

9. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEISURE AND SUSTAINABILITY & HEAD OF ECONOMIC PROMOTION & PLANNING

Contact Officer: Simon Hardy, Principal Development Manager,
Wards: All
Affected:
Key Decision: No
Email: Simon.hardy@midsussex.gov.uk **Tel:** 01444 477454

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present thirteen Facility, Small Revenue and Community and Economic development grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel. In addition, Members are requested to agree two sponsorship awards to local business events.

Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered under the Facility, Small Revenue and Community & Economic development funds and the recommendations from the Grants Assessment Group on the level of financial assistance to be awarded to each organisation are detailed as follows:

Facility Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
St Andrews Church	Community Buildings Project	£200,000	£28,500
East Grinstead Rugby Football Club	3G Sports Pitch	£75,000	£50,000
St John's Sunshine Pre School	Outdoor Playspace (Phase 1)	£1,500	Nil
Total		£276,500	£78,500

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Haywards Heath Town Council	Peace Memorial Stone	£750	£750
Haywards Heath Community CIC	Winter Market	£3,640	£3,640
Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board	Contribution towards Strategic Planning Advisor (£4,000 per year for two years)	£8,000	£8,000
The Greater Brighton City Deal	2015-16 Contribution towards the Greater Brighton City Deal and Greater Brighton Next Steps Project	£10,864	£10,864
Total		£23,254	£23,254

Small Revenue Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Burgess Hill Youth	Contribution towards holiday activity programme in Burgess Hill 2015/2016	£2,000	£2,000
Disability Access – East Grinstead Area	Contribution towards running costs	£1,000	£800
Lindfield Arts Festival	Contribution towards Arts Festival	£2,000	£2,000
Relate North & South West Sussex	Rental costs of East Grinstead Premises	£1,500	£1,500
Sheddingdean Community Association/Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	Rental costs of Community Centre and Maple Room	£4,020	£4,020
West Sussex Mediation Service	Contribution towards running costs	£2,500	£1,500
Total		£13,020	£11,820

Communications – Sponsorship

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Media Sound Holdings Ltd (Bright FM)	Community Achievement Awards	£895 (Plus VAT)	£895 (Plus VAT)
South of England Show Agricultural Society (SEAS)	Young Craftsperson of the Year Award 2015	£1,000 (Plus VAT)	£1,000 (Plus VAT)
Total		£1,895 (Plus VAT)	£1,895 (Plus VAT)

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to:

- (a) consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendices A, B and C of this report,
- (b) consider the recommendations for two sponsorship awards details of which are attached in Appendix D
- (c) agree on the theme for the 2015/2016 Spotlight Grants Programme.

Background

3. This is the first meeting in the 2015/2016 financial year, which considers Small Revenue, Facility and Community and Economic Development grant applications.

4. Applications for all grants are assessed against a standard checklist and considered by a "Grants Assessment Group" to ensure a consistent approach to the awarding of grants.
5. As part of the Council's transparency agenda, this Panel have been requested to decide upon two requests for annual sponsorship. These awards have been provided by the Council over many years and relate to the Bright FM awards and the South of England Show.

Assessment and Policy Context

6. All applications are assessed against the criteria for the grant scheme, the strategic cultural context and the Council's corporate priorities.
7. The applications received in this grants round have been considered by the Grants Assessment Group comprising relevant officers from across the authority together with a representative from West Sussex County Council's Public Health, and, unless there is a conflict of interest, the local Council for Voluntary Service.
8. The Group reaches a consensus as to the merit of each application judged against the agreed criteria and the level of funding that should be recommended to the Cabinet Grants Panel.
9. The presence of outside representatives on the group has enabled effective information exchange with regard to any possible duplication of funding and service delivery. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendices A, B and C.
10. All organisations have met the basic criteria and specific grant criteria, i.e. are fully constituted voluntary and not for profit organisations, and have provided the relevant information to support their application.
11. Details of the two applications for sponsorship are attached in Appendix D for Member's consideration.

Spotlight Grants Programme

12. The annual Spotlight Programme which was launched in 2006/2007 is intended to highlight specific local priorities within the district of Mid Sussex and give particular parts of the community more emphasis.
13. It is suggested that the Spotlight theme for 2015/16 is Older People and small grants will be made available to voluntary/community groups for one-off projects/events, or items of equipment, that aim to improve the lives of older people living in Mid Sussex.
14. The Spotlight Grants are usually around £500 and are aimed at new innovative projects and exclude those that are already on-going and running costs.
15. All applications need to meet the basic criteria of the corporate grants scheme and the standard assessment process will be applied. The Spotlight applications will be considered at the autumn meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Other Options Considered

16. The grants provided by this Council are 'pump priming' in the context of enabling the applicants to lever in substantial monies from other organisations, grant-giving charities and national schemes.

Financial Implications

17. All Facility Grants are funded through the use of S106 contributions which the Council holds for the enhancement of capacity for sport, community buildings and other purposes as a result of residential development.
18. Members may recall that as part of the savings for 2015/16, the Council agreed to remove the small revenue grants budget and fund grants made from the Community & Economic Development fund, therefore all awards will be funded from the fund which currently stands as follows:

Scheme	Fund as at 1st April 2015	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£128,000	£0	£128,000

19. If Members agree to the recommendations the fund will be reduced by £35,074 leaving a remainder of £92,926 for the remaining two grants round for 2015/16.

Risk Management Implications

20. The main associated risks that may impact upon the successful implementation of the decisions arising from this report would be the inability of the funded organisations to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
21. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
22. A Contract is signed at the application stage by organisations seeking funding that details the terms and conditions under which the grant is given, including the return of all monies to the Council should the purpose for which the grant is awarded not materialise. In respect of Facility Grants, the Council may impose additional safeguards.
23. All organisations are requested to complete an End of Grant Report at the end of the funding period and required to submit information relating to the grant including purchase invoices, details of the number of residents benefiting from the grant, annual accounts, how the grant was used etc.
24. It is considered that these measures would mitigate the main risks from materialising and indicate a low-risk to the successful outcomes arising from this report.

Equality and customer service implications

25. As part of the assessment process all of the organisations applying for funding from the Council have complied with the required conditions of funding and have the requisite policies and procedures in place including any other relevant legislation.

Legal Implications

26. The Council is not obliged to provide grant funding, but by virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, it is able to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area. This includes the incurring of expenditure, giving financial assistance to any person (or organisation) and entering into arrangements or agreements with any person.

Background Papers

Grant applications and associated documentation for the Small Revenue Grants and individual Facility Grant project files are held in the Community Services and Culture and Economic Development Sections.

