

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY GRANTS SUB-
COMMITTEE held on 4 JANUARY
2013 AT 10.00am

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

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| * Cllr Jim Edwards | * Cllr Nicholas Holder |
| * Cllr Jenny Else | * Cllr Andrew Wilson |
- *Present

Also in attendance: Cllr Brian Adams, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Julia Potts

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of the Sub-Committee were present.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of the friends of Godalming Museum and his wife also volunteered at the museum.

Cllr Else declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a member of the operations committee of the Clockhouse.

Cllr Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of Hasleway and his wife was a volunteer at Haslemere Hall.

4. INITIAL ALLOCATIONS SUGGESTED BY THE GRANTS PANEL

4.1 The Sub-Committee noted that the Gants Panel had felt that a 10% reduction to the overall 2013/14 grant budget would be too high, and had agreed a 6.1% reduction instead. It was noted that organisations had been warned of the budget pressures on the Council and should expect a reduction of up to 10%.

4.2 The Sub-Committee then discussed the individual applications and the Grant Panel's proposed reductions, which together with the Sub-Committee's recommendations are attached at Appendix A.

4.5 The Sub-Committee endorsed the proposed initial grant recommendations for the following organisations, taking into account the requirement for an overall 6.1% reduction:

1. Rowleys (Age UK Waverley)

The Sub-Committee noted that 2012 had proved a difficult year for this organisation, with considerable disruption being caused by building work.

In spite of this, the Sub-Committee were pleased to note that a good level of membership had been maintained. The Sub-Committee was keen to demonstrate that WBC remained committed to the continuing success of Rowleys, however noted that other sources of income were available to the organisation. The Sub-Committee also noted that the organisation was claiming compensation from the building contractors which was likely to more than cover a 5% reduction in grant funding. In view of this, the Sub-Committee considered that it could sustain the suggested reduction.

2. Age Concern Farncombe

The Sub-Committee was pleased to note that Age Concern Farncombe provided a very well run day centre. It was noted that this was the only day centre which did not have a nominated Waverley Member representative. The Sub-Committee expressed concerns that at the time of submitting the application, the organisation's accounts had not yet been audited, and recommended that a condition be added that when applying for grants, the accounts must be audited. It was also felt that it was difficult to judge the appropriate level of funding to award when it was unclear how many individual people the centre helped. Therefore, the Sub-Committee recommended that all day centres be asked to establish a membership system whereby it would be clear how many different people actually visited the centre.

3. The Orchard Club, Haslemere

The Sub-Committee noted that the Orchard Club was slightly disadvantaged in that it rented its space from the Hasleway Community Centre and therefore was unable to raise additional revenue through room hire as other day centres had done. Councillors reported that relationships between the Orchard Club and Hasleway had improved and that the Orchard club retained revenue from the café.

4. Brightwells Gostrey Centre

The Sub-Committee noted that the Centre would be demolished as part of the Brightwells redevelopment, and that temporary accommodation was being sought during the build programme. In light of this, the Sub-Committee endorsed the Grant Panel's recommendation that the grant be released in quarterly payments, subject to regular review.

5. Farnham Assist

The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation had to be viewed differently to the day centres as it offered innovative services across the whole of Farnham. It was felt that having a closer link with the Gostrey Centre would benefit the organisation in the future.

6. Four Villages Day Centre

The Sub-Committee noted the good work undertaken by the organisation. Officers informed the Sub-Committee that the organisation had applied to the Voluntary Grants Partnership for the same amount of funding towards rent at Blunden Court and were likely to receive some grant from this scheme. It was also noted that the organisation was in a

strong financial position with good unrestricted funds and in view of this, the Sub-Committee felt that they did not require the grant funding, but suggested that they should apply again next year.

7. Age UK Waverley

The Sub-Committee was pleased to note the good range of services delivered by the organisation over and above the core services of Age UK England, particularly with regard to the gardening and handyman services. The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel, however warned that funding may be reduced further in the future.

8. Surrey Community Action (Village Halls)

Officers informed the Sub-Committee that from April 2013 the service would be funded directly from the Community Services budget to deliver services in partnership with the Council.

9. Voluntary Action South West Surrey

The Sub-Committee noted the good work done by the organisation in the voluntary sector. It was felt that while the Grant Panel's proposed sum would not cover the whole salary for an additional post, the organisation would be able to seek funding from other sources.

