

WOKING STREET ANGELS – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking Street Angels is applying for revenue support of £2,000 towards the costs of providing its service in 2020/21. Its support is targeted at those in need of assistance on the streets during the night-time economy in Woking Town Centre and is offered to all in need, irrespective of age, race, origin or religion.

The volunteers undertake work such as providing foil blankets to keep people warm; giving bottles of water to those dehydrated or sick from the effects of alcohol; escorting vulnerable people, especially females, to taxis or other means of getting home safely; providing flip flops to girls in bare feet no longer able to walk on high heels; and generally aiming to be a calming influence and presence in Woking Town Centre leading to greater safety.

Taking into account the consultee comments which note that the beneficial impact of the work of the Group during the night-time economy on Friday and Saturday nights, it is recommended that the application continues to be supported at the level of £2,000 in recognition of the assistance the Group provides to individuals and the contribution towards Woking's pride of place.

As part of the grants process, Woking Borough Council liaises with the Surrey County Council to establish whether the County Councillors for Woking would like to support an application which would meet the criteria for the SCC Members Allocations Scheme on a one-off basis, thereby reducing the pressure on the Community Grants Scheme for the year ahead. This year, Woking Street Angels has been awarded a grant of £1,020 from the Members Allocations Scheme towards the purchase of equipment. It is therefore recommended that Woking Borough Council awards a grant of £1,000 for the 2020/21 financial year only, with the combined support for both schemes equating to £2,000.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the costs of the service.
Reason for Decision	To ensure the continued services of the Group in the Town Centre during the night-time economy.
Legal Authority	S111 Local Government Act 1972
Conditions	<p>Accounts. The Organisation must submit audited accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p>Monitoring Information. The Organisation must submit quarterly monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Publicity. Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on all</p>

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	<p>literature and leaflets produced.</p> <p>Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with details of the costs incurred and monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p>Payment Period. Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in March. Unclaimed awards will not be available at a later date unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to the Council before the end of the award year.</p> <p>Joint Working. WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. With the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council will expect the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations will be expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively, may put their Council support at risk.</p>
Performance Indicators	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users in the past quarter.</p> <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of its activities during the last quarter.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised over the last quarter.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
Future Support	<p>The financial pressure on the Council's budgets is expected to continue in the coming years and accordingly the overall level of support available in future years may be reduced. The applicant is therefore to be advised that the award of funding for 2020/21 does not imply that a similar application in 2021/22 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2020/21 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2021/22 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2021. All applicants are strongly recommended to pursue alternative sources of funding and are encouraged to approach Woking Borough Council's Community Support Team for advice and support.</p>

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

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Date Published:

18 February 2020

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1.0 Summary of Application																							
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Woking Street Angels was formed in 2010. Its aims and objectives are to make a positive impact on crime and anti-social behaviour in Woking Town Centre, particularly in the vicinity of bars, clubs and late night food outlets by providing a calming presence on the streets late at night. Street Angels helps address the needs of the night time economy.</p> <p>As a result of their work, Surrey Police announced that Woking Town Centre had seen a significant reduction in incidents and violent crime.</p>																						
1.2 Employees	1, Co-ordinator (20 hours per week)																						
1.3 Volunteers	<p>46, whose activities include walking in pairs around the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 4am as well as on the evening of the publication of Examination results, Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.</p> <p>The volunteers are there to help people who may need support as a result of homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or any other issues has caused personal distress or the potential for physical harm whilst out.</p>																						
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>During 2018, the Group assisted around 629 people, a drop from 959 helped in the previous year, stated to be due to the closure of Bed Bar. Users of Woking Street Angels services are members of the general public who frequent the streets of Woking Town Centre and may need help and support to ensure they return home safely after an evening out. The service is offered to any members of the public in need, though most users tend to be the younger adult generation.</p>																						
1.5 Members	N/A																						
1.6 Sum Requested	£2,000 (Revenue)																						
1.7 Project	<p>Woking Street Angels have asked for revenue funding to help support the salary of their Co-ordinator and help meet the costs of the supplies. The supplies include flip-flops, water, blankets, minor first aid (there are no qualified first aiders on duty), rental costs of two-way radios and Woking Street Angel jackets.</p>																						
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Employee costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£13,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Radios and phone rental</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£750</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Street Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Replacement polo shirts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Office costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Marketing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">CNI Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£600</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Depreciation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18,250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Employee costs	£13,000	Radios and phone rental	£1,200	Insurance	£750	Street Expenses	£500	Replacement polo shirts	£500	Office costs	£500	Training	£500	Marketing	£500	CNI Donation	£600	Depreciation	£200	Total	£18,250
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1.9 Community Benefit	It is members of the general public enjoying an evening out in Woking Town Centre on a Friday or Saturday evening that will receive benefit from the activities of Woking Street Angels.
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2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £28,419 in the bank. The sum of £18,000 is reserved for twelve months' running costs as required by the Reserves Policy.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2020/21 which shows an anticipated income of £10,500 against an anticipated expenditure of £17,550, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £7,050.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes church donations (£5,000), group donations (£1,500), individual donations (£1,500), grants (£2,000) and other miscellaneous (£500). Items of expenditure include Coordinator salary (£13,000), radios and phone rental (£1,000), insurance (£750), Street expenses (£500), office costs (£500), training (£500), marketing (£500) and CNI donation (£600).</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2018/19 which show an income of £12,203 (£19,570 in 2017/18) against expenditure of £19,863 (£15,560 in 2017/18), resulting in a deficit of £7,660 (a surplus of £4,010 in 2017/18). The sum of £26,359 was carried forward at the end of the 2018/19 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	2019/20 – £2,000 towards general running costs. 2018/19 – £2,000 towards general running costs. 2017/18 – £2,000 towards general running costs. 2016/17 – £2,000 towards general running costs. 2015/16 – £2,000 towards general running costs.

