

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT (GRANTS) COMMITTEE 25 April 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Stevens, Councillor Sue Boulter (Chair), and Councillors Hornsey, Kenyon, Oliver, and Wilcox

Attending Steve Kerry, Town Clerk and Dave Tristram, External Funding and Community Support Officer

CD2021/22.91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Carwardine, Hey, Owens and Tyler.

CD2021/22.92 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2021/22.93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kenyon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5b on the agenda, Arts 4 Veterans, as he is a forces veteran and a trustee of the community centre where they meet, and so may appear to be pre-determined to support their application.

CD2021/22.94 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

Grant completion forms had been received from React Club, Friends of Blackfriars Rose Gardens, Growing Local and 7th (Tupsley) Scouts. These had been available for inspection before the meeting and no questions had been raised. All the grants had been spent in accordance with the grant purposes stated at the time.

The grant completion forms were noted.

CD2021/22.95 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) Growing Local Family Recipe Box Scheme and Recipe Cards

The Chair welcomed Louisa Foti to the meeting who gave a presentation in support of the application. This started two years ago as a COVID-19 response because the group couldn't continue the physical workshops that they had run for some years previously. They send out recipe kits with ingredients for two or three meals at a time. It is run by families passed to them from school pastoral teams mainly, as they are the people who most reliably pick up needs in the community. Some referrals also come from social services e.g. single people. They are now running workshops again at the Kindle Centre but the need for food deliveries and recipe guidance remains, as food poverty is growing after COVID-19 not receding. Children who engage in cooking with parents are much more likely to try new things and develop healthier eating habits, than if food is simply put in front of them. It is about teaching a life skill as well as changing diet in the short term. The Food Bank also refers economically vulnerable families if they haven't been picked up through schools. The Food Bank does donate food surpluses when they have them, but much of it has to be bought to meet the recipes and surpluses cannot be relied upon as demand at the Food Bank is also growing.

In answers to members' questions the following points were also noted. There is a possibility of linking with the Allotments Society as they often have surpluses of particular items at harvest time. Councillor Kenyon, as the Committee's liaison with the Society, will pass this idea on to them. There might be a possibility of exhibiting at a Jubilee event to raise awareness, although the main events clash with a lunch the group are already putting on. The service will run from Autumn into Winter. The group is currently using some land at Hinton Community Centre for a garden, but their new garden is part of the South Wye Stronger Towns Fund bid and will provide a much larger and more permanent facility than they currently have. Louisa paid tribute to the help and support she has received from Vince McNally at Hinton in the interim. The emphasis will be on growing local and learning to cook local produce. The Food Share scheme at St Martin's Church might be able to work with this group on providing basic cooking facilities and recipes can be adapted to suit slow cookers as these are a popular choice because of their economy of operation and ease of use. The grant sought is for £3,000, the total shown in the application of £22,000 is for all the group's activities, not just the cost of this project.

Although the group has plans to be a sustainable and ongoing provision, its nature will be transformed by the STF bid and so it would be wise to wait until after that to see if a longer term arrangement such as a Service Level Agreement would be appropriate. For now, an annual grant is preferable.

There being no more questions the External Funding and Community Support Officer added that he is aware of this group and has worked with them before, he considers them to be well run and sustainable.

The Chair thanked Louisa Foti for her presentation.

b) Arts 4 Veterans

The Chair welcomed Paul Crow to the meeting.

The group has been going for about 18 months, with weekly sessions for veterans of the armed forces and blue light organisations. It has been self-funded from donations from staff and volunteers, and some limited income from sales of works. They teach clay work, drawing and painting. There are ten people on the course at any one time, due to the space available, with at least three or four waiting to come on when a vacancy arises. Hinton Community Centre and Vince McNally have been great in providing free facilities. The application is for equipment.

There are three tutors, Paul himself is a veteran, Anna Knight is a Headway and Stonebow tutor with experience of working with people recovering from life changing head injuries and mental illness and Karen is a College of Arts tutor in ceramics and textiles. They have produced logoed caps and mugs for sale to raise funds.

Paul went on to share some personal stories of veterans who have been brought to the group in a very poor state of mental health whose lives have been transformed by the fellowship they have found there, as well as discovering new or suppressed talents and taking up new interests to assist them in long term recovery.

In answer to members' questions the following additional points were noted. There are always at least two staff present and a session runs from 11am to 2pm once a week, up to ten people can be accommodated. All the kit has to be put away at the end of every session as the space

is shared. It was suggested that the group tie up with SSAFA and perhaps arrange to speak at their AGM which will be pursued.

