

## HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (GRANTS) COMMITTEE 11 July 2022

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Present:** Councillor Cat Hornsey (Vice Chair, chairing this meeting) and Councillors Kath Hey, Aubrey Oliver, Rob Owens, Paul Stevens and Rob Williams

**In attendance:** Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Dave Tristram External Funding and Community Support Officer

#### **CD2022/23.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from Councillors Boulter, Carwardine, Tyler and Wilcox. It was also reported by the Clerk that Councillor Kenyon had resigned from the Committee. The next meeting of Council would decide whether to reduce the Committee, appoint another member, or maintain a vacancy.

#### **CD2022/23.15 SUBSTITUTIONS**

None.

#### **CD2022/23.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hornsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item from React, large grant application, as one of her children uses the facility.

#### **CD2022/23.17 GRANT COMPLETIONS FORMS**

None were being presented at this meeting.

#### **CD2022/23.18 SSAFA SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

The Chair welcomed Kevin Ebsworth to the meeting and invited him to present his application. Mr Ebsworth explained that this project grew from his involvement with the Samaritans, he was their Treasurer until recently and remains Treasurer of SSAFA. Originally, it was intended to hold the event in October 2020 but COVID-19 disrupted that, and it was now planned for October 2022. He went onto describe the format of the event in some detail. "Can You Hear Me" is a song performed by Cantabile and it is used to emphasise the need for people struggling with mental health in the veteran community to be heard. Tickets for the performance are priced between £5 and £20, and it begins with a short talk and will be run as two 45 minute sessions. After the event the support of sponsors is acknowledged. Mr Ebsworth thanked Dave Tristram for his support in getting this application before the Committee and in seeking other funding.

In answer to questions the following additional points were made. There would be an opportunity for Hereford Mens' Mental Health to advertise in the programme. There would definitely be an invitation to the Mayor, noting he is ex-military, and it was generally noted that concerts are a very effective way of raising awareness. The TIC can help with ticket sales and the Council's social media presence harnessed to add to publicity. There are no concessions for disability tickets, there are places for people with mobility difficulties, but it is not appropriate to offer financial concessions at a fund raiser. Finally, it was noted that the £1,300 for the cathedral is a reduced rate from their normal weekday charge. The concert is

on a Friday to keep costs down. One member congratulated the group on keeping going with their plans despite COVID-19 and soaring costs.

Members thanked Kevin for his presentation.

### **CD2022/23.19 REACT CLUB CIC LARGE GRANT APPLICATION**

The Chair welcomed Richard Crane the Founder and Director and Michael Goodman who had prepared the application. Mr Crane reminded members of the history of the Club and of the Council's past support. He also gave an account of the Club's growth since its inception. All classes are now full and there are waiting lists. There are 1,616 members taking part in sessions with the majority girls, attendance by boys is increasing. The Club caters for children who don't easily fit in, nervous, poor body image, poor social skills etc. and some behavioural issues. He illustrated the layout required to operate two more trampolines safely. Improving facilities would lead to the possibility of leadership development work among the volunteers and older club members as well as creating a competition venue. The emphasis would still be on participation for all, the Club is not always focussing on children with the ability to compete, it is OK to come for fun and exercise too. The position of Herefordshire Council seemed to be to put all their resources into HALO and there was little, or no, support for other groups.

There was an extensive discussion with members, in which the following points were noted.

About 80% of the attendance is from families resident in the City. No application has been made to Sport for All but other applications have been made, including Sport England, and Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire. They were very disappointed not to have got anything from Herefordshire Council's post-COVID-19 recovery funding. Another bid reflecting the deprivation indices for Ross Road and Newton Farm was also unsuccessful. The charges vary from one activity to another – trampoline membership is £38 per month, other activities down to £33.

The waiting lists are large and growing – there has been contact with all primary schools but their budgets for travel and extramural activities are severely reduced now. The cost of coaches means there is more cost than benefit to trying to run this in with the Holiday Scheme funding. They may be able to do something for Looked After Children through the Pupil Premium as a source of revenue. It was noted that HALO now don't do any boys' gymnastics at all.

