

## **Community And Economic Development Grants Scheme \* new application**

<b>Name Of Organisation</b>	:	<b>Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network</b>
<b>Purpose For Which Grant Is Sought</b>	:	<b>'Wild About Mid Sussex' free exhibition</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	:	<b>£4,366</b>
<b>Amount of Grant Sought</b>	:	<b>£4,366</b>
<b>Previous Grants</b>	:	<b>£1,843 –Wild About Mid Sussex (2019) £467 – Hand washing facilities (2018)</b>

### **Background Information**

The Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network undertakes conservation work for wildlife and wildlife habitats in and around Burgess Hill, as well as providing educational and informative activities concerning wildlife and wildlife conservation throughout each year and throughout the summer holidays. The events are free apart from the indoor talks, for which an admission charge of £2-£3 is made to cover costs of hall and speaker hire. The funding will fund the delivery of the 9<sup>th</sup> 'Wild about Mid Sussex' event. It will include adventurous outdoor activities and local crafts.

### **Head Of Corporate Resources Comments**

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 which show a surplus of £1,816.

Total income was £10,955; mainly generated from Grants (£5,396), Donations (£3,225), Subscriptions (£1,040), Fundraising (£714), Miscellaneous Income (£325) and Walks/Talks (£256).

Total expenditure was £9,139; consisting of Supplies and Services (£9,139).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net assets of £4,396: comprising of Cash £4,396.

### **Corporate Grant Assessment Group's Evaluation Of The Project**

The Assessment team value work that contributes to the Green Agenda and projects that enable residents to consider conservation in their local area. The project was fully funded last year and the success of the project would suggest that in order for it to become sustainable the group need to broaden their funding strategy to include sponsorship, other funders, raising the charge for activities and utilising funds raised through membership.

The group did not include any match funding in their original bid to the Cabinet Grants Panel on 29 October, although it was noted that the volunteer hours in organising the event is a valuable resource that can be considered match funding. The Panel agreed that the project should be part funded as it was fully funded last year to encourage the organisation to consider the sustainability of future events.

The group has now responded to the offer of £1,000 to advise that- without additional funding- the event will not be able to proceed in 2020; and to request that their bid be re-considered.

They are also now seeking match funding from the Burgess Hill District Lions Club, a decision on which is due on 16 December.

The group understands that they will need to seek alternative sources of funding for future events and has been offered assistance with this.

*Overall Score: 8*

### **The Project Meets the Following Corporate Objectives**

**Strong & Resilient Communities** – Mid Sussex residents will take a lasting interest in the conservation of the wildlife around them and in the preservation of wildlife habitats throughout the area for the enjoyment of all. Studies have proven the value of the countryside to the community - not merely through walking and other healthy activities in the open air, but also through the therapeutic and up lifting effects of escaping the stressful urban environment to enjoy relaxing expanses of trees and wildflowers, plus the thrilling occasional glimpses of wild creatures. These hold lasting benefits for children and adults alike, which our educational and conservation work can only encourage, to the lasting benefit of our community.

### **Recommendation**

**That a further sum of £1,000 (in addition to the £1,000 awarded on 29 October) from the Community and Economic Development fund is awarded to the Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network to facilitate the delivery of the 9<sup>th</sup> 'Wild About Mid Sussex' free exhibition.**