

Report to: Charity Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: 23 September 2019

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Pilot Round 1 2019-2020 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 Small & Events Grants Pilot Round 1 2019-2020 and the allocations that will be made to each.

Recommendation(s)

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

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.

Introduction

1. The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards. £59,008 is available for Round 1 in the 2019-2020 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.
2. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Grants Programme, advertised this pilot in early April 2019 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 10 June 2019.

Assessment of applications

3. A total of 65 enquiries were made and by the closing date, 29 applications were actually received. One application was ineligible meaning that 28 applications with a total amount requested of £144,482.49 were assessed.
4. The GAP met on 10 July 2019 to review and score the applications. As in previous years the GAP members were paired up for the initial assessments 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 they were assessed in terms of the organisations' ability to deliver their proposals, how closely the proposed activities match the priorities of the Charity Committee, value for money and a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community.
7. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A.
8. Of the 28 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 15 of these be approved for funding at various levels, with some subject to conditions. All the projects are to be delivered within a year of approval of the grant.

Policy Implications

9. 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

All

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
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Pilot Round 1 2019-2020
Recommendations

Officer to Contact

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Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot Round 1 GAP Recommendations

Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot Round 1 2019-20 – Recommended applications

Applicant	Project Name	Funding recommended	Reasons for Recommendations
Actors of Dionysus (aod)	<p>Greek drama workshop project</p> <p>To further the organisation’s charitable aim to keep Greek drama alive, accessible and enjoyable for a contemporary audience, they want to continue to run their successful free Greek drama workshop campaign - Offering state school and college students in the areas of Hastings and St Leonards the opportunity to take part in professional, tailor made workshops which follow the curriculum and are designed to support and enhance their learning and understanding of ancient Greek drama.</p>	£1,449.00	The panel felt this proposal offered a unique opportunity for local students to learn about Greek history and that this probably is something that would not be accessible to state schools generally due to funding limitations. Numbers who will benefit are fairly small but the panel felt it is a valuable project, which would afford local children opportunities probably only available to privately educated children. The panel wanted to know if the schools identified on the application have committed to the activity, and agreed that this would be a condition of the grant.
Hastings & St Leonards CAP Debt Advice	<p>Relief & prevention of poverty caused by debt</p> <p>The organisation continue to provide Life Skills courses at two church venues in town to teach the skills needed to prevent residents getting into debt. They also provide full home-delivered debt repayment plans to families and individuals in our town who have unmanageable levels of debt with the majority of these either being put on a monthly repayment program through us up to 4 years or applying to the courts for a DRO or Bankruptcy.</p>	£4,800.00	The panel felt that this was a much needed service supporting local vulnerable people to either avoid getting into debt or to help them become debt free. It is a known organisation with a good history of delivering a successful service.
CDA for Family Support Work	<p>Active Horizons at Family Support Work (FSW)</p> <p>Active Horizons project will provide an afterschool club and holiday activities to 70 children and young people aged 5-14 years old who are disadvantaged for many reasons including experiencing poverty and feeling marginalised and disengaged. This project will enable young people to build their self-esteem, learn new skills and engage with the community.</p>	£4,000.00	The grant request is for the continuation of an existing scheme and it would cover the cost of a new playworker to support marginalised families through activities and an after school club. The panel felt that the demand for new playworker was clearly explained and liked the wide reach of the service and that the children can use the services for as long as they need to. The panel wanted to know whether this was a completely new post or if not whether the hours are additional to the existing service provided.

Counselling Plus Community	<p>Supporting Positive Mental Health of Local Young People Providing professional and effective counselling for 20 young people aged 16-24 who are experiencing mental health crises often resulting in self-harm and suicidal ideation and other harmful behaviour. The organisation will be providing immediate support, as their extensive experience shows that this is required by young people.</p>	£3,000.00	The panel felt that this is a much needed service however they raised concerns about dependence as a similar service has been funded by the programme a number of times previously. The panel agreed that the organisation has an excellent long-standing experience of delivering counselling services and that they would be recommending the application for funding with feedback about their concerns about reliance on the Foreshore Trust for some of their funding.
Hastings & Rother YMCA	<p>Replace the Windows of the Art Shack and add a Portable Ramp the organisation was fortunate to secure funding to repair and refurbish parts of the Art Shack but now need to replace the windows and have a portable wheelchair ramp to complete the project.</p>	£4,566.00	The panel felt that this project completes a useful community project improving the environment for those using the current facility and the additions will enhance the learning opportunities for many different groups and future users of the Art Shack.
Hastings Arts Forum Ltd	<p>“Drawn to Life” Big Draw weekend In 2019 The Big Draw Festival theme 'Drawn to Life' focuses on the vital role of creativity for health and wellbeing. As 'social prescribing' gains greater recognition as an effective tool for living a healthier and happier life; creating opportunities for accessible, fun, creative events has become more important than ever. The event is free, and everyone is welcome.</p>	£2,301.89	The panel felt that this is a lovely informal and encouraging event, which is part of the national Big Draw project, and free to all groups in the community and people of all ages. The application included a well itemised budget, which was relatively low-cost, and included reasonably priced artists' costs, however, it included gallery rental, which is ineligible, as HAF owns the gallery.
Hastings Fat Tuesday Ltd	<p>Umbrella Parade and pre-parade workshops The Umbrella Parade is an open access celebratory event for children, families and adults to parade their decorated umbrellas from the Stade to the White Rock Hotel during Hastings Fat Tuesday music festival 2020. Prior to the Parade, eight free half day umbrella decorating workshops will take place in schools and community centres. Supporting the Parade will be Hastings Fat Tuesday (HFT) volunteers recruited from across Hastings and St Leonards.</p>	£2,927.50	The panel felt that this is a popular event which is of benefit to young people's creative skills that targets young people from deprived areas of the town. The panel agreed that the benefits suggested in the application are for a large number of participants and spectators, however if the weather is poor these will be less. The match funding is not secured and the panel agreed that if the application is successful an approval condition is to be put in place that this must be confirmed before the grant can be released.