There was only one quote for the equipment sought, because Gym Aid are the licensed importers of the higher quality kit that actually lasts longer in regular use. Mr Goodman did distribute some other quotes for ancillary equipment such as safety mats at the meeting.

It was noted that their relationship with their landlord is an entirely commercial one, he has provided no funding for making good the condition of the building, nor any concession towards the charitable purpose for which it is being used. The group have tried crowd funding before to no avail but may well do so again. Seven GB gymnastics squad members are lined up to visit the Club in the near future which will be inspirational for the children and staff.

It was noted that for an application of this size, the decision will be made at full Council.

Members thanked Richard and Michael for the presentation and for responding to a lengthy questioning of their proposals.

### **CD2022/23.20 HEREFORD CARE LEAVERS SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

The Chair welcomed Alec Hoskins to the meeting and invited him to present the application.

The Care Leavers Project is to assist young people coming to the end of their time in care to make a good transition into society, with employment or full time education and a sense of worth and of belonging. Odyssey House has four self-contained flats and an assessment unit. The garden is currently a soulless concrete yard, mainly used as a smoking site and the plan is to create a sanctuary and networking space in the old Women's Refuge Building. Mr Hoskins read a letter from a young person who had used the facilities expressing how important a thinking space in a decent garden would be.

In answer to questions the following additional points were made.

People can choose to stay in care until they are 18. Those coming out at 16, for whom this project caters for, often do so because it has not been successful and there has often been some traumatic experience to cope with. It was noted that Close House had done something similar to create a garden and also at Harrow Road. Is there anything that can be done to discourage smoking? Yes, the clients are offered health advice and the more people that use the garden the more it will be cared for, and less acceptable behaviour discouraged. Members suggested contacting local garden centres and Widemarsh Workshops for sponsorship or payment in kind, and this will be taken up as well as the idea of wall art to supplement the planting scheme. It was confirmed that the application is for £1,875.67 as stated in the body of the application, not for £1,500 as stated on the front page.

Members thanked Alec for the presentation.

### **CD2022/23.21 MELODY DANCE COMPANY SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

The Chair welcomed Laura Honeyborne to the meeting and invited her to present the application. Ms Honeyborne explained the concept of a free to enter community event mainly aimed at South Wye. There are now two trainees on the team which means they can do more and do it better than before. Lunch boxes are being provided at the impressively competitive price of £2 per head. They are doing the Fit and Fed programme and working closely with the Kindle and Hinton Community Centres.

One member added that he had been to a very impressive show last year and felt that the meal deal from the Moka Bar was an excellent piece of business.

The attendance is about 75/25% girls/boys, which is actually quite a good male participation rate for an event of this kind, but more can always be done to encourage boys to take part. The event is completely free to participate. Dave Tristram added that the funds held are for salaries of trainers and that he is helping the group seek funding from the Society for Aiding the Industrious for professional accreditation training, which will improve safety cover.

Members thanked Laura for an excellent presentation.

### **CD2022/23.22 DEMENTIA MATTERS HERE(FORDSHIRE)**

The Chair welcomed Coral Lemm to the meeting and invited her to present her application. Ms Lemm explained that application is based on the rising frequency of dementia in the community, although diagnosis rates are very low in Herefordshire. The project will attract a high level of participation from the City, about 100 people minimum over two days with live

streaming for those who cannot attend physically. St John's Church now has the first Dementia Café in the City with over 30 people coming in on the first morning it was open. The project was explained in the context of trying to create a dementia friendly city.

In answer to questions, the following additional points were noted. The diagnosis rate for dementia nationally is around 70% of cases, in Herefordshire it is as low as 54%. The impact of COVID-19 on sufferers and their carers and families has been very severe. Coral added that she used to work for Herefordshire Council and left at the same time as Dave Tristram, having been involved with starting up Talk Community. This was a possible avenue for expanding support in the community that could be explored. The Courtyard has a Young Dementia Group to whom they give free use of a room and who host a tea dance in Dementia Action Week. Ms Lemm's group use local volunteers but also students from the University of Worcester Dementia Studies Department who provide a very welcome source of extra personnel. They are seeking to build links with the Care Commissioning Group and with the Alzheimer's Society (although the latter is more focussed on campaigning for research and treatment rather than specific aid to sufferers and their families).