3.0 Assessment of Application		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity ○ VAT Registered ○ Equal Opportunities Policy ○ Safeguarding Policy ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes No Yes Yes Yes No No Yes * Yes N/A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular monitoring provided previously * office accommodation for the Co-ordinator and storage of items distributed to users of the service. 	N/A
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager</u></p> <p>Woking Street Angels started in 2010 and has been acknowledged by Surrey Police and us for the key part they have played in reducing the levels of violence in the town centre and improving the feeling of safety. They are out on Friday and Saturday nights from 10pm to 4am. They continue to work closely with the local policing team and have ongoing excellent relationships with the door staff of the various licensed premises.</p> <p>The Council Town Marshals comment on the calming influence that the Street Angels have with visitors to the town centre on Friday and Saturday evenings/nights. Their key work is in helping to support some of the most vulnerable individuals who are out and about in the town centre at the weekends. They assist them with the provision of water, flip flops and blankets, help them to arrange transport home or signpost them to appropriate services.</p> <p>I believe that their early intervention is helping reduce violence in the evenings, which in turn reduces the demand on our limited police resources. In addition, they improve the look and feel of the town centre and make it feel safer by clearing up bottles and cans as they patrol, which reduces litter and the possibility of these being used as missiles. A Woking Borough Council officer attends their Operations Meetings to support them. They work hard to source funding opportunities from a range of organisations, as well as running fund raising events. This fundraising is always a challenge, but, because of the important work they do in supporting a safe town centre, I feel we should provide some funding too.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Formed in 2010, Woking Street Angels aim is to make the streets of Woking safer and more hospitable for all people during the late evening and early morning hours. Woking Street Angels' objective is to provide a caring, stabilising presence and to assist those who are vulnerable, distressed or lost to get to a place of safety. This presence in Woking and other towns (such as Guildford and Camberley) has led to a reduction in crime and violence and benefits all members of the community, especially the night-time economy.</p> <p>Woking Street Angels was formed in July 2010, and registered as a Charity in October 2010. Its support is targeted at those in need on the streets during the evening in the town centre and it is offered to all in need, irrespective of age, race, origin or religion.</p> <p>Whilst the Street Angels are volunteers, the Group employs a Co-ordinator who helps to plan the rotas, deals with queries, provides support to the Street Angel teams, including training, and handles all procurement matters. The volunteers help people in a number of different ways, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing foil blankets to keep people warm - providing bottles of water given to those dehydrated or sick from the effects of alcohol and other substances - escorting vulnerable people, especially females to taxis or 	

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- other means of getting home safely
- helping those sick and injured, including the victims of violence, fights, etc. calling for paramedic help if necessary or administering minor First Aid
- providing support to the homeless
- talking to those in despair, the lonely, those upset by broken relationships, separated from friends and just being a listening ear
- providing flip flops to girls in bare feet no longer able to walk on high heels
- providing directions
- giving guidance on agencies who may be able to help those in need with personal difficulties/domestic issues
- generally aiming to be a calming influence and presence in Woking town centre leading to greater safety.

The Applicant has stated that the grant would be greatly beneficial in supporting the costs of running the Woking Street Angels operation; most particularly in supporting the salary of the Co-ordinator. The employment of the Co-ordinator is essential in managing rotas whilst also advertising for and encouraging volunteers to apply to become Street Angels. Other ongoing costs such as insurance (public liability, employers, indemnity etc.), radio and phone rentals and office expenses also have to be met by the grants applied for.

The Co-ordinator attends the Joint Agency Group (JAG) meetings which have resulted in greater understanding of work carried out by Woking Street Angels and collaboration between the agencies. Being based in the Council offices has meant that closer working relationships have been made with Surrey Police, the Community Safety team, Licensing and the Neighbourhood team.

Due to the need to recruit more Street Angels, the organisation has had a greater presence at certain local events, eg, Lark in the Square, Party in the Park and Pyrford Flower show. In addition the Mela event in Maybury has been supported to encourage members of the Muslim community to become Street Angels.

The Group has been actively seeking grants from various sources and have also been engaging with organisations, Woking Rotary and businesses within the local area to obtain funding to ensure that visitors and residents remain safe at night. On top of this, the Group undertakes small fundraising events such as charity walks, dinners and local fairs and has received donations from local churches, legacies and Woking Active Retirement. All Trustees continually work to raise funds and find new recruits to become Street Angels.

Besides financial support given by Woking churches in the area, scarves, gloves and hats made by church craft groups and donated blankets have been given to users who need them. Surplus items have been donated to the York Road Project (YRP). Woking Street Angels also supports the YRP in their annual sleep-out event in Jubilee Square. The Group also distributed bottled water drinks to Surrey Half marathon runners outside the Mayford Arms.

Surrey Police has indicated that the number of incidents in the town they deal with has dropped by over 60% since the Street Angels have been on duty. In addition, the Council has noted on the calming influence that the Street Angels have with visitors to the Town Centre

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on Friday and Saturday nights.

Taking into account the consultee comments which note that the beneficial impact of the work of the Group during the night-time economy on Friday and Saturday nights, it is recommended that the Group continues to be supported at the level of £2,000 in recognition of the assistance the Group provides to individuals and the contribution towards Woking's pride of place.

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REPORT ENDS