

THE CLUB AT OLD WOKING – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Club at Old Woking provides a drop-in facility for young people in the surrounding areas of Old Woking, Kingfield and Westfield. The Club is managed by local volunteers, with the assistance of a Youth Worker from Surrey County Council, and seeks to reduce anti-social behaviour by providing facilities and activities for young people.

The amount requested – £2,910 – is slightly higher than the figure awarded by the Council for the current year (£2,500 in 2020/21). The Council increased its support in 2020/21 to support the Club's aspiration to open once a week, rather than fortnightly. However, the Club's plans have been affected by the Covid-19 restrictions which saw the Club close. The Club hopes to re-open as soon as possible however due to the guidelines for young people gathering, it may be difficult.

The Club has not claimed its grant from the Council awarded for the current year as the sessions have not been held, and are unlikely to re-start until March or April 2021.

Without the Club, there would be little opportunity for young people to participate in such activities. Surrey Youth Services have recognised the importance of the Club and is now funding a paid helper, employed to better engage the young people. In view of the support the Club provides to young people in Old Woking, it is recommended that the Council's support continues up to the level of £2,500 towards the rental payments and to employ a youth worker for the 2021/22 financial year.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council's budgetary process, a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded from the Community Grants Budget towards the rental costs of The Club and to employ a youth worker.
Reason for Decision	To enable the Group to continue its work with young people in South Woking.
Legal Authority	S19 (Misc. Provisions) Local Government Act 1976
Confirmation of Funding	<p>This award is provisionally made on the expectation that the Council's budgets for revenue and capital projects remain at the same level allocated for the current financial year. The Council's overall budget, including the sums allocated for community grants, will be determined by Council at its meeting on 11 February 2021. In the event the grant budgets are set at the anticipated levels, confirmation of the Council's support will be sent to successful applicants. Groups should not plan for the 2021/22 funding until this confirmation has been received.</p> <p>Should the budgets be reduced as part of the Council's efforts to achieve savings to offset the impact of Covid on the Council's financial position, a special meeting of the Executive will be held to review the</p>

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<p>Conditions</p>	<p>provisional awards and allocate the funds available on a priority basis.</p> <p>Accounts. The Organisation must submit 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 websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p>Payments. Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous quarter.</p> <p>Payment Period. Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in April. 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. Following the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council expects 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 are 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>
<p>Performance Indicators</p>	<p>Users. The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
<p>Future Support</p>	<p>Due to the impact of Covid-19, the financial pressure on the Council's budgets is higher than ever and is expected to continue in the coming years. 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 2021/22 does not imply that a similar application in 2022/23 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is extremely unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2021/22 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that</p>

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contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2022/23 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2022. 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.

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>The Club at Old Woking aims to provide a safe, managed environment in which young people aged between 11 and 18 can mix, socialise and take part in activities which increase their sense of self-worth and teach them how to value the needs of the wider community. The Club aimed to operate weekly this year, as opposed to once every fortnight, however due to Covid-19 this has not been possible.</p> <p>A club night includes sports, crafts and input from a Surrey County Council children’s worker. There are occasional trips out.</p>
1.2 Employees	<p>1 youth worker (2 hours per fortnight) and is employed by Surrey County Council for 1 year. Duties include cover for the weekly club nights and to help recruit new helpers.</p> <p>The youth worker is only paid for when the Club runs, therefore the previous year’s grant funding has not been spent whilst the Club has been closed during Covid-19.</p>
1.3 Volunteers	<p>8, whose activities include running club nights, which includes organising games/crafts and manning the tuck shop. The Committee Members (Secretary, treasurer etc) deal with background organisation.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>None.</p>
1.5 Members	<p>28, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 male 12 female 6 disabled 3 ethnic minority 28 resident in Woking 8 aged 11-18 20 aged 19-65 <p>Young people can become members of the club after attending their first free session.</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	<p>£2,910 (Revenue)</p>
1.7 Project	<p>The Club has applied for continued funding in the coming year to cover the costs of rent and employment of a youth worker (that was previously funded by Surrey County Council).</p> <p>The Club have the aspiration of running the Club once a week during term time, as opposed to once every two weeks which is how they are operating currently (depending on volunteer numbers). The young people pay 50p per session for entry, which covers craft materials. Revenue funding is needed to cover the additional cost of hiring the hall and public liability insurance.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Youth Worker – £26 x 39 weeks = £1,014</p> <p>£26 per session for a paid Youth Worker for one year (during term</p>

