



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE - 5 JUNE 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillors Stevens, Proctor (part), Potts, Hobbs, Hornsey, Kenyon, Griffiths and Boulter (part).

Attending: Steve Kerry Town Clerk, Dave Tristram External Funding and Community Support Officer, Hannah Davies Administrative Officer

CD2023/24.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

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

RESOLVED That Councillor Hornsey be elected as Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2023/2024.

It was proposed by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Proctor and unanimously

RESOLVED That Councillor Hobbs be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2023/2024.

CD2023/24.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from the Mayor and Councillor Spencer.

CD2023/24.3 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2023/24.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kenyon declared nonpecuniary interests in two grant applications, from 22nd Hereford Scout Group and Hereford Armed Forces Veterans.

CD2023/24.5 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

It was noted that all the forms had been available to members and Councillor Stevens confirmed he had checked them. Dave Tristram also confirmed they had been checked. There was one anomaly; the form for the Ukrainian aid was in fact for a donation, the grant to a separate body was not due to be reported until September.

The grant completion forms were noted.

CD2023/24.6 ANNUAL REPORTS

None.

CD2023/24.7 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – HEREFORD RIVER CARNIVAL

Rebecca, Leo and Katie from River Carnival joined the meeting and presented a report following on from their last one in August 2022. This one covered the Community Lanterns workshop at Christmas, one in Maylords the other in Hunderton, the event at Babar Café and the Alternative Valentines event run with the Core and Hereford Pride. They had acquired a number of assets from the Friends of Castle Green who were now focusing exclusively on their pavilion project so their ability to support other voluntary groups by lending kit to them had been significantly enhanced. The Hereford Happening in May had gone well despite foul weather and the representatives thanked the City Council staff for their on-site support, and for bringing them into contact with the EPICS and the Hit Squad who had been invaluable. Relations with HVOSS were much better now and there was good communication between them and the Carnival. The screen which had turned the Hereford Happening into a coronation event had been appreciated and many had paused to watch the key moments. The main River Carnival will happen in August, and they have engaged a professional event manager onto their team to work on both funding and the running of the event. As there is some uncertainty about the condition and appearance of the Castle Green pavilion area, the whole event will be on Bishop's Meadow, which gives more space and avoids delays in crossing the river onto the Victoria Bridge to get from one element to another.

In answers to questions, it was noted that a single location would make navigation easier for new visitors to the event, that the event had been very well run last year and hugely impressive and the new website was much more responsive and a better tool for both marketing and on the day and directions. Although the event was outside the City BID area it was within the Destination BID remit and the organisers would be guided to the people who might be able to offer some support at DBID.

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

RESOLVED That the Committee agrees to release the annual Service Level Agreement payment of £10,000 to the River Carnival.

CD2023/24.8 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION 2FACED DANCE COMPANY – OUR CITY MOVES

Louis and Tamsin from 2Faced Dance Company joined the meeting and presented their application with a slide show. They explained the group had started as community volunteers but were now a professional dance troupe, touring nationally and internationally. They would like to put on a festival of movement in Hereford specifically aimed at younger people who had not engaged with performing arts. It would offer opportunities not only to dance but to gain experience in areas like stage management, lighting and staging, administration, etc. as well as designing and performing a programme. This would be free of charge at the point of use, which was an important incentive to try new things. Within the County there are around 4,000 under 16s living in absolute poverty and a high proportion of those are within the City. In order to reach the target audience, they are co-curating the whole event with young people, involving them at every stage.

In answer to questions further points were noted. There is a full safeguarding and DBS system in place, not as stated on the form. There is access for people with additional needs and one of the first people to be involved was a BSL user. They would consider a suggestion of bringing lots of different periods and styles of dancing together in a ceilidh type event. The workshop figures had an error, it should be ten hours not fifteen as shown. Up to last year, funding from Arts Council England had been a considerable part of the group's income, from 2022 they had been forced to manage without that, which was reflected in their accounts showing a lower level of large grants

and more reliance on event ticket sales and local donations to balance their budget. Members noted that they had survived the shock of ACE withdrawing funding after many years very well. Feedback on the event will be collected at every stage by directly asking participants how they feel before and after and for any suggestions or comments.

CD2023/24.9 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION SAVE THE WYE – RESTORE THE RIVER

Councillor Boulter joined the meeting at this point.

Richard from Save the Wye joined the meeting and presented the application. The plan is for a family friendly event to educate people about the condition of the river and to enthuse them to be involved in either supporting the citizen scientists who are collecting the data or in clean-up projects or in lobbying for better legal protections. The group are working closely with others who are looking at the head waters of the river in Wales and downstream towards Ross-on-Wye and the Bristol Channel. A co-ordinated approach is required to a whole river problem. The event is a wide range of activities, some mainly entertainment to engage people's interest, others more overtly campaigning such as the series of short talks about the problems with the river and the need for action. The group have done work with St Thomas Cantilupe and Riverside Schools around raising awareness of the river, its flora and fauna and were now working with the Art College who would be involved in the day through art workshops picking up themes of a living river. They were awaiting decisions on their grant applications and at the moment had empty pockets.