Facility Grants Scheme * new application (L&S)

Town:	Burgess Hill
Title of project:	Community buildings project
Applicant:	St Andrews Church
Type of applicant:	Registered Charity (no. 1131284)
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None
Grant Request to MSDC	£ 200,000 (21%)
Total project cost:	£ 950,000

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

Highmead Christian Foundation	£250,000 (secured)
Garfield Weston Foundation	£20,000 (secured)

The church has also secured funds, pledges and interest free loans totalling £390,000 from the congregation.

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The applicant is applying for a grant for towards the cost of joining three buildings together and making general improvements to provide better community facilities.

Background

The St Andrews Church consists of two halls, the church and the vicarage. The applicant has planning permission (ref: 14/00864/FUL) for a new single storey link building, connecting the existing church with the Rider Community Hall (built 1962) to the North and the Youth Centre (built 1981) to the East.

The building is currently used by a pre-school with 120 children, youth club, choral and orchestral societies, uniformed organisations (Brownies, Rainbows, Sunbeams, Beavers), after school club, U3A (music appreciation, Scottish Dancing, art class), support groups (Alcoholics Anonymous) and other activities such as Ballroom Dancing.

The aim of the project is to increase community use by:

- linking the three buildings but retaining the ability to use them separately
- creating an accessible, common and welcoming entrance point for the church buildings, and
- re-working the internal layout of the church (removing the redundant choir stalls and other furniture) to provide flexibility and increased capacity
- providing services for a basic kitchen, accessible toilet, improved heating, ventilation, insulation and lighting.

The redevelopment scheme will address the shortcomings of the existing complex by creating one integrated building. There will be modernised mechanical and electrical

services, a more flexible space within the church for enhanced community use, new meeting rooms, a central foyer area for a community café and facilities within the church for independent letting outside normal church service times. With an integrated complex there is the potential to host conferences and training events.

This application was initially put before the Cabinet Grants Panel in January 2015 but following feedback from local members the Burgess Hill Town Clerk stressed the need for a more holistic and strategic approach to the funding of community facilities. As a result, the Cabinet Grants Panel agreed to defer a decision about funding until after the publication of the Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

The neighbourhood plan does not identify this project as a priority and in the meantime, the church has decided to go ahead with the capital works anyway but they are still seeking funds for some external improvements to access for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles (£42k), additional / replacement chairs (£30k) and refurbishment of the toilets (£15k).

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2013, which show a surplus of £155,611.

Total income was £406,797; mainly generated from Voluntary income (£251,336), Activities for generating funds (£41,394) Church activities (£27,453), Income from investments (£2,262) and Gain on revaluation of fixed assets (£84,352).

Total expenditure was £251,186; mainly consisting of Supplies and Services (£201,246), Premises (£29,122) and Staff related (£20,818).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £838,832, which comprised of Tangible assets £760,000, Cash and short term deposits £204,868, Debtors £15,113, Creditors due within one year (£18,781) and Creditors due after more than one year (£122,368).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The church provides a range of activities for children, the elderly and vulnerable people and this project will enable them to expand the offer and keep the drop-in community café open each day.

Better Environment

The improvements to the lighting, heating and ventilation would bring the building up to modern standards making it more comfortable, efficient and sustainable.

The new layout would provide improved disabled access to all three buildings and a new DDA compliant toilet

Better Services

The applicant has highlighted the shortage of community buildings to the eastern side of the town. This project would provide new community facilities for new and existing residents.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to redesign the St Andrews Church complex will benefit the residents of Burgess Hill and the surrounding area by providing improved community facilities. It is proposed that a grant is awarded toward 50% of the cost of the external improvements and toilet refurbishments.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award a Facility Grant of £28,500 (3% of the total project cost) to fund external improvements and toilet refurbishments, which is made up of - £28,500 (P35/716 East of Manor Road) Section 106 Community Building monies.

This grant offer is made subject to the following special conditions:

- **that it can be demonstrated that the project can be funded in its entirety with 12 months of the grant offer**
- **the project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained**
- **further information is required to demonstrate that there will be regular and ongoing community use of the facilities**

Facility Grants Scheme * new application (L&S)

Town:	East Grinstead
Title of project:	3G Sports Pitch
Applicant:	East Grinstead Rugby Football Club
Type of applicant:	Company Limited by Guarantee
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	£9,993 – all weather pathway (May 2009) £50,000 – single storey clubhouse extension (Oct 2012)
Grant Request to MSDC	£75,000 (11%)
Total project cost:	£650,000

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club £575,000 (unsecured)

The club will raise the match funding through a combination of commercial finance and donations.

Summary of project proposal and aims:

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club intends to install a 3G pitch to ensure the club can play all year round, regardless of the weather.

Background

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (EGRFC) in Saint Hill Road is a rugby union club that was established in 1929. The club offers rugby for children from age six through to adult teams and currently has 18 teams in total, incorporating 350 junior members and a further 150 senior players. The first team, G-Force was promoted to National 3 in 2013. The facilities are owned by the club and the clubhouse operates as a function venue, available for hire. Since the 1950s, the club has hosted an annual Rugby Sevens tournament, which raises money for children's charities

The club are seeking a grant to help finance the installation of a new 3G pitch to address the problem of waterlogged ground which affects playability. The present state of the grounds means that water retention renders the pitches unplayable for matches and training for part of the season affecting both senior but more importantly junior and mini matches. The new 3G pitch should enable a full complement of training and matches to take place for the club and will also be available for use by other sports such as football.

Rugby is played during the winter months, when grass growth is at its minimal level, rainfall is generally at its highest and temperatures are low so grass pitches are difficult to maintain. Rugby 3G sports surfaces are specifically designed to meet the rigours and stress of competitive rugby training at the highest level. Artificial pitches provide a durable synthetic playing surface, which minimises burn or abrasion injuries and offers ball play characteristics of top-quality natural grass pitches

The cost of the project includes earthworks, drainage, surfacing, floodlighting and an area of hardstanding for spectators.

East Grinstead Town Council is supportive in principle of the provision of a 3G pitch but would like to see more detailed plans. The facilities development will require planning permission so the club will be required to submit further information before they can go ahead with the project. There are currently two 3G pitches in East Grinstead but they are only suitable for playing football and hockey and there are no artificial turf pitches that are suitable for rugby in the District.

Head of Finance Comments

Draft accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st July 2014 which show a surplus of £25,170.

