

MINUTES of the MEETING of the  
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY GRANTS SUB-  
COMMITTEE held on 19  
DECEMBER 2013 AT 9.30am

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

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| * Cllr Jim Edwards      | * Cllr Nicholas Holder |
| * Cllr Mary Foryszewski | * Cllr Andrew Wilson   |
- \*Present

Also in attendance: 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 also volunteered at the museum.

Cllr Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was the Waverley representative at the Orchard Club.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

At 9:34am the Sub-Committee RESOLVED that, pursuant to Procedure Rule 20 and in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 5, on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined by Section 100L of the Act) of the description specified in the revised Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, namely:

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

5. INITIAL ALLOCATIONS SUGGESTED BY THE GRANTS PANEL

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee noted that the Gants Panel had worked on the budget being the same as last year, £328,819, although several new organisations had applied this year and the total grant applied for totalled £465,650. Officers

reported that all of the organisations had been written to and informed that there could be a reduction in funding.

5.2 The Sub-Committee then discussed the individual applications and the Grant Panel's proposed amounts, which are attached at Annexe 1.

5.3 After considering all of the Grants Panel's initial proposals, the Sub-Committee endorsed the suggested grant recommendations for all of the organisations and made the following observations:

1. Age Concern Farncombe

The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation would be taking on additional financial responsibilities in 2014 following the introduction of a formal lease agreement for them to occupy the building. This would also include utility costs. Members were pleased to note that the organisation was very popular, and now benefited from a refurbished lounge. The Sub-Committee noted that Age Concern Farncombe was also approaching Godalming Town Council for funding, and had recently received a grant from The Community Foundation for Surrey to support the minibus service.

Members felt that this was a very worthwhile organisation; particularly as it accommodated people with dementia, and the Sub-Committee recognised the additional financial burden it would be facing in 2014, and therefore hoped that it would benefit from a 10% increase from the previous year's allocation.

2. The Orchard Club, Haslemere

The Sub-Committee was informed that the Orchard Club was trying to expand its services, including outreach work for more isolated and vulnerable people. The Sub-Committee was pleased to see an increase in the activities offered, and noted that the café remained very popular and therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

3. Brightwells Gostrey Centre

The Sub-Committee was informed that the organisation had faced difficulties over the last year, and had been awarded £15,000 from the Emergency Funding Provision on top of its grant allocation for 2013/14. Regarding the relocation of the Centre, it was noted that the options for relocating all of the groups to the Memorial Hall were being investigated, but it was likely that any move would not take place until 2015. The Sub-Committee noted that the Centre was trying to expand its activities, but was finding it increasingly difficult to attract people due to the constraints of the building.

The Sub-Committee agreed with the Grants Panel's recommendation for a 17% increase from the previous year's allocation but hoped that the Centre would show some improvement over the coming year and would not require any additional emergency funding. **The Sub-Committee also recommended that a condition be included with the grant letter that Brightwells should work more closely with the Council over the**

**coming year to improve service delivery, otherwise Members felt the grant should be cut accordingly.**

4. The Clockhouse

The Sub-Committee noted that the Clockhouse was a very well organised day centre however expressed concern that they were reluctant to take on clients with dementia, and therefore was not providing as wide a service as the other funded day centres. With Waverley's ageing population, Members felt that there was a need to focus funding on organisations that did offer support for dementia sufferers.

The Sub-Committee agreed with the Grants Panel's recommendation and felt that a reduction in funding would send a message that the organisation needed to deliver a wider service, to support all older people, and suggested that closer working between the Clockhouse and Waverley would improve service delivery.

5. Farnham Assist

The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation operated a good service, and suggested that it would benefit from linking up more with the day centres. The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

6. Age UK Waverley

The Sub-Committee noted that Age UK Waverley also provided the Rowleys Day Centre, and that this application was to cover both services. The organisations would be sharing back-office costs in 2014/15 and should therefore make some savings. Members noted that Age UK Waverley provided handyman and gardening services across the Borough, however felt that the advice service was centred on Cranleigh. Officers reported that the organisation had been offered accommodation in Godalming, but that this had been deemed unsuitable by Age UK Waverley.

The Sub-Committee agreed with the Grants Panel's recommendation that the combined grant be reduced to £67,809. **The Sub-Committee was concerned that the reduced grant could have a detrimental effect on Rowleys and therefore recommended that a condition be included in the grant allocation letter ring fencing £47,500 for Rowleys and stating that Rowleys' costs should not be cut back to support Age UK expenditure. Officers would conduct a half-year review and request evidence from the organisation as to how the funding was being distributed before the second grant instalment would be paid.**

7. Voluntary Action South West Surrey

The Sub-Committee hoped that this organisation would help Waverley's voluntary organisations to become more self-sufficient. Officers added that they would be working more closely with the organisation to determine exactly what services they were delivering, and therefore

explained that the Grants Panel had suggested an initial grant of £5,000 which could be supplemented with an additional sum based on the performance of the organisation.