10. St Marks Community Centre

The Sub-Committee noted the good work done by the Centre in an area of high deprivation. In view of this, they endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

11. Wrecclesham Community Centre

The Sub-Committee noted the difficulties faced by this organisation over the last year. The Sub-Committee was keen to support the organisation in their aim to provide new initiatives and thus endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

12. Jubilee Church Farnham – Community Development Worker

This organisation continued to support the communities of The Chantrys and Wrecclesham.

13. Farncombe Community Street Team

This organisation engaged with young, sometimes vulnerable, people in the Farncombe/Northbourne area of Godalming.

14. Farncombe Community Centre

The Sub-Committee noted the Centre's development on the back of the Community Street Team's work; providing a venue for people to participate in their local community.

15. Mediation First

The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation was currently supported through direct budgets including £700 from Planning towards high hedges and an amount* from Housing towards neighbourhood disputes.

They had also applied to the Voluntary Grants Partnership and were likely to receive some grant from this scheme.

*[*After the meeting, officers reported that the amount the organisation would receive from Housing would be £1,030]*

16. 3 Counties Money Advice
This organisation provided a free local advice service to residents with financial difficulties.
17. Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
The Sub-Committee agreed with the Grants Panel's view that there were other ways in which the WBC could support the Partnership's work rather than through a grant.
18. Farnham District Sports Advisory Council
Sport Godalming
The sub-Committee noted that both organisations were very active in their local communities and endorsed the Grant Panel's recommendation that from April 2013 the two Sports Councils could be funded directly from the Leisure budget to deliver services in partnership with the Council.
19. Cranleigh Arts Centre
The Sub-Committee was keen to continue to support the work of the Centre in the Cranleigh area, particularly as its work extended beyond 'arts' and into outreach work. It was noted that the organisation was receiving support from Farnham Malting to ensure their continued stability.
20. Haslemere Educational Museum
The organisation provided a range of heritage and cultural services to both the local community and visitors.
21. Haslemere Hall
The Sub-Committee noted the improved financial position of the organisation and endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
22. Rural Life Centre
This was an educational centre and very beneficial to the community.
23. Stopgap Dance Company
This organisation provided valued services to young people and was keen to offer more opportunities for young disabled people to take part in community performances.
24. 40 Degreez
This organisation provided important services to young people in Farnham. The venue was also regularly used by youth advice organisations.

25. Disability Challengers

The Sub-Committee noted the good work of this Guildford and Waverley based organisation. The Farnham venue had meant that parents did not have to travel to Guildford for play and leisure services. It was highlighted that there was very high demand for this unique service and the organisation was looking to expand into Hampshire.

26. High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Awards

This organisation awards grants to youth projects which were helping to reduce or prevent crime in Surrey. The Sub-Committee noted that Waverley-based organisations had received grants from the organisation.

4.6 After considering all of the Grants 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. The Clockhouse (Milford & Villages Day Centre)

The Sub-Committee noted that the Clockhouse was a very efficient organisation which would be able to cope with a grant reduction. It also had a good 'Friends of' organisation which provided some funding. Nevertheless, the Sub-Committee felt that a reduction of 4.4% would be most appropriate for the organisation, recommending therefore that their grant be £43,000.

2. Cranfold Job Seekers Club

The Sub-Committee noted that Job Centres were located well away from Cranleigh and thus this organisation provided an important service in helping people prepare to look for work. The Sub-Committee suggested that the organisation would benefit from a clear business plan, highlighting the well-presented business plan provided by the Clockhouse. It also was highlighted that this organisation did not state whether they had an adult protection policy and the Sub-Committee recommended that this be included as a requirement for any organisation applying for grants which may be dealing with vulnerable people. The Sub-Committee agreed that their grant be reduced to £250, and the difference be put towards supporting the Clockhouse grant application.

3. Godalming Museum Trust

The Sub-Committee noted the funding WBC provided the Museum; it was felt that in the future, discussions would need to take place around the Council's anomalies in funding. The Sub-Committee felt that a 10% reduction would be too high and therefore recommended that their grant be £1,900.

4. A Place to Be Youth Group

The Sub-Committee noted the Grants Panel's recommendation that there were other sources of funding open to this organisation, and that they should be encouraged to seek alternative sources, however felt that a

20% reduction would be too high, and thus recommended that their grant be £900.

During discussion, it was also recommended that all organisations should supply a business plan to support their applications.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm

Chairman

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