

BYFLEET BOWLS CLUB – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Formed in 1925, Byfleet Bowls Club is a strong part of the local community, providing a welcoming and safe environment for its members and visitors. The Club has submitted an application for a grant of £6,410 to cover the costs of the end of year treatment for the green and regular maintenance costs.

During a normal season the Club generates income from annual membership fees, recruiting new members, bar takings, raffles, hosting visiting clubs, matches fees and teas. However since March 2020 the Club has not been able to generate any income, although has maintained the bowling green in a playable state to ensure that it can be used in 2021.

A high percentage of the members are over 65 years old and the Club is aware of the importance of attracting new members to ensure that it remains a thriving and valued element of the local community. Playing bowls is a way of ensuring the elderly people remain active.

Although the Club does not hold a significant level of reserves, it is felt that the costs of the green treatment should be covered through an annual provision. Noting that the Club has not received the level of income in the current year that it would normally expect to see, it is suggested that the Club contacts the Council's Funding Officer for advice on seeking external funding. In view of the constraints on the Council's grants revenue budget and the comments of the Consultee, it is recommended that the application should not be supported.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That no grant be awarded.

Reason for Decision

The Group has not submitted sufficient justification for a grant award from the Council's Community Grants Scheme.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2021/22 Application Form.

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Byfleet Bowls Club was formed back in 1925 at a public meeting in the village hall. The Club ensures it is a strong part of the local village community, providing a welcoming, safe environment for members and visitors. The Club has 53 playing members with men and ladies playing from beginners to County level.</p> <p>The Club ensures that the green is well cared for and gains a reputation to meet the expectations of members and visitors playing up to County level. A varied programme of bowling is provided between April and September which allows members to bowl at their chosen level and ability. Qualified coaching is offered to provide bowlers the opportunity to maximise their skills.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	None.
1.4 Clients/Users	None. The facilities are however hired out to U3A at a rate of £20ph.
1.5 Members	<p>44 playing and 10 non playing, comprising:</p> <p>21 playing</p> <p>23 playing and 10 non playing female</p> <p>0 disabled</p> <p>0 ethnic minority</p> <p>52 resident in Woking</p> <p>1 aged 11-18</p> <p>11 aged 19-65</p> <p>42 aged 65+</p> <p>Annual subscription for players £110. Annual subscription for non-players £40. Members pay £2.50 for each match played at home. Members pay £1.50 for each match played away</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£6,410 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	The purpose of the grant is to support the costs of the end of year treatment of the green and regular maintenance costs.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>End of season work = £2,850</p> <p>Groundforce maintenance – 8 months @ £202.80 = £1,622.40</p> <p>Groundforce maintenance – 2 months @ £284.20 = £568.40</p> <p>Extra cuts April – September – 19 @ £45 a cut = £855</p> <p>Expected cost increase of 5% = £294.79</p> <p>Total = £6,190.59*</p> <p>Grant Applied for = £6,410</p>

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	*This figure has been calculated by Officers on the basis of the cost breakdown provided and differs slightly (£219.41) from the figure provided by the applicant.
1.9 Community Benefit	The members and visitors to the Club would benefit from a well maintained green. The Club can offer to host visiting touring groups and work with the Bowls Development Association to promote fitness in the local community.
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	During 2020, Covid-19 has prevented the Group's members from playing bowls. The applicant has advised that, if the Club does not invest in the maintenance of the green, it will not have a suitable green to play on next April and would therefore struggle to maintain a viable club, disappointing many people in the local community.

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	At the time of the application, the Group held £10,142 in the bank. The Group has submitted a budget for the current year (2020/21) which shows an anticipated income of £9,662 against an anticipated expenditure of £13,761, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £4,099. Anticipated income includes full subscriptions (£4,200), match fees (£2,102) and bar takings (£1,000). Items of expenditure include Green - Groundforce (£6,410) and Insurance (£1,430).
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted draft accounts for 2019/20 which show an income of £11,976 against expenditure of £16,857, resulting in a deficit of £4,881. The sum of £10,597 was carried forward at the end of the 2019/20 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	2019/20 – £3,750 towards the cost of anew watering system (£2,000), footpath repairs (£1,000), and the installation of a defibrillator (£750)

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No No Yes Yes No No No No Yes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Liz MacIntyre, Funding Officer</u></p> <p>I have had no dealings with this organisation but note that they are requesting funding of £6,410 for green treatment and maintenance when they have over £10,000 in the bank, which is not reserved for specific items. The club is on the Volunteer Woking database for recruitment of volunteers but has not supplied a contact for Funding so are not receiving the Funding newsletters or any other support with funding.</p> <p>I would recommend that they contact Volunteer Woking to update their details and seek funding support from other sources before seeking funding from the Community Grant Fund.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Byfleet Bowls Club has submitted an application for a grant of £6,410 to cover the costs of the end of year treatment for the green and regular maintenance costs.</p> <p>During a usual season the Club generates income from annual membership fees, recruiting new members, bar takings, raffles, hosting visiting clubs, matches fees and teas. However since March 2020 the Club has not been able to generate any income, although has carried out maintaining the bowling green in a playable state to ensure that it can be used in 2021. It emphasises that the green should be of a high standards to meet the expectations of visiting teams playing up to County standard.</p> <p>A high percentage of the members are over 65 years old and the Club is aware of the importance of attracting new members to ensure that it remains a thriving and valued element of the local community. Playing bowls is a way of ensuring the elderly people remain active. Throughout the winter months its members usually meet up for social events which encourage friendships and socialising beneficial to their mental health. No fundraising is set out in the Group's application form.</p> <p>The Club does not hold a great deal of reserves but it is felt that the costs of the green treatment should be covered through an annual provision. Noting that the usual income would not have been able to be received during the Covid-19 period, it is suggested that the Club contact the Council's Funding Officer for advice on seeking external funding. Due to the ongoing budgetary constraints on the Council's grants budget, it is recommended that the application should not be supported.</p>	

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