

**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 £6,500 to cover the costs of the end of year treatment for the green and regular maintenance costs, along with expenses such as the Electricity Charge, Fire Extinguisher servicing and Honours Board signwriting.

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 much income, although has maintained the bowling green in a playable state.

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.

The application is very similar to the version submitted last year and, although the Club does not hold a significant level of reserves, it is continued to be felt that the costs of the green treatment and other expenses applied for should be covered through an annual provision. 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:**

2022/23 Application Form.

**Reporting Person:**

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## Byfleet Bowls Club – Application For Financial Assistance

**Portfolio Holder:**

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<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
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.</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. The Club works to ensure the clubhouse and surrounding area is safe, secure, clean and well maintained.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	There are ten members of the Management Committee.
1.4 Clients/Users	None. The facilities are however hired out to U3A at a rate of £20ph for 2.5 hours per month.
1.5 Members	<p>57, comprising:</p> <p>30 male</p> <p>27 female</p> <p>2 disabled</p> <p>0 ethnic minority</p> <p>57 resident in Woking</p> <p>1 aged 11-18</p> <p>12 aged 19-65</p> <p>44 aged 65+</p> <p>The charges levied are as follows:</p> <p>Full Member - £120, Associate Member - £60, Junior Member under 18 - £15, Social non-playing Member - £15, Introductory Rate for those new to bowls - £60, Social Bowler (play 3 friendlies) - £60</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£6,500 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	The purpose of the grant application is to support the costs of the end of year treatment of the green and regular maintenance costs. In addition, funds are sought to cover the cost of electricity, the maintenance of the fire extinguishers and updating the Honours Board following each AGM.
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>End of season ground treatment - £2,960</p> <p>Groundforce maintenance charge (6 months) - £2,900</p> <p>Electricity charge - £500</p> <p>Fire Extinguisher Service - £60</p>

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	Honours Board Signwriting - £80 Total - £6,500
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 works with Bowls England to promote fitness in the local community.
1.10 Covid-19 Impact	During 2020, Covid-19 prevented the Group's members from playing bowls. As an organisation it has incurred a loss of income which would have been generated from club matches, bar takings and raffles. A number of matches have been cancelled due to visiting clubs being unable to form teams. No fundraising activities were able to take place during the past year. The number of members allowed to play bowls on the green was restricted to maintain social distancing for the more elderly members.

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	At the time of the application, the Group held £8,699 in the bank. The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £17,898 against an anticipated expenditure of £18,070, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £172.
2.2 Accounts	The Group has submitted accounts for 2020/21 which show an income of £11,001 (£14,520 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £18,664 (£20,039 in 2019/20), resulting in a deficit of £7,663 (a deficit of £5,519 in 2019/20). The sum of £9,996 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.
2.3 Support over the past five years	2021/22 – No grant awarded. 2019/20 – £3,750 towards the cost of a new watering system (£2,000), footpath repairs (£1,000), and the installation of a defibrillator (£750).

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Two quotes</li><li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li></ul>	N/A N/A
3.2 Assessment	It is recommended that a no grant should be awarded for 2022/23. Although it is noted this is a request for £6,410 in Capital, it is really a grant to cover ongoing maintenance costs.	

REPORT ENDS