In answer to questions, further points were noted. There was no data yet from the citizen scientist about the large blooms appearing in the river with the warmer weather at the weekend but the problem was obvious and it would be measured through the summer. The event is on Castle Green which is an accessible site and there would be first aid provision in the event plan. There is no need for street closures as the procession would be around the Cathedral Close and all the necessary approvals and permissions had been given. There was no intention to turn this into a shouty demonstration but was rather a celebration of a turning point in awareness. Success would be good footfall at the event, 100 or so new contacts to follow up and around half a dozen new volunteers. Richard undertook to test why the group limited membership to over 18s whilst saying they did not discriminate on age. The overall aim is educational, that element in the festival would be through the soap box talks, lasting about ten minutes each with engaging and well informed speakers, the arts events are also environmentally themed and subtly educational without being overtly didactic. The bank account is now sorted. They will seek funding from Herefordshire Council, but they do not hold out much hope.

CD2023/24.10 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION 22nd SCOUT GROUP – SHIREJAM 2023

Having declared interest in this and the next item on the agenda Councillor Kenyon left the meeting.

Ashleigh from the 22nd Scout Group joined the meeting and presented the application. The group had been formed in 1981 by the SAS, although it was now civilian run and it retained a strong military connection with many service families sending their children to the group. Their local area is South Wye, east of the A49. Shirejam is a county jamboree with many opportunities for scouts to engage in sports and other events, team building and projects, and is a huge opportunity to meet, talk with, work with, and compete against scouts from across the county. It is an important part of getting the whole movement going at full pace again after COVID. The purpose is to use

this to enthuse existing scouts, but also showcase the wider movement and thereby to increase local membership.

In answers to questions further points were noted. There are 65 scouts in the group with 30 adults, so far 43 scouts and 12 adults are booked for the Shirejam. Three age groups meet weekly from 5 to 18 years of age. The Ministry of Defence still restricts any publicity including any photographs of the inside of their centre which inhibits recruitment somewhat. They are based at Saxon Gate near Staddlestone Circle. If they get funding for new tents, they will use them alongside the old ones if numbers rise or donate the old ones to a similar organisation if they are not needed. Scouts can attend the event either for one day at £35 or £70 for two days including food. About 60 of their membership come from the City, mainly the local area with some from Belmont and a few from across the river. It was suggested that they approach the Co-op about being a sponsored charity for their fund raising locally and they will pursue this. They get the hall free from the MoD but would consider moving if they could afford it.

CD2023/24.11 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION HEREFORD ARMED FORCES & VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB – INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Steve Cole and Steve Chalk from the Veterans Club attended the meeting and presented the application.

Data has been collated which show that veterans are disproportionately likely to suffer from a range of issues such as loneliness, depression, anxiety and isolation, mainly to do with the impact of leaving a close knit community of comrades and finding themselves out of touch with the rest of society. A breakfast club is a low threat and a very accessible way for them to address this. The group was formed in 2015 and is one of 420 such clubs worldwide. They are seeking funding for leaflets and publicity material such as flags to put up in areas of high footfall to make more veterans aware of the opportunity to engage with others in the same situation and find mutual support and fellowship. There are believed to be 9,641 veterans in the County, 46% of whom are over 75 years of age. One in four suffer from long term health issues, often both physical and mental.

In answer to questions further points were noted. The City Council logo will appear on any flyers or other material we fund. The group use Wetherspoons at the moment which is not ideal as it is too public and is a problem for potential members who are recovering from alcoholism. About 30% of the membership are female. There is a mental health nurse who works with the project and they would support mental health first aid training for members. Councillor Boulter offered to support the group in finding funding to hire a hall for a more private and no-alcohol venue.

CD2023/24.12 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION ETHOS – THE LIVING ROOM

Councillor Kenyon re-joined the meeting at this point.

Mel from ETHOS joined the meeting and presented the application. The purpose is to support homeless people with practical help whilst at the same time seeking to address the root causes of their homelessness. This project is to create a facility for them to be able to wash their clothes and take a shower, both of which are difficult for people in informal shared accommodation such as sofa surfers or those sleeping rough. The facility needs to be away from their other activities at their centre, the Living Room, for hygiene and personal privacy. The Living Room is a café for everyone and money from paying customers helps to fund support for those without funds. The

project involves repurposing a rear room, equipping, and fitting out for the washing and showering facilities.

In answer to questions further points were noted. The showers would also be available for staff who want to cycle to work, which is several of the current ten employees. There is a policy in place for the safety of users from unwanted intrusion and the facility will always be staffed while it is in use. The washing machine is a domestic one which will be sufficient for the anticipated need. At the moment they get two or three queries a week about clothes washing but anticipate this will rise to two or three a day once the facility becomes known. There was a change of trustees in 2021 as the activities of the charity were changing and new skills were needed. They are planning to have a dryer, but this is not on this application. They will approach local suppliers for a discounted machine. Although they have a working relationship with Vennture it was noted that the second organisation have nothing in place that would duplicate this provision and the Volunteer Co-ordinator does not seem to be in post yet. The cost of consumables can be covered at the moment and they use a charity called the Hygiene Bank for supplies.

