

2 January 2024

Our Ref Southern Rural Area Forum 11 January
2024

Contact. Community / Partnerships Team
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors David Barnard (Chair), Ralph Muncer (Vice-Chair), Faye S Frost, Dominic Griffiths, Ian Moody, Lisa Nash, Louise Peace, Claire Strong, Mandi Tandi and Terry Tyler

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM

to be held in the

HYBRID (VIRTUAL / COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

On

THURSDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda Part I

| Item | Page |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote. | |
| 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships. | |
| 4. GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team. | (Pages 3 - 16) |
| 5. PRESENTATIONS - ESSEX AND HERTS AIR AMBULANCE Presentation by Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. | |
| 6. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations. | |
| 7. FUTURE AREA FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings. | |

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM
DATE 11 JANUARY 2024

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: LEGAL & COMMUNITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Area Forum on the current expenditure and balances of the Community Grant budget.
- 1.2 To bring to the Forum's attention details of recent requests received for Community grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To enable Forum Members to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on grant applications.
- 1.4 To advise the Forum of the activities and schemes with which Community & Partnerships officers have been involved in and some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Considers and notes the information within this report.
- 2.2 Makes recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3 St Paul's Walden Nursery - **£2,500** towards the cost of replacing the classroom flooring.
- 2.4 Wymondley Parish Council –**£1,747** in principle for the replacement of the activity trail equipment in the Children's playground, Great Wymondley.
- 2.5 Resolve - **£1,000** towards the cost of funding key workers who take group and individual casework.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The community grant base budget for Southern Rural Area Forum 2023/24 is **£8,700**.
- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2022/23 is **£2,231**.
- 3.3 **£3,538** has been allocated to date in 2023/24, leaving **£7,393** available to allocate for community grants.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, an Area Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section

14.6.8(b)(ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a 5 clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

- 4.2 Other issues raised in this report are for information and noting and therefore no direct legal implications arise.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 and under item 3.3 the Community Grant budget available is **£7,393**.

- 5.2 If the applications outlined in Appendix 2 are recommended and approved, there would be **£2,146** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2023-24 financial year.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk Management, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 7.2 Community Grant funds are awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

8. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

10. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. The activities of the Community & Partnerships team are covered by existing budgets.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Terms of Reference for Area Forums, Section 9 of Council Constitution updated May 2023.

- 11.2 Community grants Criteria Policy May 2023.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1. Southern Rural Community Grant Budget 23-24
- 12.2 Appendix 2. St Paul's Walden Nursery
- 12.3 Appendix 3: Wymondley Parish Council
- 12.4 Appendix 4: Resolve
- 12.3 Appendix 5. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

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SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM

SUMMARY BUDGET POSITION 2023/24

| <u>Original Budget</u> <u>2023/24</u> | <u>Carry Forward Budget</u> <u>2022/23</u> | <u>Total Funding</u> <u>2023/24</u> | <u>Grants Allocated</u> | <u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u> |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| £8,700 | £2,231 | £10,931 | £3,538 | £7,393 |

FUNDED PROJECTS

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Forum Date</u> | <u>Grants Allocated</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Kimpton Parish Council - refurbishment of Kimpton pavilion | 22-Jun-23 | £1,000 |
| Offley Parish Council - benches for Offley Recreation Centre | 22-Jun-23 | £610 |
| Holwell Parish Council - Furniture for events | 21-Sep-23 | £1,928 |
| TOTAL SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM | | £3,538 |

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Appendix 2: St Paul's Walden Pre School

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| Version | Issue Date | Changes |
|---------|------------|------------------|
| 1.0 | NA | First Draft (BE) |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----|
| Reference | 6009 | | | |
| Name of Organisation | St Paul's Walden | | | |
| Organisation Type | Early years childcare | | | |
| Ward | Hitchwood, Offa and Hoo | | | |
| Project Type | Flooring for classroom | | | |
| Green option considered? | N/A | | | |
| NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest | None known | | | |
| Previous financial support within six years | | | | |
| Documentation reviewed and approved* | Safeguarding | Yes | Accounts | Yes |
| | Demonstrates clear governance | Yes | | |
| Total applied for | £2,500 | Total project cost | £4,731 | |
| Officer Summary | | | | |
| <p>The Nursery flooring has not been changed since the nursery opened and some areas of the flooring have now come away from the floor and are having to be temporarily taped down to make it safe. They are looking for funding to replace the whole of the classroom flooring.</p> <p>St Paul's Walden Nursery provides for children ages 2 – 5 years old in the local area. Their numbers currently stand at around 20 children.</p> <p>The Nursery is open to all and provide a service for the community in and around Whitwell. They are there to enhance the development and education of the children, as well as to support the need within the local area to support parents and carers.</p> | | | | |