The course is officially ten weeks but often carries on somewhat longer, so gains made are not lost. This has become more flexible to meet varying needs. They are trying to get a second venue up and running, possibly the room at the Heart and Soul Café.

The External Funding and Community Support Officer said he had visited the group, as he tries to with all groups that are making applications to the Council, and the positive vibe from the people there and the obvious benefit they were getting from meeting and working together had been impressive. He is also helping them with applications to the Community Foundation and Awards for All and they appear to have the potential to grow substantially.

The Chair thanked Paul for his presentation.

CD2021/22.96 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS – RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLVED That the Committee awards a grant of £3,000 to Growing Local for their recipe cards and family box scheme and will give consideration to a longer term Service Level Agreement when the future scale and activities of the group are better understood in the light of their Stronger Towns Fund application.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and

RESOLVED That the Committee awards a grant of £3,000 to Arts 4 Veterans for their Art Project.

(This was passed with no opposing votes and with Councillor Kenyon abstaining, having declared a non-pecuniary interest.)

CD2021/22.97 NEW GRANT FORM

The External Funding and Community Support Officer thanked Councillors Boulter and Williams and his colleagues Becci O'Reilly and Ali Tolley for their work in helping to simplify and reduce the grant application form. Much had been done to make it easier to use, whilst still providing members with the key information they need to make good decisions. It was modelled on one used by Ross Town Council and on one used by Awards for All for grants of up to £10,000. It was noted that for larger grant applications to the City Council it might be necessary to have some more information, but rather than having a second form it was agreed that the Officer could use the time between a committee recommendation and the matter coming to Council to obtain any necessary additional information to add to the report to Council. Good liaison between the applicant and the officer was better than having a longer and more complex form.

The grants pages are the third most used area of the website, and this form will be released electronically and publicised through social media. Dave has also been asked to do a presentation to HVOSS at their Meet the Funder event in June and it was agreed this would be entirely appropriate.

The discussion moved on to a standard plaque for premises or facilities which have been funded in whole or part by the City Council, this is in progress and will be available shortly. It was also noted that county wide applications with beneficiaries within the city should be

encouraged to approach their other town and parish councils, so the funding burden is shared more evenly.

The form can be altered as experience of using it builds, it does not have to be set in stone for a year or more. It was noted that requirements for a bank account might be made more flexible, as banks are notoriously bad at setting up new accounts or making changes for charities and community groups.

The Committee thanked Dave Tristram and the others involved for their work and endorsed the new form without a vote.

CD2021/22.98 EXTERNAL FUNDING AND COMMUNITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Things had been somewhat disrupted by Dave coming down with COVID-19, in fact virtually all the staff had now been affected at some time or another. On 1 June he will be attending the Meet the Funder event at HVOSS as described above. They have also asked for some workshops in September and October which he is happy to support. He will be there to provide the training and it will be badged as a Hereford City Council initiative.

Where a project spreads beyond the City it was agreed that the officers could provide advice and assistance, any grant would be proportionate to the number of beneficiaries coming from the City itself. Boundaries of need did not necessarily recognise municipal boundaries, and General Power of Competence did allow for flexibility in this matter.

It was noted that Community Hubs were not having the positive impact some members had hoped for, with very limited opening hours and only signposting to other services not actually providing any assistance. They did not, for example, provide any support in seeking external funding for community projects, and this was no longer provided by Herefordshire Council. It was agreed the Clerk would invite Herefordshire Council's officer Amy Pitt to a council meeting to discuss this with all members.

All grants training and advice material will be recreated from Herefordshire Council days, modernised, and put on the Council's website as soon as it is ready. Dave is forming a City Funders group including Rotary, Lions, Community Foundation, Bulmers, etc. and the National Lottery are keen to support an Awards for All presentation. It was suggested the Co-operative Forum be added to the guest list for the new group.

So far there have been seven or eight applications for funds for Jubilee parties which have received £500 grants and another couple are expected any day.

Other than this, Dave is supporting the Skatepark in their Stronger Towns bid, the community farm, St Nicholas Church grounds renewal project, the Men's Mental Health Group, Hereford Make and Affinity. He and Vince McNally are putting together a plan for a community engagement event later in the year.

The report was noted, and Dave Tristram thanked for his efforts, he confirmed he is very happy to be working for the City Council.

CD2021/22.99 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Noting that the first business of the next meeting must be to elect a Chair and Vice Chair, it was agreed to vary the proposed dates so that the first meeting would be on a Tuesday evening, which is likely to have a fuller attendance than a Monday grants meeting.

Next meeting for main agenda including election of Chair and Vice Chair Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 6pm

Next grants agenda meeting Monday 11 July 2022 at 10am

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed

Date