

**Report to:** Charity Committee Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** 13th July 2020

**Report Title:** Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21  
(responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

**Report By:** Victoria Conheady  
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**Urgency provisions were utilised for this report and it was agreed earlier due to the requirement to notify approved grant applicants as soon as possible so projects could start late June/early July, which was prior to the next meeting of the Charity Committee.**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To present the recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis)

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### **Recommendation(s)**

1. Consider for approval the Small and Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis) recommendations of the GAP as set out in Appendix 1 (with projects listed in Appendix A) and request allocation of an additional £258 from reserves to fund beyond the £45,000 threshold

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

Urgency provisions were utilised and a decision agreed earlier due to the requirement to notify approved grant applicants so projects could start late June/early July, prior to the next meeting of the Charity Committee taking place.

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for Small and Event Grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the available 2020-21 budget.

Round 3 of the Foreshore Trust small and events grant programme was re-focused on projects responding to COVID-19. Because of this we reduced the window for applications so submissions could be assessed and approved as soon as possible. Our guidance stated 'It is anticipated final approvals will be made by the Charity

Committee in mid to late-June 2020.'

The Grant Advisory Panel re-scheduled their meetings and met over a shorter period to make their recommendations available for discussion at the planning meeting on 22 June, rather than the normal Autumn meeting, to expediate approvals to applicants to ensure their projects were able to respond to the immediate need.

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## Background

1. The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards.
2. In September 2018 there was approval to develop a pilot for a year from April 2019 to March 2020 of combined events and small grants programme.
3. Following approval of the continuation of the programme after the pilot by the Charity in March 2020, round 3 (2020-21) was scheduled. (Round 4 (2021-22) is scheduled for launch in Autumn 2020 for approvals in March 2021 and projects to start from April 2021.)
4. Shortly after the March charity committee meeting the COVID-19 pandemic hit and it was decided by the Charity that the round 3 programme should be focused on responding to this need. The guidance and application form, including the time-lines, were updated with approval from the GAP and the Charity Committee.
5. The call was open for a shorter period to allow for approvals as soon as possible rather than the late September/early October date.
6. £45,000 is available for Round 3 in the 2020-21 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.

## Small and Events Grants Awards 2020-21

7. The process used to invite and evaluate grant applications was in accordance with the protocols agreed by the Charity Committee in December 2014.
8. The Panel met via Microsoft Teams over the course of two days in early June 2020 to discuss the respective merits of each application. Its recommendations are set out in the report from the Panel Chair (Appendix 1).
9. All of the applications for funding 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, a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community and their relevance to responding to the COVID-19 need.

10. In total, eleven projects are recommended for approval with some of these subject to conditions. All the approved projects are to be delivered between June 2020 and March 2021. The amount recommended totals **£45,258**.

11. It is worth noting that during the assessment process by the GAP, of the total value of projects submitted (£246,547), a figure of £109,702 (24 projects) were worthy of consideration for approval. These were prioritised down to the chosen eleven given the £45,000 allowance.

## Policy Implications

12. The Foreshore Trust's Grants Schemes support activities that impact positively on the social and economic wellbeing of residents in the Borough, as well as assisting organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people that might otherwise be unavailable. The priorities of the Events Grants Scheme are to provide assistance to projects that increase the number of people participating in healthy and enjoyable activities along the seafront and that celebrate and enhance cultural diversity.

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## 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

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## 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)	
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	

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## Additional Information

Appendix 1 – Report by the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel with the Panel's recommendations (Appendix A).

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## Officer to Contact

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