Total income was £273,626; mainly generated from Bar, Food and Clothing sales (£94,164), Sponsorship (£65,546), Miscellaneous (£40,100), Subscriptions (£36,451), Rental Income (£18,286), Donations (£11,507), 200 Club Income (£4,920) and Fundraising (£2,652).

Total expenditure was £248,456; consisting of Supplies and Services (£188,883), Premises (£50,731) and Staff Related (£8,842).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £264,328, comprising of Tangible Assets £515,485, Stock £11,911, Debtors £9,914, Bank £3,250, Creditors within one year (£184,567) and Creditors after more than year (£91,665).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The 3G pitch will ensure the facilities are available whatever the weather which will allow more frequent and intensive use, increasing participation in sports activities. It will be a direct improvement in leisure facilities available to the community and there will be an increase in physical activity which is good for health and general wellbeing.

Better Services

There is a limited 3G availability in the area and the new facility will improve the sports offer for the community. The quality of the pitch will be better which will improve experience for users and less matches and training sessions will have to be cancelled. The facilities development could also encourage more members and spectators which will result in a thriving and expanding local club.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to install a 3G pitch at East Grinstead Rugby Club will be of benefit the residents of East Grinstead and the surrounding area as it will provide new high quality sports facilities for the community and ensure the club continues to grow.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award a Facility Grant of £50,000 (8% of the total project cost) to install a 3G pitch, which is made up of - £50,000 (P35/779 Land west of Imberhorne Lane) Section 106 Formal Sport monies.

This grant offer is made subject to the following special conditions:

- *that it can be demonstrated that the project can be funded in its entirety with 12 months of the grant offer*
- *the project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained*
- *planning permission is granted for the development the facilities*

Facility Grants Scheme * new application (L&S)

Town:	Copthorne
Title of project:	Outdoor playspace (Phase 1)
Applicant:	St John's Sunshine Pre-School
Type of applicant:	CIO- Registered Charity (no. 1154193)
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None
Grant Request to MSDC	£1,500 (26%)
Total project cost:	£5,750

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

St John's Sunshine Pre-School local fundraising	£3,500 (secured)
Mansell McTaggart donation for playhouse	£750 (secured)

Summary of project proposal and aims:

To create an outdoor playspace / classroom to meet Ofsted requirements and provide improved facilities for pre-school children and other hall users.

Background

St John's Sunshine Pre-school is a small pre-school located in the village of Copthorne that takes thirty children from 2½ years to school age at morning sessions Monday-Friday. The pre-school is currently in temporary accommodation until they move into the new hall which is being built at St Johns Church, Copthorne. The Council awarded the church a grant of £24,900 in January 2015 toward the cost of new kitchen facilities, a lift, AV equipment, rainwater harvesting and a cycle shed for the new hall.

The planned project involves the development of an outdoor classroom to support learning and outdoor play opportunities for the pre-school children and other hall users such as baby groups, elderly support groups, community art groups and local fitness groups. Outdoor play and exercise facilities are a requirement set by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

The initial phase of the project involves the construction of a fence to make the area safe and enclosed, child friendly flooring, construction of a path and shed for storing outdoor play equipment. Over the next 2-3 years, the pre-school intends to develop the space to include a sensory vegetable growing garden, a covered area, benches, wigwams, natural structures, a playhouse, rough grass and sandpit. The new facilities might also allow the pre-school to start up holiday clubs and other activities in the future.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st August 2014, which show a surplus of £2,466.

Total income was £33,875; mainly generated from Grants (£28,457), Fees (£4,674), Outings (£353), Donations (£200), Fundraising (£189) and Interest (£2).

Total expenditure was £31,409; mainly consisting of Staff Related (£25,698), Premises (£3,869) and Supplies and Services (£1,842). Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Assets of £8,591, comprising of Cash £8,591.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Environment

The new outside space will be used to teach the children to grow plants, reuse water and look after community wildlife. Regular gardening days will take place to care for the new environment and promote families and community involvement.

Better Lives

The new facilities will promote healthy lifestyles and opportunities for the children and other users to take part in physical and outdoor activities.

Better Services

The grant would benefit the pre-school service and it would enable them to carry out the work without increasing costs.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

Although this project clearly has merit and will certainly benefit the users of the pre-school, the assessment group was not convinced that the project will have a significant benefit for the wider community and as a result did not recommend making an award in this instance.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that no Facility Grant to the St John's Sunshine Pre-School is made.

Community and Economic Development Grants Scheme * new application (L&S)

Name of Organisation	:	Haywards Heath Town Council
Purpose for which Grant is : Sought	:	Peace Memorial Stone
Total Project Cost	:	£4,000
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£750
Previous Grants	:	None

Background information:

Haywards Heath Town Council aims to update the tired and dated peace garden on the corner of South Road and Hazelgrove Road. The project includes installing a new carved granite bench, interpretation board, groundwork and planting, wooden dove sculptures and new paving. They are seeking a contribution of £750 from the District Council to fund a granite memorial stone engraved with the words 'Peace Garden'.

The memorial stone is intended to represent hope and remembrance in a place of sanctuary within a busy town environment. This area will host seating that will become a social meeting place to help combat isolation with a connection to nature and the community. The design of the garden with a sensory theme will be maintained through a routine planting programme that will be administered through the Town Council's In Bloom Committee and St Joseph's School supported by Town Council grounds staff.

Haywards Heath in Bloom has successfully transformed other areas of the town which has helped with anti-social behaviour and litter. By the means of sensory planting, symbols, shapes and colours they will create a peaceful environment. The project will be community focused and the Town Council plans to involve schools, churches and voluntary organisations in the plans and designs of this communal community garden.

The Town Council has received match funding of £1,050 from Co-Op Funeral Care, £750 from the Orchards Shopping Centre and £650 from Balfour Beatty (via WSCC). They will contribute £800 toward the project in cash (£600) and grounds staff time in kind (£200).

Head of Finance Comments

Haywards Heath Town Council is a statutory body and therefore it is not normal practice to comment on the organisations financial accounts.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

This project will regenerate a tired greenspace in the town's busy shopping area and will create a resting and meeting place for local people. The involvement of local children and voluntary organisations to assist in the design and ongoing planting scheme will be a positive benefit.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives - the project will involve local children and voluntary groups and aims to engender a sense of community pride and ownership.

Better Environment – the project aims to improve an area of open space in the town centre and will help ensure Haywards Heath is a cleaner and safer environment.

Better Services – the Town Council will continue to maintain this area in the future so there will be a lasting impact on the local street scene.

Recommendation

That the sum of £750 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution to develop and improve the Hazelgrove Road / South Road peace garden.