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	<p>time) to support the transition back to weekly meetings and to help inspire and mentor new volunteers.)</p> <p>Hall Hire – £38 x 39 weeks = £1,482</p> <p>From 2020 the hall hire fees had increased by 10% to £38 and it was desired to hold one session per week during term time.</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>Surreyi shows that South Woking is in the lowest 5% of the child deprivation index in Surrey, and it should be noted that there are no other youth clubs operating in the area.</p> <p>Without a regular youth club, young people have little else to do and many cannot afford to join subscription groups like scouts and guides.</p> <p>Local people will benefit by reduced boredom amongst young people locally and hopefully a reduction in anti-social behaviour. Much of the work of the Group is directed towards encouraging tolerance and community cohesion between the different groups of young people worked with.</p>
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	<p>Due to government restrictions, the Club has remained closed since March 2020. The Club hopes to re-open as soon as possible however due to the guidelines for young people gathering it may be difficult.</p> <p>Some volunteers fall into the vulnerable category and risk assessments will be considered prior to re-opening.</p>

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £3,230 in the bank. The sum of £2,766 is for specific grants to cover specific equipment and activities and therefore cannot be spent on hall hire.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2021/22 which shows an anticipated income of £3,288 against an anticipated expenditure of £4,295, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £1,007.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes subs (£48.50), refreshments (£126), fundraising (£55), grants (£1,200). Items of expenditure include venue (£1,795), activities (£472), insurance (£229), transport (£116), external activities (£105), equipment (£100) and depreciation (£88).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2019/20 which show an income of £511 (£1,547 in 2018/19) against expenditure of £1,163 (£1,837 in 2018/19), resulting in a deficit of £652 (a deficit of £290 in 2018/19). The sum of £5,629 was carried forward at the end of the 2019/20 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2020/21 – Up to £2,500 towards the cost of rent and a youth worker 2019/20 – Up to £948 towards the cost of rent 2018/19 – Up to £948 towards the cost of rent 2017/18 – Up to £1,400 towards the cost of rent 2016/17 – Up to £1,400 towards the cost of rent</p> <p>Woking Borough Council has funded the hall hire costs since the inception of the Club.</p>

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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 Yes Yes No Yes No Yes N/A Yes
3.2 Consultee Comments	<p><u>Sandie Bolger, Youth Development Officer</u></p> <p>I fully endorse this application and agree with the current proposal of opening once a week to maintain consistency with young people. The need for a paid professional youth worker is also a positive move forward to support volunteers and young people in light of the cut backs from Surrey County Council.</p> <p>Offering free sessions to young people during this period of time where many families are experiencing hardship due to COVID is also a positive move and will enable young people to access on a regular basis, especially if there is more than one young person participating from a family unit.</p> <p>I fully recommend the £2,500 grant award.</p>	
3.3 Assessment	<p>The Club at Old Woking provides a drop-in facility for young people in the surrounding areas of Old Woking, Kingfield and Westfield. It is a Club set up and managed by local volunteers, with the assistance of a Youth Worker from Surrey County Council, and seeks to reduce anti-social behaviour by providing facilities and activities for young people.</p> <p>The applicant has advised that a high proportion of children in Old Woking come from low income families and the Club therefore keeps its charges to a minimum, maintaining its charge to 50p. The entry fee does not cover the cost of the hall which is essential in order to run the club.</p> <p>The Club has applied for continued funding in the coming year to cover the costs of rent and employment of a youth worker (that was previously funded by Surrey County Council). The youth worker helps to ensure there is consistent cover for club nights and assists with the recruitment of new helpers.</p> <p>Without the Club, there would be little opportunity for young people to participate in activities. Surrey Youth Services have recognised the importance of the Club and is now funding a paid helper, employed to</p>	

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better engage the young people.

In view of the support the Club provides to young people in Old Woking, it is recommended that the Council's support continues up to the level of £2,500 towards the rental payments and to employ a youth worker for the 2021/22 financial year.

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