Councillor Proctor left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

CD2023/24.13 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION STRIDE ACTIVE – PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OUTREACH

Becky joined the meeting at this point and presented the application. Currently 53% of young people in the county are not taking part in the recommended levels of physical activity for their agenda and one in four leave school overweight or obese. These figures are worse than the national averages, and the City is worse than the County as a whole. There is sound evidence of a significant problem with girls being encouraged to take part in physical activity because of body image problems, feelings of embarrassment especially if boys are present or in the early stages of taking up an activity. At present sessions are hosted at Whitecross and the group make use of old PC's provided by the school. Their capacity to expand their work is inhibited by a lack of good IT to maintain records securely to allow for data to be processed and managed and for good communications. The proposed new laptops will solve these problems and enable expansion. Most work is outdoor where the current laptops can't be used – more flexible and up to date equipment is clearly required. Every child presents with a unique set of needs, often in quite complex relationship and a rapid bespoke response is required to give everyone full opportunity to engage in physical activity. This requires swift and confidential communication with schools, families and sports groups.

In answer to questions further points were noted. The relatively high price of the laptops is based on a specification drawn up by John Finch to ensure the machines are robust, can work outdoors, have a good quality of data protection for personal data and are available at a discounted rate.

Councillor Potts left the meeting at this point.

Events are organised at schools and at The Core or HALO, following national programmes or bespoke ones to meet a child's specific issues and capabilities. This is done by a lot of listening to the children and focussed conversations about what they might like to try. There is much encouragement and support to try new things and evidence that this approach works. All the outreach to potential users is through schools and to meet special or complex needs they source advice from Matt at The Core or Barrs Court School for specialist support. The project is not only for girls, but there will also be different subgroups within the project for boys and girls.

CD2023/24.14 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTIONS

a) 2Faced Dance – Our City Moves

Noted this was an excellent application and clearly provided an important service. It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and, with one abstention,

RESOLVED That a grant be made to 2Faced Dance of £3,000 for the Our City Moves project.

b) Save the Wye – Restore the River

Concern was again expressed about the possibility of the procession becoming a political demonstration and links to more militant groups were speculated about. The Clerk reminded the Committee that the Council had already committed to the campaign to clean up the Wye and restore water to bathing standard throughout its length so there was no conflict with our declared policies. It was noted that there was no specific evidence to suggest the group were linked to any militant organisations.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon that a grant of £500 be made but this had no seconder, so it fell.

It was proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Hobbs that a grant of £1,000 be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hornsey that a grant of £2,000 be made.

On being put to the vote on the proposal for £2,000 there were 2 in favour and 4 against.

On being put to the vote on the proposal for £1,000 it was by 4 votes to 2

RESOLVED That a grant be made to Save the Wye of £1,000 for the Restore the River project.

c) 22nd Hereford Scouts – Shirejam 2023

It was noted as a concern that not much fund raising is going on and they only seem to be directly contacting service families, possibly because of their restricted relationship with the MoD. However, the project clearly had merit and should be supported.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Boulter and with Councillor Kenyon abstaining having declared an interest

RESOLVED That a grant be made of £2,196 to the 22nd Hereford Scout group for the Shirejam event.

d) Hereford Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club – Increase Membership

There being general agreement about this project it was proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and with Councillor Kenyon abstaining having declared an interest

RESOLVED That a grant be made to the Herefordshire Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club of £579.32 for their project to increase membership.

e) ETHOS – The Living Room

It was noted that the lack of support from Vennture was deeply disappointing. For an application above £3,000 but below £5,000 special merit needed to be established.

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

RESOLVED That the project having special merit that a grant of £3,100 be made to ETHOS for their Living Room project.

f) Stride Active – Hereford Physical Activity Outreach

Several members stated that this project too had sufficient special merit to warrant an award above the £3,000 threshold. It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hobbs and unanimously

RESOLVED That the project having special merit that a grant of £3,672 be made to Stride Active for their Physical Activity Outreach project.

CD2023/24.15 SEAGULL SACKS

The Clerk explained that for some years, since DEFRA removed the exemption on wild bird protection for seagulls it had been impossible to continue with the contractor who removed nests and eggs from buildings. The only legal way to control the seagull population was to interdict the food supply, which was mainly street waste. The seagull proof sacks were tried and tested and were effective but needed to be expanded and some replaced over time. The prices have gone up and the BID who ran the scheme outside their programme had been funded by the City Council in the past at around £2,000 per annum. The cost had now risen to a little over £3,500 per annum and he was asking the Committee to authorise the higher expenditure to enable this programme to continue. It not only reduced seagull numbers but prevented bags from being split open and food waste spreading over the footways of the City. The cost was still less than half what had been spent on the contractor who used to remove nests.

Councillor Kenyon commented that this was a good idea, good publicity for the Council and he was reassured that the bags have both the BID and the City Council logos on them.

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

RESOLVED That the Council will continue to support the seagull proof sacks provided by the BID at the higher price now being charged.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Signed

Date