

6. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEISURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Wards: All
Affected:
Key Decision: No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present nine Facility, Small Revenue and Spotlight grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered under both the Facility, Small Revenue and Spotlight grant streams 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
Hassocks Parish Council	Children's play and climbing equipment for Adastra Park	£28,145	£28,145
All Saints Church	Community hall furniture	£6,000	£6,000
Cuckfield Cricket Club	Extend and refurbish pavilion changing rooms	£70,000	£30,000
1 st Hurstpierpoint Scouts	Single storey extension	£72,250	£33,750
Total		£176,395	£97,895

Small Revenue Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Burgess Hill Runners	Athletic Equipment for Junior Academy	£2,203	£1,762
Total		£2,203	£1,762

Spotlight Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Haywards Heath Town Council – Haywards Heath in Bloom	Sensory plants, shrubs and art materials for care homes in Haywards Heath and surrounding villages	£500	£500
Hurstpierpoint Society	Tree planting project in Hurstpierpoint	£1,000	£500
Mid Sussex (South) Council for Voluntary Service	Tidy-up days in Bentswood	£491	£491
Sandrocks Residents Association	Park Bench	£533	£533
Total		£2,524	£2,024

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to 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

Background

3. This is the second meeting in the 2013/2014 financial year, which considers Small Revenue, Spotlight and Facility development applications under the Corporate Grants Scheme. Partnership Agreement applications were considered by Cabinet on February 12th 2013.
4. The application form is worded in plain English, simple to follow with clear instructions and seeks all relevant information from the applicant that clearly links to the evaluation process. Applications for Partnership Agreements, Facility, Small Revenue Project Grants (including Spotlight) are assessed against a standard checklist and considered by a "Grants Assessment Group" to ensure a consistent approach to the awarding of grants.

Assessment and Policy Context

5. All applications are assessed against the criteria for the grant scheme, the strategic cultural context and the Council's corporate priorities.
6. 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 team, and, unless there is a conflict of interest, the local Council for Voluntary Service.
7. 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. Additionally, the Group takes into account the limited budget available and the consideration of further grants round in this financial year.

8. 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.
9. 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.

Spotlight Grants Programme

10. 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. The theme for 2013/14 is Make a Difference in your Local Community.
11. Small grants will be made available to voluntary/community organisations for one-off events or items of equipment that will make a beneficial difference to their local community, i.e. town or village. The Spotlight grants are aimed at new innovative projects.
12. Projects that will be excluded from the Spotlight Programme include those that are already on-going or those that benefit a wider area than their immediate locality.
13. All applications need to meet the basic criteria of the corporate grants scheme and the standard assessment process will be applied.

Other Options Considered

14. 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

15. Members will recall that Facility Grants are funded by 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.
16. The total Revenue Grants budget for 2013/14 is £253,017. Cabinet agreed to support six organisations under the Partnership Agreement arrangements totalling £227,926 at their meeting of 12th February 2013 and subsequent meetings of this panel have allocated a sum of £9,480.

Corporate Capital Grants Scheme new application

Town:	Hassocks
Title of project:	Children's climbing equipment
Applicant:	Hassocks Parish Council
Type of applicant:	Parish Council
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	£94,214 Aداstra Sports Pavilion (2008) £2,118 Play equipment (2010) £7,381 adult fitness equipment (2011)
Grant Request to MSDC	£28,145 (81%)
Total project cost:	£34,645

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

Hassocks Parish Council (secured)	£ 6,500
Total	£ 6,500

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The applicant is applying for a Grant to install new children's play equipment in Aداstra Park.

Background

Hassocks Parish Council own and manage Aداstra Park. The council intends to upgrade the existing play equipment in the park to provide a new climbing rock for older children and a 'Jumping Tarantula Netscape' climbing structure which will appeal to younger children.

The existing climbing equipment needs replacing as it has reached the end of its useful life. The Parish Council has been asked by local residents to provide equipment for older children and has canvassed the views of parents with younger children about the kind of equipment they would prefer.

The new play equipment will provide greater variety and help meet the growing demand from young families moving to the parish as a result of new housing developments. The climbing rock is an innovative, challenging and durable piece of equipment designed by British mountaineers to provide a realistic and safe experience. The netscape is a climbing structure with a flexible central platform.

