

**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

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Chair, Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To make recommendations as to which organisations should be funded under the Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) and the allocations that will be made to each.

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### **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.
2. To request grant funding for this round at £45,258 from the forecasted £45,000.

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### **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. This round was assessed with a focus on projects responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic and includes projects that will commence from late June/early July.

## 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. £45,000 is available for Round 3 in the 2020-21 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.
2. For this particular round the Charity Committee amended the guidance and application form to focus the call to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The timings for assessment and approvals were reduced to enable applications to be funded in late June/early July rather than the normal October start.
3. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Events Grants Programme, advertised the programme in late April 2020 via a social media campaign and 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## Assessment of applications

4. A total of 85 enquiries were received and by the closing date, 50 applications were submitted. One application was ineligible meaning that 49 applications with a total amount requested of £246,546.75 were assessed. This is approx. 5.5 times the grants fund available, so the round was 5.5 times oversubscribed.
5. The GAP met via Microsoft Teams on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to review and score the applications. As in previous years the GAP members were paired up for the initial assessments and these was then jointly reviewed at the meeting.
6. All GAP members had previously declared conflicts of interest, which precluded them from appraising applications from particular organisations.
7. 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 and this round, value for money and a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community.
8. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A (recommended applicants and not recommended applicants). To avoid undermining the work of some organisations, it is recommended that the list of not recommended applications and the reasons for recommendation for the recommended applications be removed from Appendix A when the Charity Committee Meeting papers are published.
9. Of the 49 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 11 of these be approved for funding at various levels, with some subject to conditions. All the projects are to be delivered within 9 months of approval of the grant.

10. The projects recommended for approval total £45,258.

11. It is worth noting that during the assessment process the GAP was made aware of the recent DEFRA food funding as part of the Community Hub support which had a direct impact on some food related applications (which were submitted prior to this funding being available). It was decided that these applications were not recommended for funding via this Foreshore Programme.

### **Policy Implications**

12. 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. This current round was focused on responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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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)	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

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### **Additional Information**

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Programme Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID-19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

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### **Officer to Contact**

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## Appendix A - Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Programme Round 3 2020-21 (responding to COVID 19 pandemic crisis) recommendations

Applicant	Project Name	Funding recommended	Reasons for Recommendations
Hastings Furniture Service	<b>Small Necessities</b> HFS will provide 60 “Starter Packs” of crockery, cutlery, kitchen utensils and personal hygiene necessities to previously homeless, resettled, families or individuals.	£5,200	The panel agreed this was a strong application with clear beneficiary numbers and would recommend for funding. It would benefit the people of Hastings and would be a good project.
Counselling Plus Community	<b>Supporting the Front Line: Therapy for Social Care Workers</b> CPC will provide, on average, 10 sessions of expert, professional counselling for 18 people working in social or clinical care who are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety because of the risks they experience on a daily basis at their workplaces due to COVID-19.	£6,000	The panel felt this was a strong application with clear beneficiary numbers, although queried what would happen with the funding if the 18 intended beneficiaries are not found or do not come forward. Due to this, it was agreed that the 90% advance payment could be split (with some held back) based on evidence of successful beneficiaries found. The normal final 10% payment will be released on project completion.
Xtrax	<b>A Space To Be</b> Using the opportunity of lockdown and our reduced service, we want to refurbish two rooms at Xtrax at a total cost of £3660. One room will be dedicated to working with individual young people in confidence. The other room will hold sensitive information and enable staff to work, in private, on issues such as safeguarding and advocating for clients with a range of agencies.	£3,660	The panel agreed this was a strong application. The applicant has been running for a long time and provides a good service. One caveat was the timescale specified in the application, stating a completion date of end of June, which would not be possible if funding will not be available until late-June/early-July. It was agreed to recommend the application for funding, subject to realistic delivery timescales being checked with the applicant.

