

Agenda Item 4

For decision – Community grants

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Summary

This report is in three parts:

1. For decision - Community Grants £300 - £3,000
2. Ratification of the Mayor's Grants
3. For Decision – Community Grants decision making

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) met on 4 February 2021 to consider twenty four applications for Community Grants for 2020/21. Twenty applications are recommended for approval as shown in Table 1 below.

1. For decision - Community Grants £300 - £3,000

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) is made up of 11 interested councillors and primarily meets to review community grant applications three times per year. However, this is the first round of grants in this financial year as they were suspended because of the pandemic.

The group usually recommends grants allocation to Town Matters Committee. Due to timing, however, these recommendations are tabled at Council.

If you have any questions relating to the applications or the decisions of GAP, please contact Cllr Mark Dorrington, who chairs the group, in advance of the meeting.

There is a total budget of £60k for Community Grants for the year 2020/21. All applications are assessed by the GAP Cllrs using a scoring system. They then meet to discuss the applications in detail and, informed by the scoring matrix, agree recommendations.

Table 1 shows the grants proposed by the GAP for approval.

Table 1. Community Grants £300 - £3,000 - for approval

	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	Conditions / recommendations
2	Frome Falcons	Back to Football – Frome Falcons	2950	2950	A condition of this grant is that at least 50% of beneficiaries are residents of Frome
3	Merlin Theatre	Running costs	2000	1000	We would welcome future applications from the Merlin with more

					detailed information about how the funding will be used.
4	Purple Elephant	Pod Youth Club and Young Carers Holiday program.	3000	3000	
5	Frome Stroke Support Group	To enable members to access events and activities of mutual interest	600	600	A condition of this grant is that at least 50% of beneficiaries are residents of Frome
7	Active and In Touch	Active & In Touch 10th Anniversary	3000	3000	
9	Active and In Touch	Active & In Touch ART Project	2000	2000	
10	Homeshare Mendip CIC	Homeshare Mendip Launch	2893	2893	
11	The YMCA Brunel Group	Frome Youth Club- Mondays & Wednesdays (term time)	3000	3000	
12	The Pod	Scrapstore pop-up pilot	3000	3000	
13	Frome Town Band	Music for All	1650	1650	
14	Frome FM	Voices of Frome	1000	1000	
15	Frome Roller CIC	12 month delivery of roller discos/roller skating activities	3000	3000	
16	The Frome Independent	Return of The Frome Independent post lockdown/covid - 19	2000	2000	
17	Young People Frome	"Everybody Welcome. Learning Together." Anti-racist and cultural diversity education and support	3000	3000	
20	Rook Lane Arts Trust	The View From Here	3000	2000	The specific condition of this grant is that the arts council funding is successful

2 1	The Write Place	Writing Together	1500	500	
2 2	Friends of The River Frome	River Frome Memories	3000	2000	The panel would recommend making contact with Home in Frome to build on their experience of oral recording
2 3	Frome Cricket Club	Cricket net training/development project	3000	3000	
2 4	The Memorial Theatre	Replace Theatre Mains Power Cable	3000	3000	
	TOTAL		£56483	£42593	

Table 2. Community grants, not recommended for approval – for information

Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Reason not to fund/further recommendation
Tri Art Theatre School	Lockdown New Baby Support Group	1000	No constitution or supporting documents to demonstrate not for profit organisation
Jackdaws	Jackdaws summer production	1000	We would like more information to better understand the wider benefits for the residents of Frome
Frome Field to Fork	Growing Food and Friendships 6 month Initial Phase	3000	We would like more information regarding the budget break down and the project to better understand the wider benefits for the residents of Frome
Gecko Community CIC	Mentoring/ Wellbeing sessions	1890	We would like more information to better understand the wider benefits for the residents of Frome

It is proposed that the remaining grant budget for 2020/21 made available to applications from now until the end of April. This would involve the creation of a short term EMR.

2. Ratification of the Mayor's grant awards

Awarded since last reported at the Town Matters meeting in February 2020

Applicant	Project	Amount awarded
Frome Walkers are Welcome	Walkers are Welcome Banner	£90
Dogs for Health	Dogs for Health	£300
Rare Species	Mojo Moves Minis	£290
Gateway Club	Summer Trip to West Bay	£300
Frome Birth Talk	Frome Birth Talk's Wednesday Peer Support Group	£288

Recommendations

1. Agree the recommendations for grants in table 1.
2. Delegate authority to the Community Development Manager to ensure the recommended conditions are met and review the impacts of this funding as appropriate.
3. Agree to the creation of an EMR to enable a new grants round to be open on the 18 March with a closing date at the end of April.
4. Ratify the Mayor's Grant awards detailed above

3. For decision – Community Grants decision making

The GAP has traditionally met privately to assess and review grant applications ahead of the Town Matters meeting. After considering each application in detail it recommends which grants to approve at the Town Matters meeting.

As part of our ambition to renew and refresh the grants process, we have been working with Public Square and interested residents to co design the community grants. The new application form, agreed through this process, was used successfully in the latest round of grants. It is simple and clear with an opportunity to consult with FTC staff help guide applicants through the process.

We are now looking to move to a more transparent public meeting where applicant and others can contribute to discussions and hear the process of deliberation. We would also like to appoint two or three residents to be part of the decision making panel.

It is proposed that the panel move to a model along the lines of the Planning Committee where we would:

- Meet 4 times a year

- Have a chair, supporting admin, note taker, councillors and 2/3 members of the public on the board.
- Circulate applications to the board 2 weeks in advance and comments/scoring returned and collated before the meeting, to inform the discussion.
- Publish summary of each applications and the amount of funding requested and the amount raised so far. This will be published a week ahead of meeting.
- Publish criteria and rationale for meetings.
- Agree a maximum number of applications to be discussed each time. Applications not heard can be added to the next meeting.
- Promote the meeting and encourage members of the public to attend and if there are any points for clarification applicants maybe asked these.
- Focus discussions on whether the application is a valid one and fits our criteria - what we see as positives and negatives and how it might be improved.
- Publish the results with any advice included.

It is recommended that decisions will be made by the Town Clerk, to be ratified later at a Town Matters meeting, in the same way as the Mayor's Grant fund.

Recommendations

5. Delegate to the Town Clerk, in very close consultation with the Grants Advisory Panel, to award community grants. To be followed by ratification of his decision at the next Town Matters Committee meeting, and to update the financial regulations and standing orders as appropriate.
6. Delegate authority to the Community Development Manager to work with the Grants Advisory Panel to develop a working model for the group based on the points laid out in this report and to trial the proposed way of working over the coming six months.
7. To review this way of managing the community grants decision at the Town Matters meeting in October, when an option may be to create a formal committee.