The total project cost includes preparation, installation and the equipment and safety surfacing. The Parish received two comparative quotes and selected the cheaper option. On-going maintenance will be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Head of Finance Comments

Hassocks Parish Council is a statutory body and therefore it is not normal practice to comment on the organisations financial accounts.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The climbing rock will provide a mental as well as physical challenge for a wide range of ages and abilities. The netscape will offer a fun play experience for younger children.

Better Environment

The project will promote a cleaner, safer environment by providing an activity for older children, reducing the propensity for anti-social behaviour, and adding to the facilities in the village, and the climbing rock will be in keeping with the rural aspect of the park.

Better Services

The project will improve leisure facilities in Adastra Park and provide a more diverse range of physical activity for children, young people and adults, which are open and free to all.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to install new play equipment in Adastra Park will be of benefit the residents of Hassocks and the surrounding area.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award Hassocks Parish Council, a grant of £28,145 (81% of the total project cost) to install new play equipment in Adastra Park, which is made up of - £11,210 (P35/638b Play), £810 (P35/590 Play), £13,153 (P35/681 LCIF) and £2,972 (P35/697 LCIF) Section 106 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 should be obtained if the climbing rock is over 4m high or exceeds 200 cubic metres, in accordance with permitted development rights.***

Corporate Capital Grants Scheme new application

Town:	Crawley Down
Title of project:	New Community Hall furniture
Applicant:	The Parish Church of All Saints
Type of applicant:	Registered Charity (No. 1148157)
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None received
Grant Request to MSDC	£6,000 (86%)
Total project cost:	£6,965

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

All Saints Church (secured)	£ 965
Total	£ 965

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The applicant is applying for a Grant toward the cost of tables, chairs and trolleys for the new community church hall.

Background

All Saints Church dates back to 1844. In April 2011 the church gained planning approval to demolish the existing Parish Rooms and ancillary buildings and construct five detached houses (Planning ref: 11/00643/OUT). They also obtained planning consent to construct a new church annexe, incorporating a main hall, lobby area, WCs, kitchen, meeting room and store rooms (Planning ref: 11/00056/FUL) and the building is due to open to the public in October 2013.

In addition to church based children and families activities, the new hall will be used for Pilates classes, Brownies and Guides, parent and toddler groups, Time Aside for disabled children and adults with dementia, the Women's Institute and Open Door for the bereaved, lonely and divorced. Other new activities will include a weekly youth club, a summer holiday children's club, a weekly morning drop-in and light lunch, a carers group and an artist's group.

The church has raised £218,000 from Church members, the local community and businesses plus a further £300,000 from the Diocese of Chichester (a proportion of the proceeds from the sale of the land) toward the cost of rebuilding the former Parish Rooms. They are seeking funds from the Council toward the cost of buying twelve large folding tables, 100 chairs and two stacking trolleys to fit out the new church hall.

Worth Parish Council considered the church's request for Section 106 funds at their General Purposes and Finance Committee in June, and has provided a letter in support of the application.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2012, which show a surplus of £286,699.

Total income was £421,320; mainly generated from Sale of Land (£300,395), Donations (£102,998), Fundraising (£7,641), Income from Charitable Activity (£3,723), Investment Income (£6,263) and Sundry Income (£300).

Total expenditure was £134,621; mainly comprising of Supplies and Services (£78,711), Staff Related (£52,217) and Third Party Donations (£3,693).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £410,818, which comprised of Fixed Assets £34,430, Cash £369,630, Debtors £8,339 and Creditors (£1,581).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The groups using the facilities will provide wide-ranging opportunities for physical, recreational and educational activities that will help residents lead healthier lifestyles. The church estimates that over 500 local people will make use of the facilities each year.