Ore Community Land Trust	<p><b>The Bridges steps pathways project</b></p> <p>During Covid-19 Speckled wood has seen a greater increase in visitors during this current climate more people in the community have been visiting and walking through the wood. There are many bridges, steps and pathways through this wooded valley, which are now faulty dangerous and non functional. These bridges steps and pathways are the only main routes for the community using the wood. The bridges and steps will need newly built constructions within new areas, rather than making minor repairs.</p>	£1,995	The panel agreed this was a good application. It would encourage use of the green space which is important for health and wellbeing in the current pandemic. The funding would cover core materials and work will be carried out by volunteers, therefore not incurring any extra costs.
Hastings Community Transport	<p><b>HCT covid-19 response</b></p> <p>To provide transport solutions that help with the current covid-19 pandemic</p>	£6,000	The panel thought this was a good application and would strongly support their activities. They have been an active organisation during the pandemic and are playing a fundamental part in the response locally. They are only one of a few organisations who were able to supply suitable vehicles for the service they provided.
Bike Lab Hastings	<p><b>Hastings Bike Lab – Covid 19 Response Programmes</b></p> <p>Hastings Bike Lab promotes cycling culture in Hastings &amp; St Leonards through a free to access volunteer run community bicycle workshop where people can access advice, bikes for refurbishment, spare parts and tools. Our activities provide people with physical and mental wellbeing benefits, skills education, social cohesion and contribute towards a healthier environment for our town. Covid 19 has forced the closure of our public workshop sessions but volunteers (taking all necessary precautions) have found ways to continue the work we do. We would like to apply for funding toward our Key Worker Bike and Mobile Library programmes.</p>	£3,800	The panel agreed this is a good application with clear beneficiaries although it felt that the library part was too ambitious, made no mention of other literary provision in the area, nor was there any evidence of demand. Based on this, it was agreed that part funding would be recommended on the condition that the library element (£2,200) is not funded.

Association of Carers	<p><b>Carers virtual café project</b></p> <p>Carers are very often socially isolated and therefore they may benefit from meeting and talking to other carers. Due to the current situation in regard to the Coronavirus, Carers are likely to become more socially isolated and have less opportunities to meet others. Carers will be supported to participate in on line activities, via Zoom which will include on line quizzes, craft activities, mindfulness, Yoga etc.</p>	£938	The panel agreed this was a strong, modest application, offering good value for money. It was recognised that carers have increasing pressures and can become socially isolated and this application offers something that no other has.
Culture Shift CIC	<p><b>Being Our Best Selves (BOBS)</b></p> <p>In 2019, BOBS was developed as a pilot project in Eastbourne supporting disabled adults (particularly with learning disabilities and autism) and carers to develop skills and strategies to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. (see Being Our Best Selves). Since lockdown began, we have adapted delivery in Eastbourne and would like to support people in Hastings and St Leonards who are similarly vulnerable and at high risk of social isolation.</p>	£1,800	The panel liked that this is based on a successful pilot and that it would be able to make the transition from online to physical activities once lockdown restrictions are lifted. The grant requested has been reduced to eliminate existing costs.
Audioactive	<p><b>SHIFT Hastings : Music Mentoring Project</b></p> <p>To bridge the provision of one to one music mentoring services provided to some of Hastings and St Leonards most vulnerable young people while further funding is being secured and provide vital project management capacity to bolster further fundraising. To use engagement with the mentor to assist in successful transition back into secondary education in September and October 2020 and into the successful community-based studio sessions at Western and Warrior Studios in St Leonards.</p>	£5,265	<p>The panel agreed this was a well written application. Although there is a small number of beneficiaries it agreed this application is for a very worthy cause due to the complex scale and need of the young people in question.</p> <p>The panel also queried whether the funding requested was for its core business or additional to it. It was agreed that it would recommend funding the application subject to clarification being provided on this point.</p>

Sweet & Dandy	<p><b>Stade Saturdays</b></p> <p>To programme a set of Stade Saturdays concerts and events on the Stade Open Space to reignite Hastings and bring families back to seafront entertainment safely. Likely September to coincide with Coastal Currents as the biggest press and publicity we can generate to attract footfall and show we lead the way with COVID-safe events. This should also kick-start faith back in the rest of the organisations to re-book that space going forward.</p>	£6,000	The panel agreed this was a good application with contingency plans written in and would help residents to take part in free events in a controlled, gradual way. It also noted that the total budget includes £5,000 which is already pre-approved by HBC; reduced from £15,000 last year. It was agreed that given the uncertainty around social distancing and Covid-19 restrictions, any grant funding would be contingent upon securing the necessary licences from HBC.
Creative Space Science CIC	<p><b>Space@Home</b></p> <p>The project will be a continuation of our Space@TheStade events, with hands-on activity packs for children to engage with at home. This project will aim to engage with children and families enduring social distancing due to COVID-19 by providing space-themed science activity packs delivered through the local Trussell Trust food bank, therefore reaching those in our community with greatest need.</p>	£4,600	The panel agreed it was a well written, comprehensive application and is a really innovative project. It was agreed that the existing employment costs should be removed and it would recommend part funding at £4,600.
<b>Total</b>		<b>£45,258</b>	