

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY GRANTS SUB-
COMMITTEE held on 22
NOVEMBER 2011 AT 1.30 pm

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the meeting)

- * Cllr Jim Edwards
- * Cllr Nicholas Holder
- Cllr Diane James

*Present
Cllr Peter Isherwood

In attendance: Cllrs Elizabeth Cable and Patricia Ellis

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Nicholas Holder was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Diane James and Cllr Peter Isherwood attended in her place.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no interests disclosed.

4. INITIAL ALLOCATIONS SUGGESTED BY THE GRANTS PANEL

- 4.1 Officers tabled a list of the grant allocations proposed by the Grants Panel who had met that morning. The purpose of this meeting was to enable the Community O&S Grants Sub-Committee to scrutinize the initial allocations and make observations to the main Committee in January to pass to the Executive.
- 4.2 Officers reminded the Sub-Committee that for budget planning purposes the Executive had agreed that a 12% reduction should be applied to the overall 2012/13 grant budget and organisations have been warned of the budget pressures on the Council and subsequent possibility that their applications may not be met in full.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee noted that Farnham Maltings and Citizens Advice Waverley would be part of a pilot scheme to fund organisations through service level agreements from April 2012, and together with HOPPA were not included in the Grants Panel deliberations. However, the Sub-Committee's observations on grant allocations for those organisations would be welcomed.

4.4 The Sub-Committee then discussed the individual applications and the Grant Panel's proposed reductions.

4.5 The Sub-Committee endorsed the proposed initial grant recommendations for the following organisations, taking into account the requirement for an overall 12% reduction:

1. Age Concern Farncombe This organisation was well used and well run with a good volunteer base. The building was owned and maintained by the Council and received rate relief.
2. Age Concern Haslemere & District This organisation was in the process of rebranding and had already raised £3,000 from fund raising and would be continuing with fund raising efforts. It was noted that they were not part of, and had not benefitted from a legacy received by the Haslewey Community Centre. The Sub-Committee also noted that this was the second year running that the organisation had not received a cut to their funding and firmly recommended that they continue to take positive steps in the coming financial year to become less reliant on Waverley's funding.
3. Brightwells Gostrey Centre The Sub-Committee recognised the difficulties the Centre had been experiencing due to the uncertainty of the East St redevelopment. Meals on Wheels operated from the Centre, but some services had been taken over by other Farnham organisations and the Sub-Committee considered it could sustain the suggested reduction.
4. The Clockhouse (Milford & Villages Day Centre) A thriving organisation, profitable and very efficiently run. They had benefitted from legacies which had enabled refurbishment and had a thriving fund raising committee.
5. Farnham Assist A new, thriving over 60's organisation that had taken over some of the services previously supplied by the Gostrey Centre.
6. Age UK Waverley An excellent, well-run organisation supplying services such as gardening to elderly residents and currently looking for more volunteers.
7. Surrey Community Action (Village Halls) The Sub-Committee was of the view that most Village Halls were supported by their Parishes who undertook their own fund raising. The proposed small sum supported the Village Halls Adviser who provided information and advice that the Council did not have the capacity to provide.
8. Voluntary Action South West Surrey This organisation did not receive a grant from Waverley last year as they had received a significant 4-year lottery fund, which ends in April 2012. SCC were also cutting their part of the funding contract and other funding sources were under pressure.

WBC would not have the capacity to take over their services supporting the voluntary sector. The Sub-Committee noted that they had considerable reserves, but felt that a nominal grant would indicate Waverley's support in general for the organisation.

