

HORSELL BOWLING CLUB – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Horsell Bowling Club was formed in 1920 and provides a friendly environment for around 100 men and women to enjoy playing bowls. The activities of the Club contribute to the Council's health and wellbeing theme of encouraging older people to take exercise and socialise, and therefore reducing the risk of isolation. The lawn bowling takes place from mid-April to the end of September with matches against local clubs. Social activities are also held throughout the year.

In accordance with the terms of the lease with Woking Borough Council, the Club maintains the bowling green for Woking Borough Council. The Group notes that it tries as far as possible to be self funding and this application is the first time it has requested grant support from the Council in recent years. It adds that it has submitted a request to the Council for a rent reduction for the premises.

Horsell Bowling Club is applying for a capital grant of £2,900 during 2018/19 to replace its secondary mower which is around 30 years old. The total cost of the replacement is £5,800 which meets the requirement of the Council contributing a maximum of 50% towards capital equipment.

Reviewing the application, it is felt that the Club should ensure that a yearly provision is set aside for the replacement of equipment such as lawn mowers, taking into account the approximate lifespan of 30 years.

The Group holds a bank balance of circa £35,000 with each member paying an annual fee of £89, and the Group receives discretionary rate relief and concessionary rent from the Council. Given the ongoing pressure on the grants budget, it is recommended that no grant be awarded. In reviewing the application, it is noted that the applicant has stated that a Safeguarding Policy is not in place; the Group is strongly encouraged to adopt a suitable policy, not least as if they seek alternative funding, funding providers will require such to be in place.

Recommendations

Reasons for Decision	It is not felt that the application justifies the level of assistance requested.
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The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That no grant be awarded.
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The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2018/19 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

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Date Published:

6 December 2017

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	Horsell Bowling Club was formed in 1920 and prides itself on its warm and friendly atmosphere. The Club has a growing membership, with both Men's and Women's sections although many competitions and games are mixed. The Club states that it looks forward to welcoming new people of any age or ability, including juniors.
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	70, whose activities include Green and surrounds maintenance; Clubhouse maintenance; bar duties; teas for matches; clerical; catering for visiting bodies; cleaning; website maintenance; social events organisation; coaching; league organisation; tour organisation; Management Committee including general secretarial and finance.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>550, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 male 250 female 25 disabled 20 ethnic minority 100 resident in Woking 150 aged 19-65 400 aged 65+ <p>In addition to the Members, the Club lets the Clubhouse for play school groups as well as parties. Green fees are payable as per the Council's rates for casual bowling, with reciprocal arrangements in place with visiting clubs.</p>
1.5 Members	<p>100, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 male 39 female 6 disabled 1 ethnic minority 92 resident in Woking 20 aged 19-65 80 aged 65+ <p>The annual membership fee is £89 with an additional joining fee of £39.</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£2,900 (Capital)
1.7 Project	The Club is requesting funds towards a replacement secondary mower as the current machine is nearing the end of its serviceability at over 30 years old.

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1.8 Cost breakdown:	The estimated cost of a new machine is £5,800.
1.9 Community Benefit	The Group noted that all Club members as well as visiting players and community groups would benefit by the Group being able to carry out the maintenance that the new mower would provide.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £35,396 in the bank. The sum of £27,000 is reserved for future rent liability (£22,000) and green special maintenance (£5,000).</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2017/18 (noting the year end is September and not March) which shows an anticipated income of £18,060 against an anticipated expenditure of £21,170, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £3,110.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes Subscriptions (£7,210), Bar (£3,500), Matches (£2,000), Hall Hire (net) (£2,000), and Social (£2,000). Items of expenditure include assistance (£4,500), cleaning (£2,500), repairs / maintenance / Renewals (£2,000), Materials (£2,000) and Utility Bills (£1,700).</p>
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted annual accounts to September 2016 which show an income of £19,951 (£19,016 in 2014/15) against expenditure of £21,613 (£16,356 in 2014/15), resulting in a deficit of £1,661 (a surplus of £2,660 in 2014/15).
2.3 Support over the past five years	New application.

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 ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No No Yes No Yes No Yes Yes* Yes Yes N/A
	*discretionary rate relief and concessionary rent	

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<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>I am personally of the view that the cost of a mower, bearing in mind its life-span of 30 years, is something which the club should make provision themselves for. Acknowledging that this is the clubs second mower, it would seem that with the inclusion of their other mower, that they should be making a sinking-fund available of just under £400pa which equates to just £4 / per member per year.</p> <p>It would however be worth the club approaching the Council to assist then with identifying potential funding sources, as well as the club contacting Surrey Bowls Association for further support and advice.</p> <p>Whilst I wouldn't recommend supporting this application, should the club seek to pursue other sources it is likely that they will need to provide a Safeguarding Policy – something which they already should have in place. Again the Council or the County Sports Partnership – Active Surrey would be able to assist in this context.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Formed in 1920, Horsell Bowling Club provides a friendly environment for men and women to enjoy playing bowls. Keen to welcome new members regardless of experience, it has a membership of around 100 members and contributes to the Council's health and wellbeing theme of encouraging older people to take exercise and socialise, which helps reduce feelings of isolation which are common amongst older people.</p> <p>Lawn bowls takes place from mid-April to the end of September with friendly and league matches against other clubs in the area. There is also a Club Night for members which is held every Friday during the season as well as social activities throughout the year.</p> <p>The Club undertakes some fundraising and has applied this year to the Tesco Bags scheme for financial support, and is waiting to hear the outcome of the application.</p> <p>In accordance with the terms of the lease with Woking Borough Council, the Club maintains the bowling green for Woking Borough Council. The Group notes that it tries as far as possible to be self funding and this application is the first time it has requested grant support from the Council in recent years. It adds that it has submitted a request to the Council for a rent reduction for the premises.</p> <p>Horsell Bowling Club is applying for a capital grant of £2,900 during 2018/19 to replace its secondary mower which is around 30 years old. The total cost of the replacement is £5,800 which meets the requirement of the Council contributing a maximum of 50% towards capital equipment.</p> <p>It is not felt that the application justifies the level of assistance requested and that the Club should seek to set aside yearly provision for the replacement of equipment such as mowers, given their useful lives of around 30 years. It is also noted that the Group holds a bank balance of circa £35,000 with each member paying an annual fee of £89. The Council acknowledges the strong contribution made by the Group to the health and wellbeing of older people, however given the ongoing pressure on the grants budget, it is recommended that no grant be awarded.</p>

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