Better Services

The fully equipped hall will be used for a range of new community activities as outlined above. The improved facilities have enabled them to offer the hall to new users groups and expand their offer.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to buy furniture for the community hall at the All Saints Church hall will be of benefit the residents of Crawley Down and the surrounding area.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

In view of the fact that the church has already raised and invested significant funds toward the cost of building the new church hall and the project has the support of the Parish Council, the Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award All Saints Church, a grant of £6,000 (86% of the total project cost) to buy tables, chairs and stacking trolleys which is made up of - £5,759 (P35/717) and £241 (P35/654) of 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***

Corporate Capital Grants Scheme new application

Town:	Cuckfield
Title of project:	Changing room improvements
Applicant:	Cuckfield Cricket Club
Type of applicant:	HMRC Registered CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club)
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None received
Grant Request to MSDC	£70,000 (40%)
Total project cost:	£176,600

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

Cuckfield Cricket Club (unsecured)	£ 100,000
Total	£ 100,000

Funds to be raised through monthly social events, approaches to the membership for donations and loans, and applications to other grant giving bodies.

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The applicant is applying for a Grant to build to new changing rooms and redevelop the two old changing rooms to improve the social and meeting areas.

Background

Cuckfield Cricket Club has two adjacent cricket pitches, a clubhouse, changing facilities, bar and kitchen. The club runs four senior Saturday sides, one Sunday side, an Over40's side and a social team. They also have a women's section, a girls section and an Academy section that organises matches for six different age groups from under 9 to under 15. The first XI play in the premier league of the Sussex Cricket League, the highest level in the County.

The club has 215 senior members and almost 100 Academy members. The facilities are also used daily during term time by the BusyBees Nursery which has 30-40 children. The Royal British Legion and the Cuckfield Drama Society also use the clubhouse plus some other occasional hires for family and social events.

The club has planning permission to extend and refurbish the pavilion in South Street (10/02917/FUL) and they are completing the work in two stages. They received a grant of £174,300 from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and raised £155,700 to build two new changing rooms, showers and toilets and this work has been completed. They now intend to redevelop two old changing rooms to provide improved social and meeting areas and replace them with two new changing rooms on the first floor. The old changing rooms do not meet the ECB specifications in size or facilities so this will provide four new changing rooms in total to meet the ECB standards which are needed for two pitches.

The Draft Cuckfield Infrastructure Plan, part of the evidence base for our Neighbourhood Plan (2011-2031) refers to the plans Cuckfield Cricket Club have to improve their facilities and allocates £30,000 toward the cricket club re-development. The total amount of formal

sport S106 for the Cuckfield area is £67,000 so this is the maximum we could offer for this project but there are other facilities in the village that also require work and the Parish Council does not support awarding the full sum to one organisation.

The cricket club have submitted two quotes for the work and selected the cheapest option. They are planning to start the work in Autumn 2013 but as the work can only be carried out during off-season they don't expect to complete the project until Spring 2015. This is the final phase of a project to upgrade the facilities and ensure the club can maintain its position as one of the top cricket clubs in the County.

Head of Finance Comments

Audited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 30th September 2012, which show a surplus of £24,377.

Total income was £70,073; mainly generated from Donations (£26,865), Bar Takings (£13,474), Subscriptions (£6,779), Sponsorship (£5,855), Match Fees and Catering (£5,651), Rental Income (£5,450), Event Income (£5,245), Interest (£499) and Sale of Merchandise (£255).

Total expenditure was £45,696; mainly comprising of Supplies and Service (£39,408), Premises (£5,488) and Rent of field (£800).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £236,636, which comprised of Fixed Assets £224,498, Cash £24,529, Debtors £15,550, Stock £3,185 and Creditors (£31,126).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The cricket club offers opportunities for Mid Sussex residents to take part in healthy outdoor activities. The junior academy provides coaching for children and the adult teams and over 40's section enable older people to take part in physical activity.

Better Services

The extension to the social areas and changing room improvements will expand the community facilities available for hire and provides an important resource for the village. This is available to the Busybees nursery and other hirers.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to redevelop and provide new changing facilities at Cuckfield Cricket Club will be of benefit the residents of Cuckfield and the surrounding area.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award Cuckfield Cricket Club a grant of £30,000 (17% of the total project cost) to redevelop and provide new changing facilities at Cuckfield Cricket Club, which is made up of - £19,977 (P35/527) and £10,023 (P35/688) of 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 by August 2015***

Corporate Capital Grants Scheme new application

Town:	Hurstpierpoint
Title of project:	Extension and climbing wall
Applicant:	1 st Hurstpierpoint Scout Group
Type of applicant:	Registered Charity (No. 1023565)
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None received
Grant Request to MSDC	£72,250 (54%)
Total project cost:	£135,000

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

1 st Hurstpierpoint Scouts (secured)	
- savings and fundraising activities	£ 51,000
- grants and donations	£ 11,750
Total	£ 62,750

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The applicant is applying for a Grant to build a single storey extension to the rear of the existing headquarters with traverse climbing wall and purchase replacement tables and chairs.