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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Appendix 3: Wymondley Parish Council

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| Version | Issue Date | Changes |
|---------|------------|------------------|
| 1.0 | NA | First Draft (BE) |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|----------|-----|
| Reference | 6016 | | | |
| Name of Organisation | Wymondley Parish Council | | | |
| Organisation Type | Parish Council | | | |
| Ward | Chesfield | | | |
| Project Type | Playground Equipment | | | |
| Green option considered? | N/A | | | |
| NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest | Cllr Griffiths | | | |
| Previous financial support within six years | | | | |
| Documentation reviewed and approved* | Safeguarding | No - <i>awaiting robust safeguarding policy</i> | Accounts | Yes |
| | Demonstrates clear governance | Yes | | |
| Total applied for | £1,747 | Total project cost | £1,747 | |
| Officer Summary | | | | |
| <p>The Parish Council have requested funds to replace rotting activity trail equipment in the Children’s Playground in Great Wymondley following recommendations in a Playground Inspection carried out by NHC.</p> <p>This impacts the families of Wymondley and surrounding areas who use the activity in the playground. The replacement of the equipment will ensure the continual use of the area, which is open to anyone wishing to use it.</p> <p>There is an in principle agreement for funding for forum recommendation. The funding will only be released when a robust safeguarding policy had been agreed and is in place.</p> | | | | |

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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Appendix 4: Resolve

=Document Control:

| Version | Issue Date | Changes |
|---------|------------|------------------|
| 1.0 | NA | First Draft (BE) |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Reference | 6014 | | | |
| Name of Organisation | Resolve | | | |
| Organisation Type | Registered Charity | | | |
| Ward | Various | | | |
| Project Type | Key workers and core service costs. | | | |
| Green option considered? | N/A | | | |
| NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest | None known | | | |
| Previous financial support within six years | | | | |
| Documentation reviewed and approved* | Safeguarding | Yes | Accounts | Yes |
| | Demonstrates clear governance | Yes | | |
| Total applied for | £1,000 | Total project cost | £165,000 (Running costs for one year) | |

Officer Summary

Resolve supports the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from substance / alcohol misuse problems. Resolve's primary aim is to assist clients to move to a manageable positive lifestyle, contributing to and enhancing the communities within which they live.

Currently there are no statutory or community drug and alcohol treatment day services in North Herts, north of Stevenage, other than Resolve.

Funding is being requested towards the costs of key workers who take group therapy sessions and individual casework; acupuncture and counselling therapy costs and operational running costs including IT and premises costs.

It costs £1,230 pa for each client supported. Support can involve multiple weekly interventions (groups, individual keys work sessions, counselling and acupuncture) that can last many months.

In 2022/23 Resolve supported 122 clients from their specialist centre in Letchworth Garden City. Clients come from a range of places in North Herts but also from Stevenage and beyond. During this period three clients resided in Southern Rural.

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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Districtwide Community Updates

- The Community Investment Fund has now closed. There was an oversubscription of three times the amount of allocated funds available, with those scoring highest from initial assessment progressing to recommendation by the panel.
- Holocaust Memorial Day takes place 27th January 2024, with the North Herts Council holding an event to mark the day on Friday 26th January 2024. This will be a hybrid event that can be viewed on the Council's YouTube or to attend in person email the Community Partnership Team for more details.
- The [North Herts Heroes](#) award has now launched, with nominations having closed 7th January and judging taking place 12th January 2024. The winners will be celebrated at the Chair's Civic event on 1st March 2024.
- The Community Partnership Team worked with Letchworth BID to help deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day event.
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.
- Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory and non-statutory agencies.

Area Community Updates

- Reshuffle of Community Partnership Officers meaning that a new officer is focusing on Southern Rural.
- The Community Partnership Office has attended Offley, Pirton, Lilley, Ickleford and Knebworth Parish Council meetings over November and December. They are currently planning to attend Codicote, St Ippolyts and Wymondley in the new year and to arrange to meet remaining Parish Councils.
- Community Partnerships Officer met with Knebworth Environmental Group to know more about what they do in the local community and what they hope to achieve.
- Working with Ickleford & Lilley Parish Clerk towards addressing loneliness in rural areas.

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