

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Matt Rawdon

Service Area: People and Communities

Title of Decision:

To approve Community Grants for the Spring 2020 round

Decision made and reasons:

To make grants to the following organisations for the Spring 2020 round of bidding:

1. *'Electric Umbrella – EUTV' Project:* Funding toward the cost of running online music sessions for people with learning disabilities to combat social isolation during the COVID-19 lockdown. £2000
2. *'Sunnyside Rural Trust – Social Prescribing to Support COVID-19' Project:* For the recovery transition period, Sunnyside Rural Trust will build outdoor work benches to enable them to run horticulture courses while maintaining social distancing measures. This will help people to get out of the house again, start to work and build up to group work, rebuild confidence and positive ways of being. It will have a significant impact on their mental and emotional wellbeing. £3000
3. *'Mediation Hertfordshire – Virtual Mediation, responding to COVID-19' project:* Funding towards the cost of training mediators and Zoom licenses to deliver online mediation sessions and minimise disruption to the service due to lockdown. £3000
4. *'Stepping Out Herts – Stepping out with Carers' Project:* The specific project is to run 4 walks for carers and the people they care for the local area, 3 smaller versions (taking all COVID precautions into account) in Summer/ Autumn 2020 and a full version in spring 2021. These walks will be socially prescribed by the West Herts NHS senior navigator team and their link workers. £2126
5. *'High Street Baptist Church, Tring – Baptistry refresh' Project:* Funding towards the cost of refurbishing the disused baptistry part of the church, to create a multi-functional space for community groups to use. £3000
6. *'Viewpoint – Making art and creative connections' Project:* Viewpoint is a charity that develops innovative ways that support people with a lived experience of mental health issues and/or addiction challenges. Their project is to offer three weekly art and creative groups (over 12 weeks) for 18 people with mental health challenges and facilitated by people with a lived experience of mental health challenges. Providing a safe place to be creative and discuss issues, share experiences and help to problem solve. £2700
7. *'Transitions UK – Aspire Dacorum' Project:* The Aspire Dacorum Project will support disadvantaged young people (YP), from age 14, at risk of offending/criminal exploitation, building on successful provision in 3 other hubs (Stevenage, Watford Enfield). Transitions UK provide a two-year skills and development programme offering alternatives to offending by providing positive role models (volunteer mentors), personal development opportunities and positive life experiences to

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develop a positive life path with attainable goals. This project will support 20 young people over two years. £2000

8. *'Herts Inclusive Theatre – HIT Hemel Children's and Youth Theatre Project'*: Herts Inclusive Theatre aims to improve the wellbeing of children and young people and those who are disadvantaged or disabled, by using the arts to build confidence and develop skills in an inclusive, fun, creative space. The project is part of the Herts Year of Culture 2020 and will teach young people to how to perform, use movement, voice work, create artwork, use props, design scenery and learn about putting together performances. £2500
9. *'Dacorum Community Dance – Let's dance at home' Project*: An online digital dance project to keep older adults in Dacorum active, connected, engaged, maintain health and wellbeing and reduce isolation. This project will be part of Herts Year of Culture, meeting its aims by enabling access and participation, celebrating arts and culture in Hertfordshire and increasing wellbeing and a sense of belonging. £1990
10. *'Tring Together - Tring Together Christmas Festival goes virtual' Project*: The purpose of the project is to change Tring's Christmas Festival into a COVID-19 safe community event. The grant funding will be towards the cost of online marketing and equipment for streaming the event on the internet. £2200

Small Grants:

1. Aldbury Peace Memorial, 'Community Hall sustainment' project: Project details. £500
2. Hemel Hempstead Swimming Club, 'Automated Officiating Equipment' project: Project details. £500
3. 4th Hemel Scouts, 'Equipment'. Project details. £500
4. 1st Holtsmere End Brownies, 'Equipment' project: Project details. £360
5. Berkhamsted Art Society, 'Website' project: Project details. £500
6. Gospel One Music, 'Black History Month' project: Project details £500

Reports considered:

n/a

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:
Niamh Thomas, Community Partnerships (Funding and Partnerships) Officer
Marion Rawdon, Assistant PA to the Chief Executive
Kim Gioiosa, PA to the Chief Executive
Fay Murphy, Assistant Accountant, Finance
Darren Flanagan, Accountant, Finance
Joe Guiton, Team Leader Community Safety & Children's Services

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Also consulted: Claire Foster, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Physical Activity and Sport) and Annie Smith Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Projects)

Financial Comments:

Fay Murphy gave detailed comments to each application at the grants panel meeting and scored each application. The comments and scores are written on the grants portal for staff. The Finance officer also approved the applications.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Further to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a local authority has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities.

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

The cost of the grant awards is within the approved budget levels.

Implications:

Value for Money: The community grants helps voluntary and community organisations with projects that benefit the local community. Each application considered is scrutinised by Finance and other officers to ensure value for money. Each organisation awarded a grant must provide a written report of the project within 12 months of receipt of funds.

Financial: The community grant pot is protected for allocating to community and voluntary organisations and the budget is allocated for the 2019/20 financial year

Risk: If we did not fund these community projects through the community grant scheme, they may not be able to go ahead.

Officer Signature:

Date – 17 July 2020