Background

The 1st Hurstpierpoint Scout headquarters is a modern building used by the scouts and available for community hire. There is currently a meeting room, large hall, well-equipped kitchen and car parking facilities. The building is owned by the scouts and the land is leased from the Council until 2144.

The applicant has been granted planning permission (12/00634/FUL) and is seeking funding to build a single storey extension across the rear of the property to create an additional activity room and externally accessible store. The new space is essential to meet the requirements of the expanding Scout Group and enable them to take new members, currently on a waiting list. The total project cost is £135,000 which includes £5,000 for the climbing wall and £10,000 for replacement tables and chairs.

The extension will provide the Scout Group with a separate function room that can be used as a safe activity space for younger members where their work and achievements can be displayed. The Scout Group serves the local communities with structured activities for children and has approximately 150 members aged six to fifteen from Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding villages. There are two Beaver Scout colonies, two Cub packs, two Scout troops and an Explorer Scout group is being established for older children.

The Scout Association encourages its young members to participate in a wide range of activities and rewards their progress by the award of "Activity Badges". The sports related badges available to Scouts are:- athletics, canoeing, climbing, cycling, dingy sailing, equestrianism, lifesaving, martial arts, orienteering, paddle sports, physical recreation, rowing, snowsports, sports enthusiast, street sports, water sports.

Group Leaders endeavour to include sporting activities in the weekly Programme, these include:- athletics, swimming, air rifle shooting, bench ball, indoor hockey, football, basketball, and crate stacking (climbing). During Summer 2013 three of the thirteen

sessions involved organised sport, one further session involved physical games and there was one additional weekend canoeing session.

The group owns sufficient canoes and kayaks to run several sessions every summer on the lake at Southwater near Horsham. Among the Leaders there are qualified instructors who organise these sessions which are well attended by the members. The group also owns archery equipment, including targets, bows and arrows and these are used regularly at the HQ and away at camp.

The premises are currently hired out for 43 hours each week and of this 11.5 hours are taken up for sporting activities such as badminton, martial arts, tai chi, pilates and yoga.

Hurstpierpoint Parish Council is supportive of this proposal and has pledged £3,000 toward the project.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2011, which show a deficit of £3,908.

Total income was £44,552; mainly generated from Rental Income (£18,140), Subscriptions (£14,041), Fundraising and Activities (£7,747), Gift Aid (£2,901), Interest (£1,528), Other (£155) and Grants and Donations (£40).

Total expenditure was £48,460; mainly consisting of Supplies and Services (£36,635) and Premises (£11,825).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £92,350, which comprised of Cash £92,350.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The Scout movement is open to all young people to participate. It provides youngsters with an opportunity to develop new skills and socialise through participation in sporting and other organised activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyles and helps address anti-social behaviour. Volunteer leaders engage with young people to educate and help them develop and gain personal reward from doing so. The Scouts have a strong moral code which encourages respect for others and charitable work.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to build an extension at the 1st Hurstpierpoint Scout headquarters will be of benefit the residents of Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award the 1st Hurstpierpoint Scouts a grant of £33,750 (25% of the total project cost) to build an extension at the 1st Hurstpierpoint Scout headquarters, which is made up of – £2,162 (P35/450), £8,363 (P35/509), £10,395 (P35/533), £4,261 (P35/534) and £38,418 (P35/544) Section 106 formal sport monies. This recommendation is made on the basis that the building is used for sporting activities approximately 25% of the time.

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***

SMALL REVENUE GRANTS

Name of Organisation	:	Burgess Hill Runners
Purpose for which Grant is Sought:	:	Athletic Equipment for Junior Academy
Total Project Cost	:	£2,203
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£2,203
Previous Grants:	:	£500 – 2013/14 towards set up costs for Park Run, Burgess Hill Runners/Haywards Heath Harriers
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information

Burgess Hill Runners, established in 1993, focuses on endurance running events such as road races, cross country and multi-terrain. They have a wide range of running abilities and ages.

