

Board/Committee:	GRANTS SUB BOARD
Date of meeting:	Thursday, 7 March 2024
Title:	Awards Update from Previous Boards
Author:	Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety
Status:	For Noting

Purpose

This report provides an update on the funding awards and recommendations made by the Board at its previous meetings, including six end of project reports and one interim report. This report also provides an update on the creation of a separate Events Fund.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- i) Notes the six end of project reports and one interim report received since its last meeting
- ii) Notes the status report provided on the previous Board awards and recommendations in Appendix 1
- iii) Notes the creation of an Events Grant Fund

1.0 Background

- 1.1** Members will recall that the initial processes set up for administering the Community and Heritage Grant funds were considered pilot processes with lessons learned being incorporated into later funding rounds.
- 1.2** The Chief Executive was given delegated authority in consultations with the Leader to review this process with other officers at the P&O Board (30/11/22) as it was accepted that there may need to be adjustments made to provide greater clarity to applicants and ease of administration.
- 1.3** At the request of the Chair of the Grant Sub Board, an Events Fund has been created to support inclusive community events in the Borough that bring people together, celebrate and enhance local attractions and amenities, provide local opportunities and contribute to the local economy.
- 1.4** This new fund will open for applications from 1 April and applications will be considered for the first time at the Grants Sub Board scheduled to take place on 27 June 2024. The maximum award from the Events Fund for a single event will be £10,000. The total amount in this fund for 2024-25 will be £77,000.
- 1.5** Any applications received for the March Sub Board seeking grant funding for community events scheduled to take place before the 27 June Grant

- Sub Board meeting will still be considered at the March meeting.
- 1.6** Applicants to the March Grant Sub Board seeking funding for community events after June will be deferred to the June meeting and advised of the opportunity to amend their requested amount in light of the higher maximum award allowable under the Events Fund.
- 1.7** All event organisers hoping to benefit from the new Events Fund will have the opportunity to apply. The application form and guidance will be available on the Council's website from 1 April 2024. Subsequent rounds of the Events Fund will operate on the same timescale as the Community Fund and the Heritage Fund.
- 1.8** This rest of this report includes six end of project report summaries and one interim report summary received since the last Board and provides a short status update on previous grant awards made.

2.0 Report

- 2.1** An updated status summary of all grant awards made or deferred at previous Grants Sub Board is available in Appendix 1.

3.0 Gosport Living History Society

- 3.1** The Society was awarded £7,431 last June to repair and replace areas of wattle and daub on buildings in the Little Woodham Living History Village and coat repaired areas with lime wash.
- 3.2** The grant was completely spent for this repair work that improved the presentation to the visiting public and improved the use of the under-croft area. An additional £400 was spent by the Society due to an underestimate of the repair works needed.
- 3.3** The Society has ring-fenced some of its savings from income to help cover such repairs needed to the buildings into the future. It has supplied several before and after photos of the repaired buildings.

4.0 Fareham and Gosport MS Society

- 4.1** The Society was awarded £4,759 in June to replace the doors of its storage garage that were heavy, large, warped and wooden and over 40 years old with new doors which are easier to access and allow light into the garage as it has no electricity.
- 4.2** The new doors were installed in October and allow members to retrieve and store equipment in all weathers, keeping items dry and safe, and the windows above the doors allow sufficient light to see inside.
- 4.3** The Society has been successful in obtaining another grant for shelves in the garage and report The Men's Shed has repaired the guttering on the garage.
- 4.4** Before and after photos were supplied with the report.

5.0 Stoke Road Community Association

- 5.1 The association received a £1,000 grant in March toward the costs of holding a free Stoke Road Community day last year on 16 September.
- 5.2 The organiser said the event promoted the Stoke Road area and raised awareness of the many shops, community groups and clubs that meet in and around Stoke Road. All the entertainments and activities were free to access and brought many people together.
- 5.3 There were no exact measurements of success provided, but a link to several photos taken on the day was provided with the report.
- 5.4 The organiser stated the project has helped the traders to build a sense of community and pride.
- 5.5 There are no long-term on-going costs other than £100 to maintain the premises license with Hampshire County Council. The Association is looking at funding streams and sponsorship for future events.

6.0 Lee-on-the-Solent Community Association

- 6.1 The Association was awarded £2,287 in September to replace five fire exit doors that were weather damaged.
- 6.2 The new doors were installed in December. They improve building security and improve the emergency exit procedure for anyone using the main hall, cellar and committee room.
- 6.3 There are no on-going costs and the Association has provided before and after photos with the new doors in place.

7.0 Yellow Edge Gallery

- 7.1 The gallery was awarded £2,500 last March to run art classes for local children ages 5 – 11 between 31 July and 5 August.
- 7.2 The organiser reported a high level of engagement with families and children taking part in creative events which also promoted awareness of Stoke Road businesses as many of the people taking part hadn't visited Stoke Road for quite a while.
- 7.3 Feedback received during and after each workshop from both parents and children were very positive. The exhibition was also well-attended by parents and extended family members. There are no ongoing costs; a shortfall of £500 was met by the gallery for the project.
- 7.4 Photos and a video of the project was included in the end of project report.

8.0 Elson Infant School

- 8.1 The school was awarded £1,000 in June to create a sensory space, a planting area all classes and a memorial space. Work was undertaken over the last few months and the garden will soon be open to families and children
- 8.2 The school will open the space in the summer months for a drop in session for families. A service club and gardening club that help to maintain the space are already in place.

8.3 There are ongoing costs associated with the project such as staffing costs to run the gardening club and the cost to buy seeds and maintain plants, but these will be absorbed within the school's budget.

9.0 12th Gosport Scout Group – Interim Report

9.1 The scout group was awarded £6,000 in March 2023 toward the cost of replacing the Scout Hut's roof. In its interim report, the Scout Group said work was delayed due to rising construction costs and finding the right roofer to do the work.

9.2 The treasurer has reported that a roofer has now been found to commence the work at a reasonable price and in the interim the scout group has managed to secure additional grant funding to bridge the funding gap.

9.3 The site is cleared to receive the building materials and the work is expected to start in the next two months. The grant is very much needed and appreciated and the treasurer confirmed a further update will be provided at the completion of the work.

10.0 Risk Assessment

10.1 There will always be an element of a risk when issuing grants to a third party organisation. The Council have financial and legal due diligence measures in place to ensure that the risks are minimised and will not issue any grants until the Council is satisfied that these measures have been satisfied.

10.2 The Grant Agreement forms are part of the measures to ensure the money is used for the purposes set out in the application and agreed by the Sub-Board.

11.0 Conclusion

11.1 This report provides six end of project report summaries and an interim report from previous grant recipients and a status update on all previous awards made since March 2023 for noting by the Grants Sub Board.

Financial Services comments:	No comments needed
Legal Services comments:	No comments needed
Equality and Diversity:	Not applicable for this report
Climate Change implications:	Not applicable for this report
Crime and Disorder:	Not applicable for this report
Corporate Plan:	The Grants Process empowers residents to contribute towards the six priorities
Risk Assessment:	Contained within the report
Background Papers:	Community Grant Guidance
Appendices:	Appendix 1 Status Report Table from Previous Board Awards
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