

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	4 th July 2023
Report Title	Community Grants Report
Agenda Reference	13
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Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.

Community Grants

The Parish Council has a community grants budget which is used to help support local charities and voluntary groups each year with funding to enable them to carry out projects and activities for the benefit of residents. There are three grant application deadlines each year, and these are 31st May, 30th September and 31st January. The budget for community grants for 2023/2024 is £5,000.00.

The community grants scheme has been in place since 2012 and during that time a total of 38 community groups and organisations have benefitted from £39,781.98 of grants from the Parish Council.

Since 2019, the previous Council term, £25,021.98 has been awarded to 27 grant recipients. The Community Development Officer recently contacted successful applicants and received some heart-warming messages of thanks.

Statements from Previous Grant Recipients

Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club

"The Haydon Wick Community Grant enabled the Swindon Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club to purchase a valuable feather flag and banner that are displayed when the club meet and when attending events. These items provide a recognisable identity for the club and provide members with a deeper sense of belonging. The club provides a safe atmosphere for serving armed forces personnel and veterans to meet and be amongst like-minded people who have had similar experiences."

We provide each other with personal and professional support as well as share memories and stories. Our members have had a sense of belonging throughout their careers. These items and the club extend that past leaving the service. We are thankful for this grant and your continued support."





Haydon Wick Girl Guides

"The Haydon Wick Community grant really did make a difference in making sure those that we kept our subscriptions low so all members could still afford to continue their Guiding life. I even did a speech at the Annual Parish Meeting explaining what we did with our money."

Friends of TWIGS

"Friends of Twigs last had a grant from you in 2021 for art therapy materials. I came to one of your meetings and you included our pictures and a quote from me in one of your magazines. I'd like to say a big thank you again - it is lovely to have your support."

ATB Skate Shop

"The community grant helped fund a youth service in Swindon. There aren't many things for young people to take part in for free in Swindon, however, Haydon Wick really stands out as a leader amongst all the other parishes. You have your own skate park which is for all ages and abilities to use. The park is well looked after and works well for the skaters and scooter riders."

Having such a good facility in Swindon has meant that ATBShop has been able use this grant money effectively. We organised a big scooter and skateboard event in February where all ages and abilities could take part. We provided scooters and skateboards for everyone to use, and we taught riders new tricks and played games with them all morning and into the early afternoon. We played music via our PA system, ran competitions and gave away some good prizes. Parents were present and were actively encouraged to take part. The feedback from the event was brilliant, despite the chilly weather!"

Swindon SEND Families Voice (Parent/carerer forum for Swindon)

"We received the Haydon Wick Community Grant and used it to hire venues to hold our Branches event. Branches is held monthly; we invite speakers and parents /carers with SEND children. This gives them the chance to speak to professionals and meet with other parents."

During Covid our families didn't get a chance to meet with anyone. The money we were given from the Council was used to give the parents and families an opportunity to meet with each other, to talk and offload."





St Johns Ambulance

Following your very generous donation towards the Appeal for a Community Support Unit Vehicle for our volunteers in Wiltshire, please find below an update on how we have used your donation and the timeline for when the vehicle will be received at our regional hub in Swindon.

- **How the donation was used**

The donation has been used towards the purchase of a community support unit vehicle which is due to be delivered to Swindon (for use across Wiltshire) in late October 2023.

Since the donation from the Council we have subsequently raised £42,000 with the opportunity to draw down some match funding. We would not have been able to have raised this amount of income, nor have the opportunity to seek match funds, without your support. We have been able to raise funds from a number of Parish and Town Councils as well as Private, Corporate and local people organising events.

- **Benefits of the Grant to the local community**

As the vehicle has not yet been delivered we do not hold data, yet, on how many specific residents have benefitted from it. However, during 2022 and year to date we have 627 volunteers who have donated over 25,000 of volunteering hours many of which would have been attended by local parishioners.

Our local volunteers work across multiple communities across Wiltshire and volunteers from Wiltshire also supported St John Ambulance nationally by helping at the Queens Jubilee Celebrations in London, Wimbledon and Operation London Bridge in September 2022. In addition, many offered First Aid and Emergency treatment to members of the public during the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

- **How the grant will help us in the future**

Volunteering numbers dipped during covid but we have successfully managed to recruit additional, new volunteers and team leaders, especially youth team leaders, enabling us to re-open Badger and Cadet Units across Wiltshire. We know that the CSU when active will help us publicise more about what we do as we are planning a series of local visits where communities and parishes, particularly those that have contributed via donations, so they can see the vehicle at first hand.

During 2023, we have also been out and about delivering more community based CPR sessions in Wiltshire and delivering Talks about our work to numerous local clubs and societies. Once we have the vehicle in-situ we will be issuing a local press release and will be holding a re-dedication service where we will mention as many supporters as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during our Appeal, and indeed those who continue to do so, as we reach our final total.



Community Grant Process

- Applicant submits the grant application.
- The Community Development Officer and Deputy Clerk & Services Manager vet the application and address any queries ahead of circulating with the Committee.
- Applicant is invited to present their application to the next Community Development Committee.
- Grant is reviewed by Community Development Committee, sometimes the project ties in with other aspirations of the Council, for example Community Choices or Youth so consideration is given to whether funds can be met from a different budget.
- Grant recipients are provided with feedback and given the news of whether the application has been successful or not.
- Successful applicants are asked to provide a quote and a press release is written.
- Payment is made and approved at the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting.
- Successful applicants are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to talk about their project and how this benefits them and the wider local community.
- In the event of any surplus budget at year end, the applications are revisited and where possible additional grants are given.
- After 12 months, the Community Development Officer checks in with the successful grant applicant to receive an update on the project and confirm that funds have been spent for original purpose.

Next Steps

The next steps are to continue to advertise the Community Grants Scheme and do a social media campaign of all the statements received from previous grant recipients. The next grant deadline is end of September ready for review in October.