In April this year, the organisation set up a Junior Academy with the aim to provide athletics coaching in all disciplines to children aged 8-11. In September they are also adding a group for ages up to 13 years.

The organisation has requested a grant to purchase equipment, some of which is currently borrowed from Lewes Athletics Club. This means that they have not been able to cover some of the jumping skills as it is not possible to transport this equipment each week. The Club also wish to open the Academy to toddlers and for this they need specialist equipment. There is currently no toddler athletic focused group in Mid Sussex. They already have waiting lists for the sessions.

Once they have the equipment, the only costs are for the use of the venue (The Triangle), as the Academy course fees are set to ensure that these costs are covered, however, the Club will subsidise this if necessary.

The Club has requested an Infant Agility Full Kit, £567, (8 Mat Set) which enables class participation in the Infant Agility programme. The kit will allow infants to take part in many different core skills activities. A Primary Athletic Kit, £852, which is an introduction to the Sports Hall concept including running, jumping and throwing activities suitable for primary school children of all abilities. A Primary Athletic All Abilities Upgrade Kit, £783, which contains all the necessary items and resources to adapt the Kit for children of all abilities.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for fifteen months ending 31st March 2013, which show a deficit of (£201).

Total income was £9,604; mainly generated from Membership Fees and Subscriptions (£8,420), Grant (£250), Events and Other Income (£864) and Interest (£70).

Total expenditure was £9,805; mainly comprising of Supplies and Services (£8,185) and Third Party Donations and Subscriptions (£1,620).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £7,137, which comprised of Debtors £1,040, Stock £1,308, Cash at bank £5,422 and creditors (£633).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

An active child is more likely to become an active adult; sport helps children develop all sorts of skills including balance and co-ordination. Regular sporting activity helps children to reduce body fat, strengthen bones, improves stamina and flexibility. Children that are physically fit also sleep better and are better able to handle the physical and emotional challenges that a typical day may present. The Assessment Group is supportive of the application and recommends awarding the Club 80% of the requested amount.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Life for All. The Junior Academy encourages children to get outside in the fresh air, giving them a change of environment from school and home. Taking part in sporting activity is proven to help children both physically and mentally which will have a positive impact on other services provided in Mid Sussex, i.e. reducing pressures on health professionals. It helps them to learn, to make a commitment, raise self-esteem and to work with and support their peers. The project may also help to reduce anti-social behaviour by keeping more children off the streets.

Recommendation

£1,762

SPOTLIGHT GRANTS

Name of Organisation	:	Hurstpierpoint Society
Purpose for which Grant is Sought:	:	Tree planting in Hurstpierpoint
Total Project Cost	:	£16,000
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£1,000
Previous Grants	:	N/A
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information

This application has been held over from the February 2013 grants round as it was felt to be more appropriate for it to be considered with the Spotlight Grant applications.

The Hurstpierpoint Society was established in February 1972 to protect and conserve the natural and built environment of Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area. The Society aims to provide practical, including financial, support by way of donations from the Charity to such charitable causes and bodies as the Executive Committee, from time to time, determine.

After carrying out a number of surveys in 2011 to establish the capacity of additional trees in the village, the Society is organising a tree planting scheme over the next four to five years throughout Hurstpierpoint on roads with grass verges. The objective of the grass verge tree planting is to improve the visual and environmental aspect of the village scene, and provide a long term legacy. The planting ratio will be approximately one tree for every four houses with an offset on the other side of the road of two houses. Tree species options suitable for narrow verges or wider verges have been identified. They will be four to five year old trees.

The Society has undertaken a Tree Planting Survey and sent letters to selected residents which revealed 75% support for the project. They estimate that each tree will cost £125 including three years maintenance. West Sussex County Council will provide the trees and plant them but do not give them for free, although they do subsidise the price to some extent. WSCC, for three years, will ensure the trees are re-mulched, the stakes are secure, tree ties are adjusted and the mesh tree guards are sound. They will replace any tree that has died in the first six months and will require re-payment to replace trees that have been stolen or vandalised.

From their funds, the Society has allocated £1,000 per annum for the next four years to the Tree Scheme, £2,000 has been allocated to the 700th Anniversary Sculpture on the Village Green (this could be extended by a further £3,000) and £1,000 per annum to be allocated for maintenance of land owned by the Society. The Society has received £1,000 from Hurstpierpoint Parish Council for the tree planting project.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st December 2011, which show a deficit of (£631).