9. St Marks Community Centre The Sub-Committee noted the Centre had a good volunteer base and were intending to look at new funding streams. In view of this they endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
10. Wrecclesham Community Project This organisation had taken over some services from the Gostrey Centre and worked with old and young people, including the Thames Valley Housing Association. The Sub-Committee asked whether this organisation received any support from the Town and Parish Councils as it worked with and supported vulnerable communities in their area.
11. Jubilee Church Farnham This organisation had worked hard in the regeneration of The Chantrys had previously invested its own funds into setting of groups and clubs. They were now requesting support for a Community Development Worker.
12. Our Community Street Team This was the only community and youth centre in Farncombe which over the past months had succeeded in starting youth participation in various projects.
13. Cranfold Job Seekers Club Although the Club had made a small loss last year, they appeared to be operating successfully. However, in difficult economic times it was considered important to support an organisation such as this.
14. 3 Counties Money Advice A worthwhile organisation which complemented the CAB.
15. Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
Surrey Heathland Project
Surrey Hills AONB
In very difficult financial times it was considered that organisations supporting the welfare of residents in the borough should take precedent.
16. Farnham District Sports Advisory Council
Sport Godalming
Both active organisations in their local areas and providing good value for money.
17. Cranleigh Arts Centre In previous years the Centre had received an increased grant in order to help them through a difficult period and Waverley had also supported the installation of a new boiler and dance floor. The Centre was now benefitting from lower energy costs, had a

profitable café and a good volunteer base and, although works to the building were needed which presented them with further financial challenges, the Centre was developing fund raising schemes and other initiatives.

18. Godalming Museum Trust Operated with a good volunteer base, funding from Godalming Town Council and benefitted from concessionary rent from Waverley.
 19. Haslemere Educational Museum The Museum had a very healthy bank balance and monies held in Trust and this reflected the proposed percentage reduction. There were some issues from low interest rates, but on the whole it was a well used facility by schools both in and outside of the borough.
 20. Haslemere Hall This was a good facility and a well-used venue supported by a good volunteer base. It was profit-making and this was reflected in the proposed percentage reduction.
 21. Rural Life Centre This was an educational centre and very beneficial to the community.
 22. 40 Degreeez An excellent organisation that benefitted a wide range of the community operating from very good venue. However, the Sub-Committee wished to emphasis that they should not rely on Waverley as a permanent funding stream and it would be reviewed next year.
 23. High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Awards The Sub-Committee noted the link officer's summary and recommendation for funding and although it did not meet the criteria to support revenue costs endorsed the proposed recommendation.
 24. A Place to Be Youth Group The organisation operated with very little money as a safe place for young people between 8-16 years to meet on a Friday evening and was considered by the Sub-Committee to be a worthwhile organisation.
- 4.6 After considering all of the Moderation Panel's initial grant proposals, the Sub-Committee supported all the suggested amounts with the following exceptions where the Sub-Committee wished to make specific observations and recommendations:
1. Rowleys (Age Concern Waverley) This organisation was suffering due to the current redevelopment of Rowland House and loss of income from Age Concern UK, who were proposing to move to new premises in 2012, and loss of rental income from groups who had rented out the facility. The Sub-Committee considered that any reduction in grant for the coming year would have a detrimental impact on the service provided to the elderly community of Cranleigh and surrounding villages, and to support Rowleys through the redevelopment phase

wished to recommend that the grant for the coming year should not be reduced. This view reflected the one-off circumstances currently facing the organisation. However, the Sub-Committee noted that this was the second year running that Rowleys had not had a cut to their funding and firmly recommended that they take positive steps in the coming financial year to become less reliant on Waverley's funding.

2. Disability Challengers This organisation had been identified as high priority by link officers and the Sub-Committee agreed that it was an excellent service that provided respite for families with disabled children. However, Members felt that they were a very well funded organisation with excellent fund raising and their income exceeded expenditure, so they were currently in a strong financial position relative to other organisations requesting grants. It was the Sub-Committee's recommendation therefore that their grant be reduced to £7,000 and the difference between the proposed allocation be put towards supporting Rowleys grant application.
- 4.7 The Sub-Committee had the following observations to make regarding Citizens Advice Waverley and Farnham Maltings, the two organisations that would be part of the pilot scheme to fund organisations through a service level agreement from April 2012.
1. Citizens Advice Waverley Due to the valuable service offered by this organisation, especially in the current financial climate and with the Government's proposal to change housing benefits in 2013/14, the Sub-Committee would not wish their grant to be cut by 12%.
 2. Farnham Maltings Members felt that The Maltings operated a professional business and received substantial external funding from the Arts Council and other sources, together with income received from car parking. The Sub-Committee suggested that given their financial position they could sustain a cut to their application in excess of 12% and the money saved be allocated to Rowleys.
- 4.8 The Sub-Committee agreed the observations above be passed to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration by the Executive.

The meeting concluded at 3.20 pm

Chairman