/2122/16	Long Mead Foundation and Nature Recovery Network	Nature restoration, care-farming (working with adults with learning disabilities and autism)	£562	£500	£500
TOTAL			£115,698	£7071	£6946