Total income was £4,095; mainly generated from Subscriptions (£2,801), Tax Refund (£876), Sundry income (£282) and Interest (£136).

Total expenditure was £4,726; mainly comprising of Supplies and Services (£4,191) and Third Party Donations and Subscriptions (£535).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £30,952, which comprised of Fixed Assets £10,000 and Cash at bank £20,952.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Grants Assessment Group is supportive of the project as it not only improves the visual and environmental aspect of the village but street trees also have many other benefits, such as reduced air pollution, improved mental health, reduction in noise levels, cooling air in summer by giving shade and reducing wind speeds.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – Resident, visitor, employee and transit car use in the Village has increased significantly in recent years. Trees help with CO2 issues. Better Lives – Residents are keen to make their roads more attractive by natural means.

Recommendation

£500

Name of Organisation	:	Haywards Heath Town Council – Haywards Heath in Bloom
Purpose for which Grant is Sought:		Sensory plants, shrubs and art materials for care homes in Haywards Heath and surrounding villages
Total Project Cost	:	£1,100
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£500
Previous Grants	:	N/A
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	£2,500 applied to CLC for Strictly Come Gardening event for 2014, but not secured yet

Background information

Haywards Heath in Bloom is a gardening and horticulture sub-committee of Haywards Heath Town Council that provides man-power and educational benefits to make the town of Haywards Heath and its environs a cleaner and healthier place to live. As part of their Strictly Come Gardening project, and building on the success of last year's event, the committee would like to involve Residential and Care homes by providing them with sensory plants and shrubs.

The committee plan to do this by supplying 22 Residential and Care Homes with sensory plants and shrubs to be planted by the staff and residents which could also encourage wildlife into the Home's gardens. The choice of plants will be carefully chosen to provide experiences for heightened sight, smell, hearing and touch. It is hoped that the plants will also attract butterflies and other insects. The project may also lead to information being recorded and new hobbies and friendships could be formed via this connection.

Alongside the horticultural idea, the committee is planning an art project to create mosaics from tiles donated by local businesses.

The committee would like to start the gardening project in September and aim to complete it by May 2014.

The committee estimates the total gardening project cost to be £1,100 and their grant application to us is for £500 to cover the cost of sensory plants, soil and supplies of adhesives for the art project.

Haywards Heath Town Council provides £1,000 annually in overall support to Haywards Heath in Bloom to help with its entry into all categories of the Britain in Bloom competition.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Assessment Group is supportive of the project and recognises the benefits of sensory plants which are designed to stimulate all five senses. People who may have disabilities, such as visual impairment or dementia can enjoy nature in a safe, tactile environment. Sensory gardens can also make a significant contribution to emotional and physical health.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – the project will encourage the nursing homes to make use of their own rain catchers to keep their sensory gardens healthy and water friendly. It will also contribute to making the town a greener and cleaner place to live and work.

Better Lives – Opportunities and Quality of Live for All. Going into a Care Home is a life changing event, resulting in people feeling cut off from their neighbourhood and communities. The gardening project will actively encourage members of families to get involved and make the gardens a personal gift with a lasting legacy. Gardening is a physically active pastime leading to healthier lives.

Recommendation

£500

Name of Organisation	:	Mid Sussex (South) Council for Voluntary Service
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Two Tidy Up Days in the Bentswood locality
Total Project Cost	:	£855
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£491
Previous Grants	:	Partnership Agreement - £24,113
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	£27,609

Background information

Mid Sussex (South) Council for Voluntary Service (MSSCVS) provides a range of services to voluntary and community groups including community development support, room hire, volunteer centre, discounted/free training, resource library and photocopying/postal services. MSSCVS provides opportunities for local community groups to network, share best practice and avoid duplication. The organisation also assists the local community and voluntary sector to have a voice at local, regional and national level and to take part in strategic decisions. They work in partnership with others to identify community needs and gaps in service; and how to meet those needs and improve service.

MSSCVS became aware of a West Sussex Public Health Report which identified resources and networks that positively affect a community's health and wellbeing (Promoting and Sustaining Health and Wellbeing in Bentswood: Stakeholder Workshop Summary Report. WSCC Public Health December 2012).