Community and Economic Development Grants Scheme * new application (L&S)

Name of Organisation : **Haywards Heath Community CIC**

Purpose for which Grant is : Winter Market
Sought

Total Project Cost : **£20,000**

Amount of Grant Sought : **£3,640**

Previous Grants : **None**

Background information:

Haywards Heath Community CIC was formed in response to a passionate belief that Haywards Heath and the surrounding villages have a rich history and a vision to inspire and promote Haywards Heath as a place to live, work and do business.

The CIC has successfully promoted a number of community events including the CIC Arts Trail, the Children's Art Wall at the Beech Hurst Anniversary Event and a WWI Commemoration at St Wilfrid's Church.

This project is to hold a Winter Market in Victoria Park as part of Haywards Heath Winter Festival to be held 28 - 29 November 2015 which aims to encourage people into the town, support retailers and boost the local economy. The emphasis will be on local, quality and craft products and local retailers and Sussex products will have priority for stalls. The organisers estimate that there will be 15 - 20 stalls in the first year and they hope that it will become an annual event which will grow in size and popularity over time.

The grant funds would be used to purchase five heavy duty marquees with weights and heaters and to market the event. Commercial advice has been taken to confirm the viability of the project and provide a suitable specification for the equipment.

The purchase of the marquees will enable the market to be held each year for at least 5 years (the life of the marquees) and the CIC intend to ring fence hire income to pay for future repairs and replacements so the event could continue for many years.

They have been offered free storage space (normally £60.00 per month) and marquees will be then be made available for use for free by the Town Council for other town events, and by other local organisations and charities at a modest price.

The applicant has already secured £12,750 in match funding for the project from West Sussex County Council (£12,750), The Orchards (£7,000), Haywards Heath Town Council (£3,000) and Waterstones (£250).

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st January 2014, which show a deficit of £134.

Total income was £107; generated from a Grant (£107).

Total expenditure was £241; comprising of Supplies and Services (£241).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Liability of £135, comprising of Cash £882 and Creditors (£1,017).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The applicant has secured a significant amount of match funding from local sources and is seeking an 18% contribution toward the total project cost. The Council's investment in this project would provide seed funding for a self-sustaining annual event which would be enjoyed by local residents and benefit businesses. It would also provide a useful resource that would be made available to hirers for other events.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – the events forming part of the Winter Festival will all be free of charge for the public and are intended to bring people together to participate and attend.

Better Services – by making the marquees available for future use at town events and for local organisations and charities. The Winter Market as part of the Winter Festival will provide local retailers with additional opportunities and will increase footfall in the town.

Better Environment – the overall aim of the organisation is to revitalise the town centre. Haywards Heath, in contrast to its historic town and village neighbours, struggles with a sense of identity and 'place' which is essential to a vibrant community.

Recommendation

That the sum of £3,640 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution to purchase five marquees and promote the Haywards Heath Winter Market.

Community and Economic Development Grants

Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement Grant Request (P&ED)

Total £8,000 (£4,000 per year for two years)

Summary of proposal:

Mid Sussex District Council is a partner on the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board. The Board is comprised of Arun District Council, Chichester District Council, Worthing Borough Council, Adur District Council, West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park.

The Board brings together Members and officers from the nine local planning authorities to identify and manage spatial planning issues which impact upon more than one local planning authority. Working together supports better integration and alignment of strategic spatial and investment priorities in order to deliver sustainable economic growth across the area.

The Coastal West Sussex partnership produced a Local Strategic Statement (LSS), in conjunction with Brighton and Hove City Council and Lewes District Council, in 2013. This work did not include Mid Sussex District. The Local Strategic Statement set out the long term Strategic Objectives for the period 2013 - 2031 and the Spatial Priorities for delivering these in the short to medium term (2013-2020). The LSS sought to support regeneration and provide jobs and homes for its residents and businesses, whilst at the same time, protecting the high quality environment that provides the essential foundations for sustainable growth.

Since the production of the LSS, the District Council has signed the City Deal and become a partner in the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

The joint Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board now seeks to refresh the 2013 Local Strategic Statement across its whole geographical area, including Mid Sussex. In this respect, the Board is seeking to appoint a Strategic Planning Adviser to take responsibility for the work. This would be a temporary appointment for a two year period. Contributions towards funding this work are sought from each of the partner local authorities.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Supporting economic vitality is a key objective of the Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy. The vision for the Mid Sussex economy set out in the Economic Strategy is *“A strong Mid Sussex economy, where business profits fully from economic growth and where our residents have the opportunity to work within their communities.”*

This is taken forward in the Council's Economic Development Strategy, which was refreshed in 2013. The Strategic Objectives seek to support a robust and resilient economy and to improve the District's self-sufficiency by creating 7,600 new jobs by 2031. The fourth objective seeks to *“Engage with wider partnerships to deliver economic benefits for Mid Sussex.”* The Council also works increasingly closely with its neighbours to address strategic development and infrastructure issues, such as the delivery of the proposed business and science parks and related A2300 improvements at Burgess Hill.

Recommendation

That the total sum of £8,000 (£4,000 for 2015-16 and £4,000 for 2016-17) from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution towards a Strategic Planning Adviser for the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board.

Community and Economic Development Grants (P&ED)

City Deal Grant Request	£5,428
Greater Brighton Next Steps	£5,436

Summary of proposal:

City Deal Grant Request

The Greater Brighton City Deal agreement was signed by Government and the various partners, including Mid Sussex District Council, on 11 March 2014. The first meeting of the Greater Brighton Economic Board took place in May 2014. Board meetings take place quarterly and are attended by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

The City Region encompasses Brighton & Hove, Lewes, Mid Sussex, Adur and Worthing. It represents around 689,000 residents and over 32,000 businesses. The City Deal proposals are focused on creating jobs and increasing productivity by unlocking sites and space and by setting the right conditions for the area's businesses to grow.

Broad economic and other benefits will arise from closer working with Mid Sussex's local authority, business and educational partners across the City Region. Specifically for Mid Sussex, the City Deal will help to deliver the proposed Science and Technology Park at Burgess Hill, which is identified as a Growth Location in the agreement. The City Deal was a factor in securing the recent £17 million Local Growth Fund contribution towards A2300 improvements required in connection with Burgess Hill developments. The Broadband Voucher Scheme, through which local businesses are now eligible for a £3,000 grant towards improving their broadband connections, also became available as a direct result of our City Deal involvement.

