

6. UTILISATION OF NEW RIVER RETAIL FUNDS FOR THE RELOCATION OF GROUPS AFFECTED BY THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF Divisional Leader for Commercial Services and Contracts
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Wards affected Burgess Hill Meads

Key decision Yes

Purpose of Report

1. To request the release of money from the Martlets Relocation Specific Reserve relating to the closure of Martlets Hall and to support the town centre revitalisation project.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet Grants Panel consider a request from Burgess Hill Local History Society and determine the financial support to be awarded.
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Background

3. Martlets Hall in Burgess Hill closed on June 30th 2018 to allow for the redevelopment of Burgess Hill Town Centre by New River Retail.
4. To support this process a sum of £250k was agreed by New River Retail to meet any reasonable costs for affected groups.
5. To date the Council has received £125,000, being the first of two agreed payments; the balance being due upon handover of the vacant hall to New River Retail.
6. At the June meeting of this Panel four groups affected by the closure of the Hall were awarded a total of £71,746
7. In addition, £35,000 has been allocated from the fund to enable Places for People Limited to carry out a number of improvements to Clair Hall to benefit Martlets Hall users to facilitate their move to the Haywards Heath location. These works saw an upgrade of the sound and lighting system and replacement windows.
8. This leaves a current balance of £18,254 in the Specific Reserve, with a further £125,000 to be received in the near future.

Burgess Hill Local History Society

9. Burgess Hill Local History Society (consisting of 100 members) wish to take responsibility for preserving a mosaic and plaque which are presently affixed to walls within Martlets Hall.
10. Burgess Hill Town Council is aiming to build a new facility which could house the artefacts in time; alternatively Cyprus Hall may be able to accommodate both.

11. Burgess Hill Local History Society are requesting a grant of **£1,892** to reimburse them for the cost of removing, transporting and storing the mosaic and plaque with the intention of redisplaying the items at a future location yet to be determined.

Summary of Grant Requested

Organisation	Summary of bid	Amount requested
Burgess Hill Local History Society	Purchasing new, and transporting the existing gymnastics equipment from Martlets Hall to The Triangle.	£1,892
Total Requested		£1,892

Financial Implications

12. In July 2017, the Council received the sum of £125,000 from New River Retail Ltd as a contribution to any associated costs relating to the closure of Martlets Hall and to support the town revitalisation project.
13. This was the first of two amounts due of a total £250,000 contribution. The Martlets Relocation Specific Reserve was created to hold these sums, as reported in the Budget Management Report to Cabinet 5th September 2017.
14. At the June meeting of this Panel four groups were awarded a total of £71,746
15. A further £35,000 has been allocated to enable Places for People Limited to carry out a number of improvements to Clair Hall to benefit Martlets Hall users who have since moved to the Haywards Heath location leaving a current balance of £18,254 in the Specific Reserve.
16. Members are now requested to release the sum of £1,892 as detailed in the table above, leaving a balance in Specific reserve of £16,362.
17. A further £125,000 will be received on vacant possession of Martlets Hall.

Risk Management Implications

18. The costs involved are affordable within the Reserve Fund. There are no further risks identified with this project.