

Report to: Charity Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: 18 March 2019

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Events Grant 2019-2020 & Pilot Grant Recommendations

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

Purpose of Report

1. To make recommendations as to which organisations should be funded under the Foreshore Trust Events Grant Programme and the allocations that will be made to each.
2. To update regarding the proposed combined small and event grant programme pilot 2019-20

Recommendation(s)

1. To consider the Grant Advisory Panel's (GAP) recommendation to award events grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A.
2. To consider the comments of the GAP and review the draft application and guidance for the proposed combined small and event grant programme pilot 2019-20.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The recommended organisations for grant funding 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.
2. To assess the requirements of the proposed combined small and event grant programme pilot 2019-20 for approval.

Introduction

1. The Foreshore Trust Events Grants Fund is a small grants scheme to increase public enjoyment of the Foreshore Trust's land by encouraging a year-round programme of events. Around £36,638 is available for the 2019-20 financial year for small grants of up to £2,000 each.
2. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Events Grants Programme, advertised the programme in early December 2018 in the 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 7 January 2019.

Assessment of applications

3. A total of 15 enquiries were received for the events grant and by the closing date, 11 applications were actually received. The total amount requested was £21,512.
4. The GAP met on 22 January 2019 to review and score the applications. As there were so few applications all of the panel members reviewed all of the applications (excepting conflicts of interest), and these were then jointly reviewed at the meeting.
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 events were spread out throughout the year and at as many different areas of the Foreshore Trust land locations as possible.
7. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A.
8. Of the 11 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 8 of these be approved for funding at various levels, totaling £15,812, with some subject to conditions. All the events are to be delivered within a year of approval of the grant.

Proposal for the combined events and small grant programme pilot

9. Ian Sycamore advised the GAP that at the GAP AGM there was approval to develop a pilot for a year from April 2019 to March 2020 of combined events and small grants programme. The £30,000 allocated to the current events grant programme and the £60,000 of the small grants programme to be combined into one pot for the pilot. This was suggested because of the low uptake of the events grant programme and the high uptake of the small grants, so that the funding could be allocated fully throughout the year.
10. There would be two calls of the pilot programme, one opening in April 2019 with grants awarded in October 2019, and the second opening in October 2019 with grants awarded in March 2020, with the £90,000 allocation split into two £45,000

Appendix 1

pots. This will now enable applicants to apply for events and/or small grants twice throughout the year rather than just once.

11. It is proposed that new applications received for the pilot programme will be split for assessment between the small grant and general event proposals and those planned to take place on Foreshore Trust land.
12. The panel commented that it would be good to have a higher level of publicity for the pilot including photos of events or activities that have taken place. The pilot programme will also be presented at Hastings Voluntary Action's (HVA) Finding the Funds events.
13. The draft application and guidance was circulated to the panel members, and the differences between the current forms and the pilot versions explained. The panel agreed that it would be a good idea to get applicants declaration to the grant conditions by signature or name (this will be included in the final version).
14. It is planned that the pilot programme will be fully evaluated after the first year to see how successful it has been before agreeing to any further rounds. The panel members have been asked to put forward ideas for what they want to see in the evaluation for all aspects of the programme.
15. Ian Sycamore asked the panel members whether they would consider moving towards a more electronic and paper-less assessment process for the new pilot programme. The panel discussed this in full and agreed that it is difficult to both read and assess the applications if they are not in paper format. It was agreed to keep supplying paper copies but only as necessary.

Policy Implications

16. The Foreshore Trust's 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

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	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No

Appendix 1

Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Events Grants Programme Round 7 2019-20
recommendations

Appendix B – Pilot combined grant application form

Appendix C – Pilot combined grant guidance

Officer to Contact

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