Funding arrangements for 2015/16 were considered by the Greater Brighton Economic Board at its meeting on 21 April 2015. Total costs for 2015/16 are anticipated to be £83,157. These include the salary of a full time Business Manager to project manage the City Deal and related legal, financial and administrative costs. Brighton and Hove City Council acts as the lead authority for the Board in terms of day to day running costs.

There are ten City Deal partners, including five local authorities, the South Downs National Park Authority and the Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership. Working age population has been used as a basis for calculating appropriate contributions from the local authorities. Officers have negotiated a 50% reduction in Mid Sussex's contribution to reflect the distance of some residents, such as those living in and around East Grinstead, from the Greater Brighton City Deal area.

The proposed 2015/16 contributions of the other local authorities range from £25,714 for Brighton and Hove to £5,986 for Adur. The South Downs National Park Authority would contribute £5,100. The proposed contribution for 2015/16 from Mid Sussex is £5,428.

Greater Brighton Next Steps

The Greater Brighton Economic Board agreed at its meeting on 13 February 2015 to undertake further work to:

- Develop the City Region's long-term economic priorities and goals;
- Develop proposals for a coherent proposition for sensible devolution that supports the delivery of these economic goals, and;
- Options for the most effective delivery model for services relating to City Region economic development and growth.

This Next Steps work will ensure that the Greater Brighton local authorities are best able to collaborate across the City Region, to maximise economic development and regeneration over the long term.

The Head of Economic Promotion and Planning is a member of the officer Steering Group that has been set up to oversee this work. The report is due to be completed by July 2015.

The total cost of the Next Steps project is £45,300. The Economic Board has agreed that funding of £5,436 will be sought from each district/borough and from the Local Enterprise Partnership. The City Council will pay £18,120.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Supporting economic vitality is a key objective of the Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy. The vision for the Mid Sussex economy set out the Economic Strategy is *“A strong Mid Sussex economy, where business profits fully from economic growth and where our residents have the opportunity to work within their communities.”*

This is taken forward in the Council's Economic Development Strategy, which was refreshed in 2013. The Strategic Objectives seek to support a robust and resilient economy and to improve the District's self-sufficiency by creating 7,600 new jobs by 2031. The fourth objective seeks to *“Engage with wider partnerships to deliver economic benefits for Mid Sussex.”*

The emerging District Plan contains proposals for a Science and Technology Park and a Business Park at Burgess Hill and also contains wider planning policies to support economic growth.

Recommendation

- 1. That the sum of £5,428 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution to financial, legal, administrative and project management support for Greater Brighton City Deal for 2015-16.***
- 2. That the sum of £5,436 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution towards the Greater Brighton Next Steps report.***

SMALL REVENUE GRANTS (L&S)

Name of Organisation	:	Burgess Hill Youth
Purpose for which Grant is : Sought	:	Contribution towards a holiday activities programme in Burgess Hill 2015/2016
Total Project Cost	:	£10,070
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£2,000
Previous Grants	:	2012/13 - £1,100 2014/15 - £2,200
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

Burgess Hill Youth (BHY) was formed as a registered charity in October 2012 originally (Burgess Hill Boys Club) and runs Fairfield Community Centre.

BHY runs regular weekly youth clubs and holiday activities for children and young people aged 8 – 17 years and works in partnership to support a wide range of other community initiatives, including an annual programme of Fun Days and outings for young carers, support for young homeless people, the Christmas Food Boxes scheme, support for Denham Road and West Park Crescent Residents Association and the Fun on the Field community event.

In addition, every year they run a programme of free and low-cost activities targeted at low-income parts of Burgess Hill (St Andrew's, Victoria and Leylands wards which are identified as Think Family neighbourhoods) during each school vacation, predominantly for families, children and young people, although some events are for families with younger children aged 3+.

The grant would enable them to provide some holiday activities free of charge and some at subsidised rates from April 2015 until March 2016. They charge attendees £5 per person for outings and highly subsidise places on the Brighton and Hove Albion Football Training courses. The subsidy makes the activities affordable.

They record the attendance figures for each holiday activity and they are consistently popular and well attended. They estimate around 1,000 children and young people will take part in the activities.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014 which show a surplus of £53,992.

Total income was £72,501; mainly generated from Disposal of old Charity (£53,726), Rent and Hall Hire (£9,492), Activities (£4,934), General Donations and Fundraising (£4,108), Miscellaneous (£239) and Interest (£2). Total expenditure was £18,509; consisting of Supplies and Services (£18,509).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £53,992, comprising of Bank £53,992.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The programme will improve engagement with and develop provision for children and young people in low income areas and provide affordable and positive activities. The Activity Programme will enable children and young people to enjoy activities that would otherwise not be possible for them to access.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – BHY offers activities such as free tennis and subsidised activities including golf, ice skating and football training sessions with Brighton and Hove Albion which will encourage young people to be physically active as well as learning about teamwork. Outward bound activities are also offered and free family swimming sessions at The Triangle Leisure Centre which encourage families to be physically active and parents to engage in activities with their children.

Strong Safe Communities – The programme provides affordable positive activities for children and young people during the school holidays when many of them would not otherwise have anything to do. The programme was started because of residents' complaints about anti-social behaviour. Since the introduction of the programmes, incidences in the targeted areas have significantly decreased.

Opportunities and Quality of Life for All – The programme improves engagement with and develop provision for children and young people. It also enhances social inclusion by enabling children and young people in low-income areas to participate in a range of activities in the local community and to enjoy outings that their families could not otherwise afford. The programme involves a large number of volunteers, thereby encouraging them to get involved in their local community. Family outings encourage parents to engage in shared activities with their children.

Recommendation

£2,000

Name of Organisation	:	Disability Access – East Grinstead Area
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Contribution towards running costs
Total Project Cost	:	£7,000
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£1,000
Previous Grants	:	2000/01 - £1,000 2001/02 - £500 2003/04 - £500 2004/05 - £300 2005/06 - £300 2006/07 - £350 2007/08 - £300 2008/09 - £300 2009/10 - £600 2010/11 - £600 2011/12 - £600 2012/13 - £800 2013/14 - £800 2014/15 - £800
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information

Established in 1996, Disability Access – East Grinstead Area promotes the rights and interests of disabled people in the north of the District and works to ensure, as far as possible, that they are not discriminated against in the areas of access to commercial and leisure services, and premises.

The Group provides advice to disabled people on equality issues and to providers of goods and services. They work with our Planning Department to ensure that commercial applications, covering the whole of Mid Sussex District, do not infringe disability legislation. They also liaise closely with highways authorities and transport providers to ensure access opportunities for all.

