

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 25th September 2017

Report Title: Grant Advisory Panel's recommendations

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 2017-18 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.

Introduction

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 2017-18 financial year 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 2017 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 15th June 2017.

Assessment of applications

3. A total of 69 enquiries were received for the small grants and by the closing date, 40 applications were actually submitted. The total amount requested was £163,204.

4. The GAP met on 18th and 25th July 2017 to review and assess all the applications submitted. Each of the eight 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 40 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 14 of these be approved for funding at various levels, subject to particular conditions where required.

9. All the approved projects are to be delivered starting from October 2016 to September 2017. The amount recommended totals £49,538.

10. At its meetings the Grant Advisory Panel also were advised about the proposal to include additional areas that the events can take place under the Events grant programme and consider changes to the annual budgets for each scheme and maximum and minimum awards .

11. The GAP were consulted by email and asked to consider this issue further, and suggest revisions to be presented to the Pre - Charity Committee Meeting on 4th September 2017.

Policy Implications

12. 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

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No

Background Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small Grants Recommended Applications

Officer to Contact

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Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small Grants

Foreshore Small Grants Programme Round 2017-18 – Recommended applications

Applicant	Project Name	Funding recommended
Barbarian Swimmers	Teaching course Proposal aims to provide training for 6 new teachers to Swimming Teachers Association standard. It also includes Life Saving courses and Safeguarding Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults online courses.	£1,510
Counselling Plus Community	Hardship Fund The aim of the project is to provide a Hardship Fund for residents of Hastings and St Leonards. Poverty is a primary cause of poor mental health and effective counselling is usually expensive. This fund ensures everyone – however difficult their financial circumstances – can access professional counselling, enabling them to make real changes to their lives.	£5,000
Culture Shift CIC	Craftivist Automata Project on the Pier Culture Shift, in partnership with the Craftivist network, is planning a creative project in collaboration with Cabaret Mechanical Theatre (collection of 20th and 21st century automata or kinetic sculptures) and Hastings Pier. Between December and March 2018, Craftivist groups will make automata based on the history of the pier, to be exhibited on the pier (time tbc April or July) alongside automata from the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre collection and supported by a big final event.	£5,000
Education Futures Trust	The Shore Academy 'I Love Hastings' project The Shore Academy promotes a love of and respect for our unique marine environment, facilitating exploration of, and engagement with, multiple coastal sites in the area. Children form the primary focus of this work, becoming ambassadors for Hastings by encouraging their families to value and care for where we live.	£5,000
Family Support Work	Supporting vulnerable families in Hastings & St Leonards Group activities will be provided for 60+ vulnerable families in order to provide informal and peer support, information and signposting, and social opportunities to reduce isolation and increase community participation – includes support groups, drop ins, days out, and an after school club.	£1,002
Hastings & Rother Disability Forum	Two Way Communication The aim of the proposal is to obtain expert help in designing a more user friendly website designed to offer those with differing disability needs the opportunity to independently access information plus a request to purchase an updated laptop.	£1,180
Hastings Furniture Service	Access all areas: Improved access to HFS services and volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities and limited mobility Currently people with mobility issues (whether through poor health or disability) and families with young children are unable to get to our first floor furniture display area because the lift is no longer serviceable. Major repairs are needed to improve access to our services for customers, volunteers and staff. People need to reach all the areas of the building to choose affordable furniture for their homes.	£5,000

HVA/‘Love Hastings, Love Yourself’	‘Love Hastings, Love Yourself’ (LHLY) LHLY is a local campaign to raise positive awareness of mental health and to increase community cohesion. LHLY will provide a regular ‘happiness café’, events and opportunities for business and the community to meet and network, with the aim of sharing resources, skills & experience to increase community resilience.	£2,990
Hollington Community Centre	Hollington Community History Project Hollington Community Centre recently organised a successful community event focussing on the local photographic history of Greater Hollington. Feedback from the event suggested a further project would be well supported. The project will be to create a local, online photographic archive, whilst promoting and delivering activity that reduces social isolation.	£2,370
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity Hastings	Safehaven Women A non-religious, life-changing, safe place each Thursday for vulnerable women to relax in, have homemade hot food & drinks and enjoy some pampering where women can talk openly and confidentially with volunteers, receive free clothing and meet with external organisations that assist with housing, recovery, domestic abuse. Safehaven also offers craft sessions to build relationships and develop skills. The project distributes food, sanitary products to women in the street community who do not attend the sessions in the church building.	£4,900
In2play CIC	Birds Bats Beetles Binbags The aim of the project is to plan and carry out repairs which improve safety for children and families within the woodland at Hastings Adventure Playground in the Ore Valley. This will maintain access across the site for all age groups and abilities. The volunteer opportunity and associated TCV training will be offered to local people and they will work alongside existing TCV leaders and volunteers. The Trust for Conservation Volunteers co-ordinator will provide training activity sessions where animal habitat boxes are constructed and installed on site by Young Volunteers.	£6,540
Sussex Community Development Association	Hastings Old Town Before and After The Isabel Blackman Centre (IBC) supports vulnerable adults over the age of 50. This is a historical reminiscence project. The aim is to create a book of photographs which were taken during 1965 – 1966 by one of our clients that attends IBC. The plan is to return to the exact site, with our support where the original photographs were taken and retake the photographs now in 2017 producing a unique historic record of the Old Town Hastings.	£1,884
Sussex Prisoners’ Families	Sussex Prisoners’ Families Hastings and St. Leonards Outreach Service The Sussex Prisoners’ Families outreach service will deliver emotional and practical support to prisoners’ families in Hastings & St. Leonards, at Hastings Magistrates Court, Lewes Crown Court, community Drop-In surgeries, and 1-2-1 meetings with family members.	£4,800
The Time to Shine Project	The Time to Shine Project in the Community We would like to work with Seaview service users to continue the development of their music journey and the diversity & strength as a choir. This will involve recruiting new participants and setting the challenge and responsibility for previous participants to mentor the beginners. This project will culminate in a live performance with a professional band.	£4,472
Total		£49,538