

Decision by Portfolio Holder



Report reference: CPS-004-2019/20

Date of report: 28-October-2019

**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Community & Partnership Services

Author: Gaby Gold (Ext 4247)

Democratic Services: J Leither

**Subject: Grant Aid Scheme –
Allocation of Budget and Applications for Determination – October 2019**

Decision:

1. That funding from the Grant Aid Scheme (one-off grants) for 2019/20 totalling £33324.25 awarded to; Illusions Dance Academy, Hertfordshire Boat Rescue, Waltham Abbey Baptist Church, Loughton Baptist Church, Matching Green Cricket Club, Epping Forest Foodbank, My First 1000 Days, Lambourne End and Red Balloon Foundation under the terms of the Grant Aid scheme, for the reasons stated and subject to any conditions set out in Column 2 of Appendix 1 attached.
2. That the applications from Grant A Smile, Roydon United Reform Church and Willingale Community Garden be deferred for the reasons set out in Column 3 of Appendix 2.
3. That the application from The Enterprise East Group CIC be refused for the reasons set out in Column 3 of Appendix 3.

ADVISORY NOTICE: <i>A Portfolio Holder may not take a decision on a matter on which he/she has declared a Pecuniary interest. A Portfolio Holder with a non-pecuniary interest must declare that interest when exercising delegated powers.</i>	
I have read and approve/ do not approve (delete as appropriate) the above decision:	
Comments/further action required: None	
Signed: Councillor N Bedford	Date: 25 th November 2019
<i>Non-pecuniary interest declared by Portfolio Holder/ conflict of non-pecuniary interest declared by any other consulted Cabinet Member:</i>	<i>Dispensation granted by Standards Committee: Yes/No or n/a</i>
None	N/A
Office use only: Call-in period begins: 25 th November 2019	Expiry of Call-in period: 2 nd December 2019

**After completion, one copy of this pro forma should be returned to
Democratic Services IMMEDIATELY**

**Initialed as original copy by
Portfolio Holder:**

Reason for decision:

Through the Grant Aid Scheme consideration is given to applications received in respect of one-off grants from voluntary and community groups. The approval of such grants ensures the provision of much valued projects and services within the district.

Options considered and rejected:

Options considered in terms of grant applications were for approval (and, if so, the amounts concerned), deferral or refusal. There were no other options for consideration and the only transfer of funds, which is possible, is from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget within the Community and Partnership Services Portfolio.

Background Report:

N/A

Resource Implications:

£83,450 set aside for grants to voluntary organisations in 2019/20.

The one-off grants now put forward for approval amount to £33,324.25. The total amount previously spent on one-off grants for 2019/20 being £34,967.92 (See Appendix 4 attached).

Legal and Governance Implications:

None specific.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

There are no specific implications in terms of Crime and Disorder or Environmental issues within the District.

Consultation Undertaken:

Discussions have taken place with applicant groups, Ward Councillors and Officers.

Background Papers:

The Grant Aid application forms for the grant together with supporting information.

Impact Assessments:**Risk Management:**

No formal assessments carried out.

Key Decision Reference (Y/N): N**Equality Analysis:**

The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Public Sector Equality Duty is actively applied in decision-making. This means that the equality information provided to accompany this report is essential reading for all members involved in the consideration of this report. The equality information is provided as an Appendix to the report.

GRANT AID APPROVALS – 2019/20

APPENDIX 1

Column 1 Group	Column 2 Nature of Application	Column 3 Amount Approved £	Column 4 Comments
Illusions Dance Academy	Funding towards transport, rehearsals and costumes	£1,670	The organisation teaches dancing to children and young people in the district. This meets several corporate aims including encouraging health & active lifestyles, encouraging participation in cultural activities and community activities. Funding was approved towards the cost of transport, rehearsals and costumes for dance event.
Herts Boat Rescue	Funding towards the cost to insure rescue vehicles and building	£1,164.25	The organisation aims to prevent drowning carry out/promote water rescue and resilience and they provide a free service to district residents. The organisation support over 2000 people by educating children and the public and supporting events.
Loughton Baptist Church	Funding towards refurbishing toilet facilities	£5,000	The Church is a community hub for a variety of different organisations and supports the local community age from birth to 90+ years. The provision of an accessible toilet will support the ability to be inclusive within their activities.
Waltham Abbey Baptist Church	Funding towards providing an accessible toilet	£4,750	The Church is a community hub for a variety of different organisations and support the local community. The provision of an accessible toilet will support the ability to be inclusive within their activities. The baby changing facilities will benefit the residents attending the parent and toddler groups that take place at the Church.
Matching Green Cricket Club	towards an Auto Rotorake MK5 Scarifier with reels to improve the playing surface making it safer.	£3,840	The organisation aims are to make cricket accessible to everyone. The funding will improve the playing surface and make it a safer environment to play on. All ages are welcomed at the club and aims to support increasing physical activity.
Epping Forest Foodbank	Funding towards storage of foodbank products	£5,000	The organisation supports residents of all ages in financial hardship by providing emergency food, essential toiletries and household items. During 2018-19 EFF fed 1461 people in crisis, 735 of whom were children. They provide support to vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

