

THE CLUB AT OLD WOKING – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary	
<p>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, and seeks to reduce anti-social behaviour by providing facilities and activities for young people aged 10 – 17 years old.</p> <p>However, the Club’s plans have been affected by the Covid-19 restrictions which saw the Club close in March 2020. The Club hopes to continue its work in the Autumn of 2022 once the Old Woking Community Centre has re-opened. The Club has not claimed its grant awarded by the Council since the onset of the pandemic.</p> <p>The youth club welcomes young people in and around the Old Woking area, providing a space to meet in the community at the Community Centre. The Charity is currently reliant on the WBC grant to support a trained youth worker to mentor other volunteers and it is acknowledged that this is valuable to restart the sessions in September 2022 following the renovation of the Centre.</p> <p>It is recommended that a grant of £1,500 should be awarded for 2022/23 to support the Club at Old Woking to restart following a considerable period of closure. In future years the club is encouraged to engage with the Council’s Youth Development Officer and wider support from established youth work charities as can be advised.</p>	

Recommendations	
The Executive is requested to:	RESOLVE That , subject to the outcome of the Council’s budgetary process, a grant of up to £1,500 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.
Confirmation of funding	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 10 February 2022. 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 2022/23 funding until this confirmation has been received.
Conditions	<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</p>

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	<p>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>
Performance Indicators	<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>
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 2022/23 does not imply that a similar application in 2023/24 would be supported. In particular, it is emphasised that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to award any sums above the 2022/23 levels.</p> <p>In view of this, the applicant is to be advised to ensure that contingency plans for the Group's operations for 2023/24 have been drawn up in the event that the Council is unable to continue its support beyond April 2023. 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.

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Background Papers:

2022/23 Application Form.

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Date Published:

30 November 2021

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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	None.
1.3 Volunteers	7, 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.
1.4 Clients/Users	None.
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	£1,700 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The application is to operate a youth club for 10-17 year olds living in Old Woking and the surrounding area. The Group intends for the sessions to continue once the Old Woking Community Centre has re-opened following possible building works towards the end of next year. The application is for weekly hall hire on a Wednesday for 25 weeks from September 2022 until March 2023.</p> <p>The Club has resources left over due to the long closure period and receives occasional donations of materials, therefore does not need extra funding for materials on its return.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>Hall Hire – £38 x 25 weeks = £950</p> <p>Youth Worker – £30 x 25 weeks = £750</p> <p>£26 per session for a paid Youth Worker for one year (during term time) to support the transition back to weekly meetings and to help</p>

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	inspire and mentor new volunteers).
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>The Club has not operated since the end of March 2020 and states that the young people are mostly playing in the local streets. There have been multiple reports of Anti-Social Behaviour in the area especially around St Peter's Recreation Ground, which could have been addressed more easily had the Club been running.</p> <p>As several of its long-term volunteers are shielding, it could not re-open given the risk of the young people from multiple different schools passing on Covid-19 to the volunteers. The Club adds that with a plan to delay the restart until September 2022 it will be able to recruit a few younger volunteers to help if the current volunteers are not able to help again by next year.</p>

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £5,398 in the bank. The sum of £2,767 is reserved from grants for equipment, external trips, craft materials, games and CDs, BBQs, and an AmDram course for the young people.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2022/23 which shows an anticipated income of £1,870 against an anticipated expenditure of £3,340, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £1,470.</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2020/21 which show an income of £0 (£511 in 2019/20) against expenditure of £220 (£1,164 in 2019/20), resulting in a deficit of £220 (a deficit of £653 in 2019/20). The sum of £5,398 was carried forward at the end of the 2020/21 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>It should be noted that the Club has not claimed any of its grant awards since its closure in March 2020 due to the pandemic.</p> <p>2021/22 – Up to £2,500 towards the cost of rent and a youth worker 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</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 Assessment	<p>The youth club welcomes young people in and around the Old Woking area, providing a space to meet in the community at the Community Centre. The charity are currently reliant on the WBC grant to support a trained youth worker to mentor other volunteers and it is acknowledged that this is valuable to restart the sessions in September 2022 following the renovation of the Centre.</p> <p>It is recommended that a grant of £1,500 should be awarded for 2022/23 to support the Club at Old Woking to restart following a considerable period of closure. In future years the club is encouraged to engage with the Council's Youth Development Officer and wider support from established youth work charities as can be advised.</p>	

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