<p>Hastings Fishermens Protection Society</p>	<p>Project BEACHED Hastings Fishermen Protection Society wish to collaborate with Radiator Arts was to raise the profile and reduce the carbon foot print on the local marine environment, to design and make a Leviathan creature as a centre piece for parades and festivals that can be used and easily changed to suit the venue or the theme of the event.</p>	<p>£4,760.00</p>	<p>The panel thought this was an interesting well thought out idea, but was unsure how it reduced the carbon footprint, and liked the idea that the project can create something which has a longer life than the project and can be used for other events. The panel raised concerns about the costs for the hire of space for meetings & making and asked that another cost be funded from the grant instead of that.</p>
<p>Hastings Furniture Service</p>	<p>Workshop on Wheels (WoW) WoW goes to various community venues over a year, providing workshop places for a minimum of 50 participants - making DIY, craft and other creative activities accessible to a range of vulnerable people unable to access town centre provision. The benefits to people suffering trauma, poor mental health, isolation, poverty and unemployment have already been observed through our work in the Hastings Women's Refuge and social housing areas.</p>	<p>£6,000.00</p>	<p>The panel felt this was a good idea from a well-established organisation with a proven track record of delivery of this type of activity. The panel liked that the idea of trying to reach people directly and that it would have a wide community reach.</p>
<p>The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity Hastings</p>	<p>Safehaven Men A non-religious, safe place each Monday for vulnerable and homeless men and those in the street community to relax in, have bacon rolls, play games, and make friends and build relationships. Safehaven Men offers art sessions to build relationships, develop skills and help guests express themselves. It's an inclusive opportunity where men can talk openly and confidentially with volunteers, experience excellent hospitality and receive support or signposting to external organisations that assist with housing, recovery, employment support, debt advice. From time-to-time, the project distributes food to the street community throughout the town centre.</p>	<p>£3,865.00</p>	<p>The panel felt this was as potentially important beneficial activity that is the continuation of an existing service and if successful they could reach a significant number of beneficiaries over the 12 months of the funding.</p>

Sussex Prisoners' Families	<p>Sussex Prisoners' Families Sussex Prisoners' Families reaches into the communities of Hastings and St. Leonards and the criminal court of Hastings to provide practical advice and emotional support to families who are experiencing the emotional, financial and social challenges of having a loved one in the criminal justice system or in prison.</p>	£5,800.00	The panel agreed that this is a great project that provides a very beneficial service. However, they expressed concern that this has been funded a number of times before and concern was raised about their dependency on the programme. The panel agreed that they did not want to recommend funding the staffing costs, but agreed that they were happy that the grant could contribute to the rest of the budget costs.
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)	<p>Hastings Health Walks The Hastings Health Walk project is a social prescription to provide free (to user), short and easy health walks thereby supporting those who are not active enough to increase their physical activity levels and improve their health & wellbeing. The walks are aimed at residents of Hastings who fall into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people • People with certain health conditions • People at risk of health inequalities • People at risk of social isolation. 	£3,000	The panel felt this was a good sound idea to help increase opportunities for people to participate in short health walks. The panel agreed that the activity supports a wide number of beneficiaries with varying health problems across the Borough and liked that volunteers are involved in the process.
The Athelstan Nursery	<p>Communication and Language friendly space for families With an increase in the number of vulnerable families accessing the nursery and the number of children/parents requiring additional support and advice around Speech and language and other additional needs, the organisation aims to create a space which will enable them to deliver targeted support and offer families training sessions, a space to meet and courses to support and enhance children learning and development.</p>	£6,000.00	The panel liked this proposal to redevelop a small area to provide a break-away and communication friendly space for more targeted activities and to support children in their care with special needs, and agreed that the changes would have a noticeable impact on the children, families and staff members.
The Sara Lee Trust	<p>Provision of free specialist counselling and complementary therapy The organisation cares for some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in our local community. The Trust improves the quality of life of people affected by cancer and other life threatening illnesses (including family members, carers and loved ones) in Hastings and St Leonards through the provision of free of</p>	£2,000	The panel felt this was a well written application that describes the service provision well from a competent specialist organisation, however they raised concerns about dependence as the same service has been funded by the programme previously. The proposal included clear description of the referrals, the beneficiaries participating and how this would extend the service.

	charge counselling support and therapy care. Local need far exceeds our current capacity and they are applying for funding to provide care for 50 local people.		
Xtrax (Hastings and Rother Drop-In Centre)	<p>Reaching Young People</p> <p>A 6 month pilot outreach project to engage with young people in central Hastings and St Leonards where anti-social behaviour is concerning the community. Having engaged with the young people on Friday evenings from 8-10pm, workers will encourage them to visit Xtrax to address issues they may be facing and to help them reconnect positively with education, employment and the community.</p>	£4,268.00	The panel felt this was a great idea from a known organisation with a good track record for working with disadvantaged young people and that the activity is clearly needed. The need for the project and the difference made was well described, however, there was no sustainability strategy, the long-term benefits and impact was not stated, and there was no mention of an evaluation: the panel agreed that this would need to be a condition of the funding if this application is approved.
Total		£58,737.39	