My First 1000 Days	Funding towards venue hire	£1,900	Funding was approved for venue hire for the social isolation and wellbeing yoga and meditation programme for vulnerable young people. Conditions of grant: The group to provide a report at the end of the project detailing the number of residents who have benefitted.
Lambourne End	Funding towards equipment for learning activities	£5000	The organisation provide a safe environment for people to explore the rural, farm environment. The services Lambourne End provide focus on raising people's confidence and self-esteem, team building and improving health and wellbeing, linking closely with the Council's priorities. Conditions of grant: A satisfactory response is received from our finance department once Lambourne End's accounts have been reviewed. Confirmation of funding amount from Essex Youth Trust and Hedley Foundation submitted.
Red Balloon Foundation	Funding towards venue hire, special interest workshops and resources	£5000	The charity focuses on building aspiration, removing barriers to success and creating spaces and activities where our service users can explore and realise their potential. Funding was awarded to expand the current offer to young people and children within Ninefields & Limes Farm estate sessions. Conditions of grant: A satisfactory response if received from our finance department once Red Balloon Foundation's accounts have been reviewed.

APPLICATIONS DEFERRED

APPENDIX 2

Column 1 Group	Column 2 Nature of Application	Column 3 Comments
Grant A Smile	Funding towards deep cleaning equipment	The organisation provides a very valuable service to residents in Epping Forest however there was concern that the accounts have not been verified. In addition, should this application be approved at a later date, EFDC could only offer 50% of the total project cost which in this case would be £2,418.
Roydon United Reform Church	Funding for £5,000 towards the cost of underpinning the Church.	The group have not provided a quote for the works or confirmation whether funding has been received from Eastern Synod.
Willingale Community Garden	Funding towards the cost of community food growing sessions	After assessing the application Cllr Bedford recommended a site visit and further discussion with the group to determine how the sessions would benefit the community taking into account that GROW Community Garden have been awarded funding from EFDC and they are in close proximity to Willingale allotments.

APPLICATIONS REFUSED**APPENDIX 3**

Column 1 Group	Column 2 Nature of Application	Column 3 Comments
The Enterprise East group CIC	Funding was requested for community wellbeing workshops for people with disabilities or disadvantaged backgrounds	The application or funding of £3,050 was refused as the application was vague regarding which areas in the district they will be working. The group also did not confirm a venue for the project to take place or provide quotes for equipment.

**Initialed as original copy by
Portfolio Holder:**

GRANT AID SCHEME 2019/20 – STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

Total Budget for Grants to Voluntary Organisations = £83,450

One-Off Major Grants	Grant Approved	
Epping Sports Club	£1703.40	
Theydon Bois Baptist Church	£5000	
Alfie James Production Company	£1000	
Epping Golf Club	£360	
CRY	£5000	
GROW Community Garden	£3930	
Roydon Tennis Club	£5000	
Waltham Abbey Town Partnership	£1377	
Ongar & Villages Voluntary Care	£2386	
WAY 2000	£5000	
Beyond Ourselves	£4211.52	
Total Expenditure as at 23.10.19*		£34,967.92
Amounts remaining in budget prior to the approvals recommended in this decision sheet		£48,482.08
Illusions Dance Academy	£1670	
Herts Boat Rescue	£1,164.25	
Loughton Baptist Church	£5000	
Waltham Abbey Baptist Church	£4750	
Matching Green Cricket Club	£3840	
Epping Forest Foodbank	£5000	
My First 1000 Days	£1900	
Lambourne End	£5000	
Red Balloon Foundation	£5000	
Amount recommended for approval as per this decision sheet	£33324.25	
Amount remaining if applications approved as per Appendix 1		£15,157.83

* Note - Funds added back into budget as Epping Arts Society withdrew their application following approval - £990
Funds added back into budget as The Red Box Project withdrew their application following approval - £1,500