Members thanked Coral for her presentation.

#### **CD2022/23.23 RESOLUTIONS ON THE GRANT APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED**

**a) SSAFA (Councillor Oliver briefly left the meeting at this point)**

It was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Owens and unanimously

**RESOLVED That a grant of £2,840 be made to SSAFA for their charity fundraising concert and that a pop up banner expressing the Council's support be visible at the concert.**

**b) REACT CLUB CIC (Councillor Oliver re-joined the meeting at this point)**

Members expressed some concern that this is not a very strong application for such a large sum, notably only one quote for the main costs and whether a good enough effort has been made to seek funding from elsewhere (noting that sports grants are available). There was also some concern that in the presentation one of the people from REACT had said they had been told to apply for £20,000 by a Councillor and that it was important that the information provided by members was consistent. Even among large grants, awards of more than £10,000 were very rare.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Williams and, with one abstention (Councillor Hornsey having declared a non-pecuniary interest)

**RESOLVED That the External Funding and Community Support Officer does further work to assist the group to find other sources of funding and that this matter is considered again at the next meeting of the Committee focussing on grants, with a view to a possible recommendation to Council for a grant of up to £10,000.**

**c) HEREFORD CARE LEAVERS**

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Owens and unanimously

**RESOLVED That a grant of £1,900 be made to Hereford Care Leavers for their Therapeutic Communal Garden project.**

**d) MELODY DANCE COMPANY**

Members again noted what a great deal had been done with the Moka Bar for the lunches which had significantly reduced the costs. It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Williams and unanimously

**RESOLVED That a grant of £2,927 be made to Melody Dance Company for their Summer Camp 2022 project.**

**e) DEMENTIA MATTERS HERE(FORDSHIRE)**

It was noted that this would be another suitable venue for a pop up about the City Council's support. It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Stevens and unanimously.

**RESOLVED That a grant of £5,000 be made to Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) for their Dementia Voices Project.**

**CD2022/23.24 NEW GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE**

The External Funding and Community Support Officer reported that the form has been proof read and is now being formatted to be compatible with web-based applications. It will be used for all new applications from now on. He is now working on simplifying the grant completion form, as that too is somewhat prolix.

**CD2022/23.25 EXTERNAL FUNDING AND COMMINTY SUPORT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dave Tristram reported the following matters:

He had attended a Meet the Funders event at HVOSS which had been attended by 23 organisations.

As stated above the new form was active from next week.

Currently there are 17/18 potential applicants for the next meeting of the Committee. There is no need for any more publicity at the moment, in fact we are in danger of being over-subscribed with applications.

A plaque for site where we have provided funding is now ready and can be laminated before it is installed.

Having met the head of St Thomas Cantilupe the Committee agreed it would be appropriate for Dave to attend the meeting of the Head's Conference in September.

The pop up will be developed for publicising our support for one off events, as noted above.

Some organisations not so far helped by the Herefordshire Council Resilience Fund might be advised to try there in future.

There is a Funders Event in Malvern for Herefordshire and Worcestershire which Dave is helping to organise.

The Racecourse are keen to do some charity events perhaps a charity market. Councillor Stevens will liaise with Dave to see how this can be developed.

Dave has supported the River Carnival in their successful application to Awards for All and the Citizens Advice Bureau and Hinton Community Centre with their applications to the aforementioned Resilience Fund.

The Clerk stated that his expectation of what Dave might be able to do in the first months in post had been exceeded and members generally expressed considerable satisfaction.

There was a general discussion about the efficacy and roles of community hubs, noting that this was a matter for the Council Meeting in September.

**CD2022/23.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

After noting that several members would not be available for the next scheduled meeting it was agreed to change it.

Monday 26 September at 10.00am Grants Agenda

Tuesday 18 October at 6pm Main Agenda

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.42pm

Signed .....

Date .....