Following on from this report, an event was held in June 2013 at the Saltworks Café "Your Community, Your Voice" attended by residents, a representative from MSSCVS and Public Health and the idea for a Tidy Up Day arose from this event.

The Tidy Up Days will take place over a weekend, involve residents and pupils from the local Warden Park Primary Academy and include complimentary light refreshments at Saltworks Café for those taking part. A 12 yard skip will be made available to dispose of unwanted items plus bulky waste disposal which has been offered free of charge from the Council. This will give local residents the opportunity to appropriately dispose of unwanted goods and waste.

Photographs will be taken of the local area pre and post event for comparisons. A Comments Book will be available in the Saltworks Café for participants to record their experiences.

MSSCVS is represented on the Bentswood Community Partnership, which is not as yet a constituted organisation, and is also engaged in project work in the locality with Affinity Sutton.

Head of Finance Comments

Unaudited accounts have been submitted for the year ending 31st March 2012 which show a deficit of £17,984.

Total income was £59,102: mainly generated from Grants and Donations (£53,986) Room Hire (£2,896), Fundraising (£1,941), Other (£156) and Interest (£123).

Total expenditure was £77,086; mainly consisting of Staff Related (£53,183), Supplies and Services (£12,692), Premises Related (£6,502), Depreciation (£1,814), Transport Related (£1,598) and Third Party payments/Grants (£1,297).

Balances held at the end of this period showed Net Assets of £31,353, comprising of Tangible Assets £4,181, Cash £28,040 and Creditors (£868).

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Grant Assessment Group was supportive of the application for the Tidy Up Days in the Bentswood locality; cleaner neighbourhoods lead to safer neighbourhoods and a reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime. It is hoped that the event will encourage residents to take responsibility for the environmental condition of their neighbourhood and take pride in its appearance.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – The event will provide an opportunity for Bentswood residents to appropriately dispose of unwanted goods and waste. The Tidy Up Day will help to create a cleaner, tidier environment and may encourage residents to take pride in their neighbourhood and, hopefully, lead to less vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Better Lives – Residents will come together in a shared experience, involving pupils from the local school. The event will build on current work in Bentswood that is working to enable and encourage inclusive community activities and social interaction.

Recommendation

£491

Name of Organisation	:	Sandrocks Residents Association
Purpose for which Grant is Sought	:	Park Bench
Total Project Cost	:	£533
Amount of Grant Sought	:	£500
Previous Grants	:	N/A
Grants Awarded from WSCC	:	N/A

Background information

Sandrocks Residents Association, formed in March 2013, aims to safeguard and promote the interests of residents living on the Sandrocks estate on all matters concerning housing, the environment of the area and the social and community life.

Sandrocks is a new housing estate off Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath which is still being developed. The Residents Association has requested a grant to purchase a seven foot Mahogany Park Bench and Anchor from Alexander Rose.

The bench will be sited on the middle green at Sandrocks which will provide a vista of the whole area including the South Downs and is used by many families and children. The bench will provide seating and become a focal point on the green.

The full cost of the bench amounts to £533 and any shortfall between the grant award and cost of the bench will be met from subscriptions held. Subscription fees are currently £20 per house per annum.

Head of Finance Comments

In view of the fact that Sandrocks Residents Association has only been formed since March 2013, accounts are not available yet. Projected income and expenditure accounts for financial year 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as at July 2014, show a surplus of £547.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group's evaluation of the project

The Assessment Group considered that the bench would be an asset to the developing housing estate, contribute towards bringing the community together and stimulate social interaction. The bench will not only provide a useful resting place for older people and people with disabilities, but will also become a focal point for a meeting place. It will also make the area more welcoming and attractive.

The project meets the following corporate objectives

Better Environment – Well-maintained street furniture can make an area appear more attractive, welcoming and comfortable which all adds to the appeal of the local neighbourhood. The better the area looks, the more likely local residents will try to keep it that way and promote a sense of pride.

Better Lives – The bench will provide a valuable focal meeting point to bring the community together and offer a place where people can rest, particularly for older people or those with disabilities. The bench will be situated in a green space area which is used by many families and children.

Recommendation **£533**