8. St Marks Community Centre  
The Sub-Committee noted the good work done by the Centre in an area of high deprivation, with an improved food bank and breakfast club, and therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
9. Wrecclisham Community Centre  
The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation continued to deliver good services and therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
10. Jubilee Church Farnham  
The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation provided a valuable connection between residents and the Council. It was highlighted that the organisation not only provided support for residents of Sandy Hill, but also a wider area across Farnham, including Roman Way and the Chantrys.

Members endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel, but noted that the financial appraisal related to the Church's accounts as a whole, and asked if in future it would be possible to see separate financial information for the actual project.

11. Farncombe Community Centre  
The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
12. Cranfold Job Seekers Club  
The Sub-Committee noted the organisation had improved throughout the year and therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
13. Help in Elstead  
The Sub-Committee noted the work done by this small community group and endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
14. Surrey Save  
The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation was a Credit Union rather than a commercial bank. Officers informed the Sub-Committee that Waverley had supported the set-up costs with £60,000 over three years, and the current grant request was to assist with the running costs until the organisation was fully self-sufficient.

Members were pleased to note that the organisation provided an alternative to payday loans and therefore was supporting some of Waverley's more vulnerable residents. The Sub-Committee therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

15. TALK

The Sub-Committee was informed that this organisation had also applied to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Panel, and was likely to receive funding towards its running costs. The Sub-Committee therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

16. Home Start

The Sub-Committee agreed with the Grants Panel's view that funding for this service should come from Surrey County Council.

17. 3 Counties Money Advice

The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation offered specialist advice to residents with financial difficulties and endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

18. Cranleigh Arts Centre

The Sub-Committee noted that the Centre had suffered due to the popularity of G Live and the cinema in the Village Hall. A new manager was now in place who was trying to engage with the local community and work with other organisations, including the Lions, to generate more business. The Board was aware that its meetings clashed with the Council's Area Planning Committee meetings, which meant that the Member Observers were unable to provide as much support as they would like. Some of the meetings had been moved to accommodate the Members Observers. However this could be addressed through the Link Officer.

The Sub-Committee highlighted that the Cranleigh Arts Centre had had a significant increase in its grant several years ago, and that the amount would be slowly reduced in future years. The performance of the organisation would be monitored over the coming year as Members were particularly concerned by the poor levels of income from the bar and coffee shop.

19. Godalming Museum Trust

The Sub-Committee noted the Museum's rent had been raised in line with inflation and that it no longer received parking permits from Waverley. The Grants Panel had recommended allocating the equivalent value of two car park season tickets, as well as maintaining the level of grant from 2013/14. Members were pleased to note that volunteers now parked in the Crown Court Car Park rather than the South Street Car Park, which, although nearer, was more expensive. Members felt that this arrangement would be beneficial for the museum as while it would receive the monetary value of the permits, this could be managed with more flexibility to suit the needs of the volunteers.

20. Haslemere Educational Museum

The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

21. Haslemere Hall

The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.

At 11.40am it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for a short break. The meeting resumed at 11.47am.

22. Rural Life Centre  
The Sub-Committee noted the valuable educational work done by the Centre and endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
23. Stopgap Dance Company  
The Sub-Committee was informed that this organisation delivered services across Waverley and Guildford. Officers were seeking to ascertain if it was delivering services to young people throughout the wider Borough. Further funds could be released once the number of young people from Waverley on the programme had been determined.
24. 40 Degreez  
The Sub-Committee noted that this organisation had worked closely with officers on the new skate park in Farnham and was expanding its work to include working with other groups such as Waverley Training Services. Members added that the organisation was making a surplus and therefore endorsed the reduced grant amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
25. Disability Challengers  
The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
26. High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Awards  
The Sub-Committee endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel.
27. Cranleigh Youth Café  
The Sub-Committee noted that this was a service taken on by Cranleigh Parish Council. It was previously a partnership project between Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council, who continue to work in partnership with the Parish Council to support this project. Members were pleased to note that this was a very busy and popular organisation and the Sub-Committee was keen for it to thrive, and therefore endorsed the amount proposed by the Grants Panel. Further to this, officers added that specific projects run by the café could be supported through Waverley's youth budget.
28. Haslemere Fringe  
The Sub-Committee agreed with the view of the Grants Panel, that while it was a worthwhile community event, the grants scheme did not support one-off events.
29. A Place to Be Youth Group

The Sub-Committee noted the value of the group's work, and acknowledged that their grant had been reduced over recent years. As a result, the Sub-Committee endorsed the amount of £800 proposed by the Grants Panel.

The meeting concluded at 12.07 pm

Chairman

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