

**Spotlight Grants \* new application**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	:	<b>Burgess Hill Marching Youth</b>
<b>Purpose for which Grant is Sought</b>	:	<b>Band uniforms</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	:	<b>£480</b>
<b>Amount of Grant Sought</b>	:	<b>£480</b>
<b>Previous Grants</b>	:	<b>None</b>

**Background information:**

Burgess Hill Marching Youth (BHMY), formed in 1986, is a Light Infantry style bugle and brass band with a distinctive green and white Gurkha inspired uniform.

The band has 37 regular members, under 25 years old (the majority live in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath), who meet to rehearse for 2-4 hours each week plus a junior cadets section for 7-9 year olds. The members take part in performances at contests, fetes, bonfire processions, massed band events and annual residential trips. Membership costs £10 per month and all uniforms and instruments are provided to ensure it is fully inclusive.

BHMY is an extremely successfully youth band which has competed and performed throughout England and in Europe, winning an impressive selection of titles. Over the years, members have had the opportunity to perform at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Arena and on tour in Germany, Belgium, Holland and France.

Recently, as well as performing as a marching band, the young members have taken part in outdoor pursuit activities and performed together in concert to raise funds. The members work very hard to put together a routine of traditional military band and contemporary music which includes special pieces for tuned percussion and drum displays. Through this the members learn about music, drill, social skills, teamwork and self-discipline, all valuable life skills.

BHMY is planning to take part in the New Year's Day parade in London which is a prestigious occasion and a fantastic opportunity for the members to perform at a high profile event. They would traditionally wear their full contest uniform which consists of trousers, tunic with sash and hat with plume. They are seeking a Spotlight Grant to enable them to purchase two full uniforms for this and other special occasions.

## **Head of Finance Comments**

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2015 which show a deficit of £247.

Total income was £8,321: mainly generated from Membership (£3,551), Performance Fees (£2,020), Fundraising (£1,330), Activities (£1,050) and Donations (£370).

Total expenditure was £8,568: consisting of Supplies and Services (£5,795), Premises Related (£2,323) and Transport Related (£450).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Assets of £6,433, comprising of Cash £6,433.

## **Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project**

The applicant has submitted a strong application providing information about the activities of the band and the value of participation for members and the wider community through their involvement in local events. Fees are kept low to ensure it is accessible to all young people and they undertake continuous fundraising through small grants, raffle and band member fundraising (sponsored walks etc.) to sustain the group which appears to be successful and well managed.

*Overall Score: 9*

## **The project meets the following corporate objectives**

Better Lives – being part of a marching band is physically demanding helps members keep fit and active through drill practise. Learning to play an instrument also improves quality of life and mental wellbeing through the development of cognitive skills and social interaction which builds self-esteem and confidence. The group performs at many local community events so the activities also benefit the wider community through performances and fundraising activities.

## **Recommendation**

**That the sum of £480 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed to award a Spotlight Grant to Burgess Hill Marching Youth toward the cost of two new uniforms.**

## **Spotlight Grants \* new application**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	:	<b>Handcross Rosemary Club</b>
<b>Purpose for which Grant is Sought</b>	:	<b>Christmas celebration</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	:	<b>£1,300</b>
<b>Amount of Grant Sought</b>	:	<b>£500</b>
<b>Previous Grants</b>	:	<b>2013 - £400</b>

### **Background information:**

The Handcross Rosemary Club is a wholly volunteer run friendship club which provides social and recreational facilities for elderly, isolated and disabled people living in and around the village. The club meets once a month to offer companionship, entertainment and education and aims to encourage healthy and independent lives.

The group organises occasional coffee mornings and talks, two outings a year and organises a Christmas function. Activities promote a sense of wellbeing and provide a caring and listening environment when members need support.

This year they would like to take 50 members for Christmas Lunch at Highley Manor Hotel. At the Christmas function they like to give each member a gift (for some this is the only one they will receive) and provide an entertainment after the meal.

Many members live alone and others have limited mobility so the club will arrange transport if required. The Christmas meeting is a special event to celebrate and eat together. Some older people can feel more lonely than usual at this time of year, having lost partners and friends so this gives them something to look forward to.

The club has raised £500 this year from wheelchair hire, table top sales and a summer garden party and will also be submitting a bid to the Sussex Community Foundation for a grant toward the Christmas event.

### **Head of Finance Comments**

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2015 which show a deficit of £544.

Total income was £3,745: mainly generated from Grants (£2,300), Fundraising (£609), Membership Fees (£510) Other Income (£210) and Donations (£116).

Total expenditure was £4,289: consisting of Supplies and Services (£3,875), Premises Related (£244) and Transport Related (£170).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net Assets of £2,010, comprising of Cash £2,010.

### **Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project**

It is clear from the feedback submitted with the application that members appreciate going out for Christmas Lunch and it is not doubt beneficial to their wellbeing, if they are isolated and lonely over the Christmas period. The project is not aimed at people on low incomes so the need for subsidy is not evident but the club is run on a voluntary basis and is dependent on fundraising and contributions to keep running. Spotlight Grants are intended for one-off projects and special events and as this is an annual celebration the project does not strictly meet the criteria. Therefore a contribution of £250 (£5 per head) toward the project is suggested.

*Overall Score: 6*

### **The project meets the following corporate objectives**

Better Lives – the club offer friendship and social activities for isolated elderly people and enhances their lives by arranging events and transport to facilitate their involvement. Regular meetings and contact with peers is beneficial to their well-being and quality of life.

### **Recommendation**

**That the sum of £250 from the Community and Economic Development Fund be agreed to award a Spotlight Grant to the Handcross Rosemary Club toward the cost of a Christmas celebration.**