

REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME AWARDS



Report Reference COM-23-01
Meeting Date 19th June 2023
Agenda Item 6
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

In lieu of a working group (due to the timing within the civic year) committee members were invited to express interest in reviewing the first round of applications for the current financial year. Three members were randomly selected (Cllrs Banks, Hartley and McCulloch) to review the applications and prepare recommendations. Cllr McCulloch was unable to attend the meeting at short notice.

2.0 APPLICATIONS

2.1 KNUTSFORD IN BLOOM

Amount Requested: £1,500
Recommendation: Approve in full

This application seeks £1,500 to fund the activity of Knutsford in Bloom for the ensuing year. The funding would cover the cost of plants, maintenance and replacement of equipment.

The panel felt it strongly delivered the desired outcomes and presented good value for money as without the funding the work undertaken would fall to the town council. The group met the required governance score and had a moderate fit with the council's strategy. Total score: 30.

Cllr Hartley declared a prejudicial interest in this application as the Town Council's representative to the group.

It was noted that the group is fully reliant on the Town Council grant for its activity and that it delivers a service which would otherwise require the Town Council to manage (via managing the volunteers or directly delivering the service). It was agreed that the council should consider funding this group via a multi-year grant rather than an annual grant being requested each year.

2.2 RUN KNUTSFORD

Amount Requested: £192.76
Recommendation: Approve in full

This application seeks a donation of £192.76 to purchase equipment to grow the group, buying high-vis equipment for evening runs.

The panel felt the application strongly met the desired outcomes and value for money criteria, had strong governance and strongly met the council's strategic aims. Total score: 34.

2.3 FRIENDS OF COLLEGE WOOD

Amount Requested: £1,256
Recommendation: Partial award (£400)

The application seeks a grant of £1,256 to fund ground works and the creation of a seating area as part of a programme of enhancements at the woodland. The application was held over from the final 2022/23 funding round.

The panel felt the application offered strong governance and moderately meets desired outcomes but felt it could have offered better value for money and been in stronger alignment with the council's strategic plan. However, the panel concluded it met the required score to be awarded a grant and would deliver community benefit. Total score: 21.

2.4 MID CHESHIRE SAMARITANS

Amount Requested: £1,500
Recommendation: Refuse

This application seeks a grant towards new carpets as part of a renovation for operations room for the Samaritans office in Northwich. The application was held over from the final 2022/23 funding round.

The panel felt that whilst it was a worthwhile cause, it did not accrue significant direct benefits to Knutsford and should therefore be refused. Total score: 18.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) The committee approves a grant of £1,500 for Knutsford in Bloom
- b) The committee approves a donation of £192.76 for Run Knutsford
- c) The committee approves a grant of £400 for Friends of College Wood
- d) The committee refuses the grant request from Mid Cheshire Samaritans

It is further recommended that the Planning and Facilities Officer and Cllr Hartley work with Knutsford in Bloom to develop a proposed multi-year funding arrangement for the group and that this be tabled to Full Council in due course for consideration in the 2024/25 budget.