

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

PH-025-22

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Julie Banks
Portfolio: Portfolio Holder for Communities
Date of decision:

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £9,250 to Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association

In the Spring round 2022 a community grant application was made from Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association which received approval at the grants panel meeting on 15 June 2022

In 2020 DBWA completed the purchase of their premises – the DBWA Centre (formerly the Grovehill Clinic) having relied on moving between community centres for the previous 15 years. This permanent base now gives the platform to expand the range of activities on offer and cater for even more of the community.

Since then the DBWA have expanded weekend children's classes and ladies' facilities to include fitness classes. DBWA has also facilitated external speaker led talks (including Mental Health Awareness) and further educational classes. MMA fitness classes are being run for children and adults, and they are increasing their diversity by engaging with more of the non-Bangladeshi ethnic communities (they now have a larger makeup of Sri Lanka, Arab and African members of the community).

With increased use of the building comes extra use of gas/electricity/water. The DBWA Centre inherited a legacy heating/hot water system that has been creaking under the pressure of extended use. Heating use is inefficient as either the whole building is heated up or it stays off, there is no temperature control and importantly there was no hot water.

With this in mind, DBWA have been approved for a Community Grant for 2022 to help with the cost of replacing the legacy heating system with a more efficient and reliable one which can cope with the current and future extended needs of the centre.

Total project cost £12,250

Funding:
£9,250 DBC grant

Background

The Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association (DBWA), based in Hemel Hempstead, was formed in 2005 with the primary aim of supporting the growing Bangladeshi community in the town. They are a non-profit organisation and registered charity who have actively sought to bring together the community providing regular organised activities to cater for all genders and age groups. These activities include classes for children and adults (men and women), congregational prayers, annual fun days and tuition classes primarily focussed on English and Maths. The success and maturity of the organisation means that focus of the organisation is no longer limited to solely the Bangladeshi community. They welcome people from all backgrounds and there is now a significant number of people attending classes and events that are from diverse backgrounds.

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The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who will be looking at how well it meets the criteria of the fund; whether the project supports the Councils objectives and how it supports the following five ways to well-being: be active, take notice, learn, give and connect.

Agree recommendation []
Request further information []

Financial Implications:

The money will be taken from the community grant budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Reports considered:

Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association community grant application Summer round 2021 – reference ID - 1576

Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:

Fraser Willcox, Economic Development Officer
Fay Murphy, Assistant Accountant, Finance
Alex Care, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team Leader
Joe Guiton, Community Safety and Children's Services Team Leader
Darren Flanagan, Accountant, Finance

Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer Comments:

Deputy Monitoring Officer:

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.

Section 151 Officer:

The Community Grant budget is set up to support projects like this and there are sufficient funds to support this bid.

Implications:

Risk: there are no specific risks identified that relate to the allocation of funding as described in this report

Value for Money: the community grants criteria looks to gain additional value from supporting community projects with a small amount of resource which yields maximum community benefit. It therefore provides good value for money. Many of the projects and activities are also directed towards external funding sources.

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Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant as detailed - This has been rejected because the application fulfils the Council's scoring criteria within the community grant scheme.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date: 19/08/22

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:**For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 13/07/2022

Date Decision Published: 26/08/2022

Decision No: PH-025-22

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 03/09/2022

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: