

# REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

## SMALL GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS (ROUND 3)

**Report Reference** F-20-02  
**Meeting Date** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
**Agenda Item** 7  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk



### 1.0 BACKGROUND

Applications under the council's small grants scheme (up to £1,500) are considered at three rounds across the financial year. Members may request a copy of the application form by contacting the Town Clerk.

The small grants working group has reviewed the four applications submitted for the third and final round of funding in the 2020/21 financial year in line with the council's Grants Policy (available online). Applications are scored on achieving policy outcomes (10), value for money (10), governance (10) and fitting with the council's strategic objectives (6). Applications must score 18/36 to be considered for a grant with a score of 6 on the governance scale.

### 2.0 ROUND THREE APPLICATIONS

#### 2.1 1<sup>ST</sup> KNUTSFORD SCOUTS

<b>Grant requested</b>	£1,500	<b>Score</b>	35	<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve
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*Cllr Houghton declared an interest on this application and abstained from discussion/voting at the working group.*

1<sup>st</sup> Knutsford Scouts applied for £1,500 to fund the purchase of hand dryers, toilets (inc one disabled) and wash basins to fit out the new Scout Hut.

The application met both the required governance and overall scoring thresholds.

The working group recommends the approval of the grant with the Town Council directly purchasing the items and gifting them to the 1<sup>st</sup> Knutsford Scouts; subject to the VAT incurred this would reduce the expenditure to £1,250.

#### 2.2 CROSTOWN COMMUNITY ORCHARD

<b>Grant requested</b>	£1,500	<b>Score</b>		<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve (STC)
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*The Town Clerk left the working group whilst it discussed this application as the Chairman of the charity.*

The Crosstown Community Orchard applied for £1,500 towards the cost of establishing a new

community orchard on Mobberley Road and set out two funding options:

- A) To fund the purchase of fruit trees
- B) To purchase and install a bench and sign

The application set out that it had applied for an alternative grant for the fruit trees but at the time of application had not received confirmation of whether it had been successful and so presented the Town Council with two options. The charity has now received confirmation it has been awarded a grant from the Tree Council to fund the trees. The working group supported this flexible approach.

The application met both the required governance and overall scoring thresholds and the working group recommends the grant for approval subject to the following conditions:

- a) The charity adopting and submitting to the Charity Commission policies on Risk Management, Safeguarding, Conflicting Interests, Volunteer Management and Complaints
- b) The charity adopting and submitting to the Town Council a COVID Safe Outdoor Working Policy

The charity has confirmed it will accept these conditions and is working on adopting the policies.

Under this grant the council will purchase and install the bench and sign as a gift to the charity to enable the recovery of VAT; this had been included as part of the request and the total grant expenditure will be £1,500.

### 2.3 CYCLE KNUTSFORD

<b>Grant requested</b>	£350	<b>Score</b>	26	<b>Recommendation</b>	Refuse (RTC)
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Cycle Knutsford applied for £350 for the council to fund the purchase of signage to sign the Knutsford Revolution cycle route.

The working group felt that whilst the application met the required scoring threshold it was uncertain whether the quality of the signage and proposed installation method (cable ties) was sufficient; the working group was also unsure what permissions and conditions would be required by Cheshire East Highways. It was agreed that the project would be best owned and delivered by the Town Council.

It is recommended that the grant application is refused but that the committee recommends that the Environment Committee work with Cycle Knutsford to deliver the project directly and in the event of the Environment Committee determining not to deliver the project that Cycle Knutsford be invited to resubmit their application for the next round of funding.

### 2.4 FRIENDS OF BEXTON SCHOOL

<b>Grant requested</b>	£1,500	<b>Score</b>	16	<b>Recommendation</b>	Refuse
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The Friends of Bexton School applied for £1,500 to purchase of outdoor messy play equipment. The working group recommends refusal of the grant on the grounds that:

- a) The project does not deliver a wider community benefit outside the school
- b) The project does not demonstrate value for money

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) A grant in-kind is awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Knutsford Scouts
- b) A grant in-kind is awarded to Crosstown Community Orchard subject to the conditions set out in 2.2
- c) The grant application from Cycle Knutsford is refused but that it is recommended to the Environment Committee that it delivers the project directly and in the event of it determining not to do so the Cycle Knutsford grant be reconsidered
- d) The grant application from Friends of Bexton School is refused