The Group runs an increasingly growing and active free loan service for mobility equipment, including electric scooters, manual wheelchairs and other items. It also organises and funds transport facilities for members of the East Grinstead Visually Impaired Readers Group which meets at the East Grinstead Library every month. Provision of this transport, free of charge, to the members is essential in ensuring continuation of the group which provides intellectual interest and social contact.

Any person in the local area with any form of disability, and their carers, or who have any form of mobility issues, can and do contact the group and they respond to their concerns. All such people are considered members and receive the Group's newsletter.

Each year the group present the Burrin Awards to local businesses, organisations or shops in recognition of exceptional efforts made by them to ease access for disabled people. The Group publish a useful Access Guide detailing accessibility to East Grinstead premises such as shops, restaurants, public houses, churches and community services.

The Group states that in order to maintain their services and activities, it needs to maintain the office facility at East Court, which is open four mornings a week and is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a deficit of £314.

Total income was £7,715; mainly generated from Grants (£4,400), Donations (£2,352), Fundraising (£829) and Gift Aid (£134).

Total expenditure was £8,029; mainly consisting of Supplies and Services (£7,706), and Transport (£323).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Assets of £11,501, comprising of Cash £11,501.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The organisation works with the Council on planning related access issues, covering the whole of the district. Activities include members meetings, the Burrin Awards, newsletters, circulations, specific projects and provision of the East Grinstead Access Guide, in addition to campaigns and exhibitions. Their work could potentially be of benefit to all local residents and visitors to the area. The organisation also participates actively in community consultation exercises to represent the views of people with disabilities. The recommendation is in line with previous awards.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – The Group's support for disabled access has achieved objectives in providing safer and cleaner neighbourhoods, for example, dropped kerbs, access to bus stops, reduction of pavement clutter and other obstructions, and other general access issues. The Group continues its "Pavements are for People" initiative in negotiation with Local Authorities, the Police and others.

Better Lives – Improving access and facilities for disabled people and their carers and those with mobility problems, promotes more healthy lifestyles by increasing physical activity and social contacts. The mobility equipment loan service provides an improved quality of life for those using it.

The support to the East Grinstead Visually Impaired Readers Group ensures that the members continue to enjoy intellectual interest and social contact.

Better Services – The Group's activities are focussed on improving the access to and provision of services to disabled people by continuing engagement with local authorities and commercial organisations. These efforts provide better services and more choice to disabled people and their carers.

Recommendation

£800 – in line with previous awards

Name of Organisation	:	Lindfield Arts Festival
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Contribution towards art installations and the Community Play
Total Project Cost	:	£17,700
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£2,000
Previous Grants	:	2014/15 - £2,000
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

Each year since 2010, Lindfield has hosted an Arts Festival, showcasing the talent of local artists, crafts people, musicians, dancers, actors and involved local groups, associations, schools and businesses. The Festival is a community based event which will take place over 18th to 21st September 2015.

The Festival aims to provide and deliver an exciting arts event for the local community that nurtures creativity, broadens the mind, provokes imagination and provides a unique magical experience. The Festival is committed to providing opportunities for the whole community from the youngest to the oldest with emphasis on providing inclusive activities for all; particularly for those with special educational needs.

The 2015 Festival is focusing on the High Street with a Community Promenade Play involving local Amateur Dramatic Groups, schools and Central Sussex College as performers; acting out through Saturday at suitable intervals relating this to the history of Lindfield and specific events, and past residents of High Street houses.

As before, the Arts Festival will also showcase local artists, crafts-people, musicians, writers and poets as well as dance and drama. Additionally, there will be performances and/or workshops in drama, music, comedy, visual art, dance, photography and creative writing. The art installations are hugely popular with both local artists and visitors to the Festival. Local artists showcase their skills allowing visitors to learn from them.

The grant application is to contribute towards the art installations in and around Lindfield (total cost £5,500) and contribute towards the Community Play (total cost £2,100). Many of the activities are free of charge but the preview evening charge will be £15 and workshops to a maximum of £5.

The group actively monitor the responses to their activities within the Festival by providing visitor feedback forms and by monitoring the comments on LAF website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. They anticipate in excess of 6,000 people from Mid Sussex will attend the Festival.

Applications for funding have also been made to Lindfield Parish Council, Lindfield Preservation Society and Rotary Club (these have not yet been determined). In addition, the organisation plans to fundraise at Village Day, obtain sponsors for different activities and recruit Friends of the Festival.

Head of Finance Comments

Draft accounts have been submitted for the year ending 30th September 2013, which show a surplus of £9,825.

Total income was £31,308; mainly generated from Income from Charitable Activities (£10,494), Donations (incl. from former Lindfield Arts Festival) (£5,991), Grants (£5,900), Activities for Generating Funds (£5,723), Sponsorship (£2,445) and Friends (£755). Total expenditure was £21,483; mainly comprising of Supplies and Services (£21,483). Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £9,825, which comprised of Cash £9,825.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Festival, which has proven popular since its inception in 2010, provides an opportunity for local residents to see, hear and participate in a variety of artistic mediums. The Festival will stimulate local interest in the arts and music and encourage new audiences.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – The Arts Festival encourages the use of recycled materials in the activities, particularly by those involving schools. We seek sponsors whose values match theirs with regard to the local environment and local sustainability.

Better Lives – Many of the Festival activities provide opportunities for individuals to participate in healthy pursuits, e.g. dance, singing, walking. These activities are helpful to bring people together and help them to enjoy life.

Better Services – The Festival continually strive to make their organisation more efficient and effective and to plough back surplus into community projects that enhance the lives of Mid Sussex residents.

Recommendation

£2,000

Name of Organisation	:	Relate North & South West Sussex
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Rental costs of East Grinstead premises
Total Project Cost	:	£9,234
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£1,500
Previous Grants	:	2002/3 - £2,500 2003/4 - £2,553 2004/5 - Nil 2005/6 - £1,500 2006/7 - £1,500 2007/8 - £1,500 2008/9 - £1,500 2009/10- £1,500 2010/11- £1,500 2012/13- £1,500 2014/15- £1,500
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information:

Relate provides help for couples/individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships. They offer a range of counselling services, as follows:

Relationship counselling helps couples and individuals recognise the cause of their problem and equips them with the understanding and skills necessary to improve their relationship with each other and thereby with their family, often avoiding the breakdown of the relationship.

Family counselling, for any group of people who describe themselves as a family, i.e. parents and children, siblings, blended families and extended families.

Sexual therapy, for people who are having problems with their sex life due to physical or emotional reasons.

