

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	2 nd April 2024
Report Title	Community Grant – Connecting Communities
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Jodie Smart, Finance Officer and Deputy RFO

Officer's Recommendation

1. To note the report and consider any requirement to return all or part of the grant provided.

Background

At October's Community Development Committee the following grant was awarded:

CD185.4 To award £500.00 to Connecting Communities to set up monthly family events to encourage diversity and bringing communities together, to be met from Community Grants 4209/402

The original grant application is attached to this report as appendix A.

The conditions within the community grant policy state:

3. The Community Group or Organisation must demonstrate the level of benefit to the local community and be able to indicate that a large percentage of the participants are residents in Haydon Wick Parish Council that will benefit from the grant.
4. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
5. If the group is unable to use the award for some or all of the stated purpose, all monies (or a proportion thereof) must be returned to Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Detail

The grant recipient has recently contacted the Parish Council to inform it that the monthly talks are now taking place in Eldene, as they have managed to secure free room hire for this purpose. The original plan (as stated on their grant application) was to seek room hire within the parish. The funds awarded are currently being spent on the utilities for the room hire, snacks and drinks.

The Finance Officer has requested that the applicant provide information regarding the profile of the users i.e. how many users are from Haydon Wick, details of the advertising campaign, how the applicant has tried to reach residents of Haydon Wick and how the Parish Council has been credited (so far) for supplying the funds.



The applicant had not responded at the time of writing this report. Should a response be received, an updated report will be circulated to Committee.

Members are asked to consider what threshold they consider appropriate for complying with the condition of 'demonstrating the level of benefit to the local community and be able to indicate that a large percentage of the participants are residents in Haydon Wick Parish Council that will benefit from the grant'.

Further Information

The grant recipient has provided the following information:

When we applied for the funding we continuously tried to book the Haydon centre... When we visited them, they close on Sunday at 2pm which wasn't any good for us. We looked at Nova Hreod but it was too expensive. Broad Green centre was booked up.

We took up a lease on the centre to save money on the rent and be able to provide a proper talk for families with a children's creche and food.

We booked St Joseph college as it was the only venue with more than 2 rooms to use. We booked about 18 families. From this we had about 5- 6 families from Oakhurst, 3-5 from Redhouse, a few from Abbey Meads, some from Priory Vale.

