

Agenda Item 6

For ratification – Substantial and Community Grants

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Summary

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) met on 14 June 2022 to consider eight applications for the first round of the Community Grants for 2022/23. Seven applications were proposed for approval. The Town Clerk approved them, and it is recommended that this committee ratifies this decision. The eight applications are in table 1 below.

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) met again on 14 July 2022 to consider sixteen applications for the first round of the Substantial Grants for 2022/23. Nine applications were proposed for approval. The Town Clerk approved them, and it is recommended that this committee ratifies this decision. The twelve applications are in table 2 below.

The GAP also recommend that the next substantial grant round made by FTC in the current financial year supports the community in the current cost of living crisis. Cllrs may also like to consider allocating all of the grants budget across this financial year to address the cost of living crisis.

1. Community grants

As this was the first meeting of 2022/23 there was a total budget of £60k with £8k in an ear marked reserve from underspends in 2021/22. 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. The Town Clerk has approved these decisions and therefore, the table below is for ratification.

Table 1. Community grants £300 - £3,000 - for ratification

	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	Conditions / recommendations
02	YMCA Brunel	Victoria Park Detached Partnership	£2,952.00	£2,952.00	To work in partnership with FTC to expand the project
03	Songs for the Memory	Fundraising post covid	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	
04	Frome Open Art Trail	Frome Open Art Trail	£750.00	£750.00	
05	Black Swan Arts	Emergence Festival	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	

o6	Frome Neighbourhood Network	Setting up FNN as a CIO and running costs for 12 months	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	
o7	Frome Community Education	Free access community classes	£2,985.00	£2,985.00	
o8	Somerset Farmers Market	Frome Farmers Market	£2,000.00	£1,500.00	
	TOTAL		£17, 687	£17, 187	

The Grants Advisory Panel did not recommend to award a grant to Frome Carnival because the application was incomplete and lacked supporting documentation. They have been encouraged to seek support from FTC to apply in the next round.

2. Substantial grants

Organisations can apply for a grant of between £5k and £6k. However, the panel can consider applications for up to £10k in exceptional circumstances. All applications are assessed by the GAP using a scoring system. They then meet to discuss the applications in detail and, informed by the scoring matrix, agree recommendations.

It is worth noting that the budget available for this round was around £27,000. The amount requested from the sixteen applications totalled £108, 702.65. Therefore the Panel had to make some difficult decisions and therefore those that were unsuccessful was because they did not score as highly using the matrix. It also meant that the Panel were not able to award the full amount requested to those that were successful to ensure a fair reflection of the scores.

The Town Clerk has approved the grants as detailed in the table below. Therefore, the table below is for ratification.

Table 2. Substantial grants £5,000 - £10,000 - for ratification

No.	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	Conditions / recommendations
o1	Purple Elephant	Family Support Services	£5,000	£2,500	
o5	SASP	Developing opportunities for positive experiences for young people of Frome	£10,000	£5,000	
o6	Citizens Advice Mendip	Advice, information, support and advocacy service	£10,000	£5,000	

08	The Pod	Pod Scrapstore phase 2	£6,000	£3,000	
09	Frome Powerchair Football	Frome leisure centre access - Changing Places and Pool Pod	£10,000	TBC	The Panel requested more info about other funders and timeline. If the project is to be completed soon the panel will award a grant (amount to be confirmed)
10	Frome Birth Talk	Volunteer development	£5,968	£3,000	
13	Frome Carnival	Frome Street Carnival	£7,838	£2,500	
14	Baby Connections Frome	Baby Connections	£6,371	£3,000	
15	Edventure (SHARE)	A new chapter	£6,257.65	£3,000	
	TOTAL		£67,434.65	£27,000	

Table 3. Unsuccessful Substantial grants £5,000 - £10,000 - for ratification

No	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Recommendations
02	Somerset Family Counselling Trust	Counselling and mental health support for children and their families	£6,000	
03	Rare Species	Mojo Moves Love, Breathe, Thrive	£6,128	
04	Frome Tennis Club	Community court floodlighting and measures for safeguarding of children	£8,215	
07	Edventure	Frome project support	£6,000	
11	Frome Field 2 Fork	Wellbeing and horticultural activity programme and winter season 2022-23	£5,760	The Panel requested the two unspent grants from FTC were utilised first. Future applications should demonstrate the benefit to Frome residents
12	Frome Memorial Theatre	Improved sustainability - loft space insulation	£3,165	Recommended speaking with Nikki Brain, Resilience Manager, for advice on other suitable funding sources
16	Frome Lit Fest	Frome Lit Fest	£6,000	
	TOTAL		£41,268	

At the time of writing there have been no Mayor's grant applications for 2022/23.

Recommendations

1. Ratify the awards for community grants in table 1
2. Ratify the awards for substantial grants in table 2
3. Ratify the decision not to award to substantial grants in table 3
4. Delegate authority to the Community Development Manager to ensure the recommended conditions are met and review the impacts of this funding as appropriate
5. The next substantial grant round made by FTC in the current financial year supports the community in mitigating the impact of the current cost of living crisis.