Relate for parents. A service providing information and advice for parents who are separating. Children are better able to cope if their parents can be seen to share the responsibility for their welfare.

Relateen. Counselling for young people aged 10-19 who may be experiencing the breakdown of their parents relationship.

Many people living in the Mid Sussex area are not able to travel to Crawley, or find it very difficult, especially in the evening due to limited public transport, so they would not be able to access the help they need if we were unable to offer services in East Grinstead

They have a waiting list of people from the Mid Sussex area who specifically want to be seen at their Centre in East Grinstead. Around 350 people from Mid Sussex will benefit directly from their services.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a surplus of £13,795.

Total income was £294,311; generated from Client Income (£170,532), Charity Shop Sales (£85,670), Grants (£37,819) and Investment Income (£290).

Total expenditure was £280,516; mainly comprising of Staff related (£160,127), Supplies and Services (£77,962), Premises related (£33,859), Transport (£7,630) and Depreciation (£938).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Assets of £93,410, comprising of Tangible Assets £1,875, Debtors £4,377, Cash £91,510 and Creditors (£4,352).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Grants Assessment Group considered that Relate's East Grinstead outpost was a successful and necessary service that enhances the quality of couple, parental and family relationships. Relate offers a wide range of services and supports people through all stages of their relationships. Their service limits the harm that commonly accompanies failing relationships, separation and divorce.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Counselling helps families identify problems and creates a framework for tackling them, thereby enhancing the quality of couple, parental and family relationships which in turn promote healthy and happy wellbeing. Relate uses the CORE (Core Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation) Questionnaire to measure problems with wellbeing. Clients respond to each question with a score of 0-4. The lower the score the less the client considers the issue to be a problem. Last year, the overall wellbeing result showed a score of 1.75 before counselling and 0.74 after.

Enhancing Social Inclusion – 20% of clients told them that the issues they had come to see Relate about were affecting their involvement in the wider community. They felt more isolated and less able to “take an active” part in their community. Of those who felt isolated, 45% felt their isolation had decreased after counselling and they felt more able to take an active part in the community.

Strong Safe Communities – 70% of young offenders come from lone-parent families and levels of all anti-social behaviour and delinquency are higher in children from separated families than in those from intact families. One third of prisoners and more than half of all young offenders have been through the care system (and have therefore experienced some form of family breakdown).

Last year 11% of cases in Mid Sussex involved domestic abuse. Couples often approach them in the early stages of domestic abuse, often, following the first violent incident and at a point where prevention work can be effective in stopping further incidence of domestic abuse. By helping to strengthen and stabilise family relationships, they are making a positive contribution towards the reduction of domestic abuse.

Recommendation

£1,500

Name of Organisation	:	Sheddingdean Community Association/ Windmills Opportunity Playgroup
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Rental costs of the Centre (£3,750) and Maple Room (£270)
Total Project Cost	:	£4,020
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£4,020
Previous Grants	:	From 1997 £2,200 per annum From 2004 £3,720 per annum From 2011 £4,020
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information

The Community Services Committee at its meeting in September 1997 considered a detailed report on the Sheddingdean Community Centre and the financial position of the Association which currently leases the Centre from the Council. At that time the Committee agreed in principle to make an annual grant, equal to the annual rent, which they are required to pay to the Council. It was noted that the organisation operates on a very restricted financial basis and that without what is effectively a 'rebate' on the rental it would almost certainly cease to exist.

The Sheddingdean Community Association is a group of local residents who manage the Community Centre. The Centre is hired on a regular basis by Sheddingdean Baptist Church who run childrens clubs and activities, Slimming World, U3A, Arts and crafts activities, dancing, martial arts and keep fit, in addition to casual hirings.

The Windmills Opportunity Playgroup is a long established playgroup that has been running in Burgess Hill since 1984. They pride themselves on being inclusive; this enables them to successfully support children from the local community alongside children with a range of additional needs. The playgroup occupies the Maple Room and is open four days per week.

Head of Finance Comments

Sheddingdean Community Association:

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a surplus of £3,354.

Total income was £9,526; mainly generated from Rental Income (£9,524) and Interest (£2). Total expenditure was £6,172; consisting of Staff related (£480), Supplies and Services (£2,857) and Premises (£2,835).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £12,435, which comprised of Cash £12,435

Windmills Opportunity Playgroup:

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st July 2013, which show a surplus of £17,966.

Total income was £67,361; mainly generated from Fees (£43,696), Donations (£14,710), Grants (£5,000), Fundraising (£1,852), Gift Aid (£1,514), Interest (£425) and Other Income (£164).

Total expenditure was £49,395; mainly comprising of Staff related (£36,633), Supplies and Services (£8,923) and Premises (£3,839).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £53,960, which comprised of Cash £56,960.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

Sheddingdean Community Centre plays an important role in bringing the local community together by offering a focal point for neighbourhood activities and a base for local voluntary and community groups; regular hirers include Windmills Opportunity Playgroup, Baptist Church, Slimming World, Martial Arts Group and U3A.

Windmills Opportunity Playgroup provides the chance for children with additional needs to play and interact with other children in a structured environment and is an important part of building social skills. The sensory room is quite unique to the playgroups/nurseries in the area

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Services and Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. Sheddingdean Community Centre is used by a number of groups which provide social interaction and opportunities for physical activities for the local community. The Sheddingdean Community Association has responsibility for the maintenance of the grounds surrounding the centre.

Windmills Opportunity Playgroup works with parents/carers to promote a healthy life style, both in the foods the children eat and encouraging regular exercise. Very often the Playgroup is the first port of call from a parent when their child has been given a diagnosis and they are able to provide the support needed to progress through what can be a very difficult time.

Recommendation

£4,020

Name of Organisation	:	West Sussex Mediation Service
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Contribution towards running costs
Total Project Cost	:	£19,800
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£2,500
Previous Grants	:	Grants Awarded from Mid Sussex Community Safety Grants: £5,000 99/00, £5,000 00/01, £5,000 07, £2500 08, £2500,09 £2500
		Small Revenue Grants: 2005 £5,000 2006 £4,354 2008 £2,500 2012 £1,500 2014 £1,500
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	

Background information:

Mid Sussex Mediation was formed in 1999 as an action identified in the Mid Sussex Community Safety Strategy. In 2002 the service merged with the Horsham and Crawley services to cover the whole of West Sussex and has since grown as a service and is now known as the West Sussex Mediation Service.

