

Community and Economic Development Grants Scheme * new application

Name of Organisation	:	East Grinstead Town Council
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Summer events programme
Total Project Cost	:	£11,000
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£4,000
Previous Grants	:	£47,302 – St Swithuns Church Wall (2015) £2,500 – Summer music concert (2015)

Background information:

East Grinstead Town Council provides a host of events during the summer months, which are free of charge to visitors and residents, such as concerts and events to mark significant local and national anniversaries. Due to the success of past events, expectation and demand is growing to increase both the quality and number. The free events programme aims to reinvigorate town pride and community spirit.

During 2015, the following public events are planned:

21 April - Queens Birthday
5 June – East Court Event
3 July – East Court Event
18 July – Martyrs plaque
7 August – East Court Event
2 October – FEAST Grinstead

The total project cost amounts to £11,000 and the Town Council has set aside £7,000 toward this programme. The budget for the three East Court Events is £8,000 in total, FEAST Grinstead will cost £1,500, the Martyrs plaque and play will cost £1,000 and the Queen's birthday celebrations will cost £500.

The Town Council plans to light the beacon at East Court to mark the 90th birthday of the Queen. The celebration will be part of a chain of fire which will start in London and spread across the nation as beacons across the country are lit in tribute to our longest-serving monarch.

East Court Live is a programme of outdoor summer music concerts on the East Court Terraces. The events are free family entertainment and audiences are encouraged to bring a picnic.

In 1556, Thomas Dunningate, Anne Tree and John Forman, who all lived in or near East Grinstead, were arrested and burnt at the stake as heretics during the reign of Mary I of England. There are three memorial stones commemorating the East Grinstead martyrs outside St Swithun's. The inscriptions have become worn so the Town Council intends to install a

commemorative plaque on the 460th anniversary of their death, accompanied by an event in the High Street to tie in with East Grinstead's theme for the year of friendship and tolerance.

The Feast Grinstead food festival will encourage home cooking through demonstrations, introduce new ingredients and promote a healthy seasonal diet.

Head of Finance Comments

East Grinstead 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

The Corporate Grant Assessment Group feel that this summer programme of activities will benefit the residents of East Grinstead and the surrounding area by providing a programme of free family activities that are accessible and open to all ages and budgets.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – free outdoor community events, family fun days and entertainment are open to the whole community. They are perfect for families to enjoy spending time together in a safe shared environment.

Better Services – these events aim to benefit local businesses by encouraging residents and visitors into the town which will increase footfall and lead to a more sustainable local economy.

Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommend that a grant of £4,000 is awarded to the East Grinstead Town Council toward the summer events programme.