

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th September 2016

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Small Grants Recommendations 2016-17

Report By: Andrew Colquhoun
Chair, Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel

Purpose of Report

To make recommendations as to which organisations should be funded under the Foreshore Trust Small Grants Programme 2016-17 and the allocations that will be made to each.

Recommendation(s)

1. To consider the Grant Advisory Panel's (GAP) recommendation to award small grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A.

Reasons for Recommendations

To recommend organisations for grant funding which have been selected following an open application process and awarded to those considered by the GAP to best meet the Foreshore Trust's aims and objectives.

Background

1. The Foreshore Trust Small Grants Programme is a small grants scheme to address the Foreshore Trust's stated charitable priorities and obligations. Around £50,000 is available for the 2016-17 financial years for small grants of up to £5,000 each.

2. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Small Grants Programme, advertised the programme in April 2016 in Hastings Voluntary Action newsletter, the Hastings Observer and in East Sussex County Council's external funding newsletter. An e-mail was also circulated to all previous Foreshore Trust grant applicants. The deadline for receipt of applications was 9th June 2016.

Assessment of applications

3. A total of 63 enquiries were received for the small grants and by the closing date, 39 applications were actually submitted. The total amount requested was £160,746.

4. The GAP met on 12th and 19th July 2016 to review and assess all the applications submitted. Each of the seven members appraised and assessed a selected number of applications with the Chair of the panel having considered all applications. All applications were jointly reviewed and discussed in detail prior to a decision being made by the panel.

5. All GAP members had previously declared conflicts of interest which precluded them from appraising applications from particular organisations.

6. In assessing the applications, the GAP attempted to ensure the activities and organisations supported were as broad as possible and reflected all the priorities set out by the charity committee.

7. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in **Appendix A**.

8. Of the 39 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 15 of these be approved for funding at various levels, subject to particular conditions and satisfactory revised budget proposals where required.

9. Not all of the approved applicants were awarded the full level of grants as requested. There were various reasons for this, including inappropriate budget items, expensive items of equipment and the need to distribute the funds fairly to meet all the various priorities.

10. All the approved projects are to be delivered starting from October 2016 to September 2017. The amount recommended totals £50,000.

11. At its meeting, the Grant Advisory Panel also discussed revising the guidelines for the small grant application process to address the following issues which have regularly arisen during the assessment process:

- Repeat funding applications for similar projects from the same organisation

- Core funding for staff costs
- Applications for funding to raise further funds for the organisation rather than provide a direct service or benefit
- Substitute funding for cuts to statutory funding

12. The GAP would like to consider these issues further, together with others which may be suggested by the Charity Committee, and suggest revisions to the grant guidelines prior to the next round of Small Grants in 2017.

Policy Implications

13. The Foreshore Trust's Small Grants Programme is a funding regime that will impact positively on the economic and financial environment in the Borough, and will assist organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people.

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	X
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	X
Economic/Financial Implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	X

Additional Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small Grants Recommended Applications

Officer to Contact

Pranesh Datta
 pdatta@hastings.gov.uk
 01424 451784

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small Grants

Foreshore Small Grants Programme Round 2016-17 – Recommended applications

Applicant	Project Name	Funding recommended
Age UK East Sussex	Healthy Living Club in Central St Leonards The aim of the healthy living hub is to tackle healthy inequalities, within a deprived community in the town.	£3,293
Bangladeshi Association Hastings & Rother	1 Event: Bengali New Year Celebrations The application is to support Bengali New Year promoting Bengali arts and culture within the town by engaging with different communities.	£2,250
Counselling Plus Community	Hardship Fund Our aim is to continue to offer affordable, professional counselling to those (16+yrs) within Hastings and Rother who are on benefits or low-income and who would otherwise be unable to access counselling by having a hardship fund.	£2,500
FSN [Fellowship of St Nicholas]	ROBOTT [Robsack Offering Brilliant Opportunities To Train] ROBOTT will recruit local community members to establish their presence as volunteers within the Robsack Centre, sufficiently training them to become competent to facilitate a range of activities including helping to initiate a community café, and events to encourage social cohesion within the area.	£3,000
Hastings & St Leonards CAP Debt Advice Centre	Hastings & St Leonards Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Advice Centre We provide an award winning & home delivered service supporting families & individuals to work their way out of debt by creating and negotiating workable budget programs for clients and affordable repayment program within a reasonable period of time (max 5 years).	£5,000
Hastings Arts Forum	The Big Draw 2016 at Hastings Arts Forum - Steam Powered The Big Draw 2016 'Steam Powered' brings together Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Maths. STEAM recalls our Industrial past and the fusion of creative innovation, enterprise and the arts. Our event is for our members, families with children, the wider community and visitors, encouraging them to take a fresh look at their environment and make drawings.	£1,115
Hastings Street Pastors	Hastings Street Pastors We seek to promote peace reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, help alleviate poverty and contribute to the community cohesion in the Hastings Town Centre night time economy by engaging non judgementally offering care and support for individuals irrespective of race, religion, gender, age or lifestyle.	£2,500
HBBS Ltd T/A Hastings Borough Bonfire Society	Hastings Celebrates 950th The aim is to raise the profile of the 950th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Hastings. HBBS with other voluntary community groups is organising an event in the afternoon to make the celebratory day a day to remember.	£2,500

Hastings Furniture Service	Intensive support for volunteers with complex needs Participants will be engaged and intensively supported to carry out activities with HFS that enhance the quality of local residents' lives while increasing their involvement in the community, and boosting their wellbeing and employability.	£5,000
Hastings & St. Leonards Voluntary Lifeguard Club	Promoting open water activity and water safety To educate young people about the sea, how to be safe and how to help others that maybe in difficulty. This will include educating them about rescue organisations (HM Coastguard, Beach Lifeguards and RNLI) rather than putting themselves in danger.	£905
Seaview	Women Only Shower Project To create a woman only shower and toilet area. Currently the showers are used by both men and women, are situated directly outside the men's toilets, and need to be separated.	£4,900
Sussex Prisoners' Families	Inside Outside, a group for prisoners' families We have run a support group for prisoners' families at St. Leonards since January 2016, providing advice, advocacy and support to families affected by the imprisonment of a loved one, and we are looking to continue the St. Leonards group, and set up another in East Hastings.	£4,600
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)	The School SHED Project Sacred Heart Primary School are trying to renovate an area of the school grounds to create an outdoor learning area to benefit their students and those of neighbouring school Dudley Infants, who have no outdoor green space.	£4,937
The Sara Lee Trust	Specialist counselling and complementary therapy provision We are applying for funding to help fund our counselling and complementary therapy provision for patients from Hastings & St. Leonards.	£5,000
Trash Cannes	HOWL! To work in collaboration with the Princes Trust delivering our spoken-word project in an informal setting aimed at disadvantaged young people (16-18) through creative activity.	£2,500
Total		£50,000