The service, which is confidential and impartial, helps people suffering conflicts find lasting resolution to their problems. They provide a free Community and Intergenerational Mediation Service to all the residents of Mid Sussex. They use trained and accredited volunteers drawn from the local community and specialise in neighbour disputes over issues such as noise, boundaries, antisocial behaviour, parking, and disputes between family members, across the generations, who are having communication problems.

Their volunteers go where the need is – clients do not have to travel to them. They visit clients in their homes first and then use neutral local venues for the mediations, which are funded by the organisation.

Each mediation case cost the organisation around £480 from start to finish. They serviced 62 referrals across Mid Sussex in 2014-15 – that was a 5% increase on the previous year. Mid Sussex remains their second busiest Local Authority area in West Sussex in terms of referrals (marginally behind Horsham District). Much of this is down to close partnership working with the Council teams, Sussex Police and other agencies. This level of activity proves the need for their service, particularly as their profile is not huge and further work would come their way with greater exposure.

Mid Sussex is no worse than other areas for disputes but their referral numbers reflects the fact that agencies and individuals within the District recognise the value of using Mediation as a form of alternative dispute resolution. They also see the benefits of using mediation as an early intervention tool and the savings that can be made in terms of time and money.

Those cases referred into the service frequently involve parties who contact MSDC and/or Police on a regular basis in order to seek conflict resolution. The MSDC Anti-social

Behaviour Co-ordinator regularly refers into the service which has proved to have a high success rate for resolution. The mediation service assists agencies such as MSDC and the Police in preventing the escalation of anti-social behaviour and family crisis through its intergenerational work.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2014, which show a deficit of £10,894.

Total income was £75,181; mainly generated from Donations (£51,125), Trusts/Grants (£13,250), Other Fundraising/Donations (£2,011), Paid Mediation (£5,485), Training (£3,291) and Interest (£19).

Total expenditure was £86,075; mainly comprising of Staff related (£59,011), Supplies and Services (£23,032) and Premises (£4,032).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £19,806, which comprised of Tangible assets £354, Cash £34,094, Debtors £718 and Creditors (£15,360).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

Disputes can have a dramatic effect on people's lives. This often leads to distress and anger, which in turn can make it difficult to resolve issues – health and wellbeing can suffer as a result. The free dispute resolution service offered by the West Sussex Mediation Service assists the parties to negotiate their own solution to a problem.

The Grants Assessment Group considered that the West Sussex Mediation Service is a successful and necessary service that enhances the quality of life for residents, whom are in conflict, as well family relationships through the intergenerational work. In relation to the amount, it is suggested that the same level of funding as 2014 is provided.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – The organisation often mediate disputes over issues involving rubbish, unkempt properties, lack of repair, smoke/bonfires, odours (cooking, vents etc) and repairing cars inappropriately.

Better Lives – Conflict causes stress, anxiety and ill health. The Mediation Service has evidence that through their work this can help improve health and wellbeing. They have helped prevent young people becoming homeless through their intergenerational work.

Strong Safe Communities – They help prevent disputes escalating to damage, physical assaults, harassment /intimidation and help address antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime.

Opportunities and Quality of Life for All - Their intergenerational work is a service strongly focused on the needs of young people. As a charity they provide volunteering opportunities and training that can provide a new life skill and also presents opportunities for employment.

Efficient and effective services – They do not believe that any other service providers could offer such a quality service, across the whole District and throughout the year, for such a low remuneration.

Recommendation

£1,500 – in line with previous awards

COMMUNICATIONS – SPONSORSHIP (L&S)

Background

The Communications Section has for many years, provided sponsorship to two local events in order to support local activities. In order to ensure transparency it has been proposed that these arrangements should be placed in front of the Cabinet Grants Panel for decision.

ORGANISATION: MEDIA SOUND HOLDINGS LTD

Purpose for which Grant is Sought : Community Achievement Awards

Total Project Cost : £895

Amount of Grant Sought : £895

Previous Grants : Annual

Background information:

Media Sound Holdings is a media company that has a portfolio of radio stations, print and digital media. Bright FM, based in Burgess Hill, plays a selection of hit songs from the last forty years, and offers regular updates on local news, sport, travel and events. The station works with a number of local charities and organisations and can regularly be seen broadcasting from events in their transmission area.

The Bright FM Awards have been running for eight years. The awards help celebrate the achievements of people who live and work in Mid Sussex. Mid Sussex District Council has sponsored the 'Community Achievement Award' category for the past 4 years. Bright FM receives hundreds of entries each year from local residents nominating someone they know who deserves recognition for their achievements.

There are a total of 13 awards ranging from sporting excellence, business achievements, community initiatives, to top teacher and parent in a million. The Bright Awards are extensively promoted through a cross media campaign.

This year's awards will take place at the East Sussex National in Uckfield on Friday 25 September. Over 150 guests are invited to attend the black tie event and the 13 awards are presented during a ceremony that makes use of audio and video to convey the inspirational stories of bravery, determination and success.

The Mid Sussex Community Achievement Awards publicly recognise and celebrate the initiatives led by local residents in this worthwhile project

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Services – the awards provide an opportunity for residents to nominate high quality local businesses and community volunteers. They encourage residents to take part in activities that benefit and improve their communities and celebrate success.

Recommendation

That the sum of £895 (plus VAT) from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed as the Mid Sussex District Council contribution to the 2015 Bright FM Community Achievement Awards.
COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

ORGANISATION: SOUTH OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (SEAS).

Purpose for which Grant is Sought : Young Craftsperson Award 2015

Amount of Grant Sought : £1000

Previous Grants : Annual

Background information:

The SEAS promotes the annual South of England Show and the Council has for many years supported the presentation of an award for the Young Craftsperson of the Year.

The SEAS is a major events venue within the district which provides a venue for major international and county events – they are also a significant employer in the area and contribute to the areas economic development particularly during the annual ‘County’ Show during June as well as bringing both tourism and employment to the district during the rest of the year.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Services –this will have a positive effect on the Council’s reputation and demonstrate strong leadership particularly amongst the residents, visitors to the annual show as well as members of the Society, associating the Council with one of the biggest events in the district and county.

Better Lives - the award provides an opportunity to celebrate the work of young people in local crafts and skills. This will also encourage the continuation of skills and crafts in the future and demonstrates.

Better Environment – the Council’s investment will encourage people to develop skills which are environmentally sound and help promote greener and sustainable solutions.

Recommendation

That the sum of £1000 (plus VAT) from the Community Services & Culture be agreed as Mid Sussex District Council sponsorship of the Annual Young Craftsperson of the Year award at the Ardingly Show 2015.