

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



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2024

Our Ref Southern Rural Area Forum 14 March
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

OFFLEY VILLAGE HALL, LUTON RD, HITCHIN SG5 3DG

On

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 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 - 12)
5.	PRESENTATION - POLICE UPDATE Presentation by North Herts Safer Neighbourhood Team.	
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 14 MARCH 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.

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 **£5,538** has been allocated to date in 2023/24, leaving **£5,393** 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 **£5,393**.
- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£2,500**.
- 5.3 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 is recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, there would be **£2,893** to carry forward into the 2024/25 budget, subject to approval from Cabinet.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Good risk management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 6.2 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: Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

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SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2023/24

<u>Original Budget</u> <u>2023/24</u>	<u>Carry Forward</u> <u>Budget 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	£5,538	£5,393

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant 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
Resolve - key workers and core service costs	11-Jan-24	£500
Wymondley Parish Council - playground equipment	11-Jan-24	£1,500
TOTAL SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM		£5,538

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Appendix 2: St Paul's Walden Nursery

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6009			
Name of Organisation	St Paul's Walden Nursery			
Organisation Type	Early years childcare			
Ward	Hitchwood, Offa and Hoo			
Project Type	Flooring for classroom			
Green option considered?	No			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known			
Previous financial support within six years	N/A			
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>St Paul's Walden Nursery is a community run nursery, open 5 days a week for children aged 2 to 5 years old in the local area, with numbers currently standing at around 22 children with more attending in the summer term.</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 for parents and carers to take on opportunities and return to work.</p> <p>The locality of the nursery means it not only reduces the need for car travel but also supports the local primary school. It ensures that the children in the local area stay within the village, helping the village in keeping the community socially sustainable.</p> <p>The Nursery are hoping to replace the current classroom floor, which is the same flooring as when it opened in 2004. Some areas of the flooring are having to be temporarily taped down to keep the area safe. The funding applied for will be put towards replacing the whole of the classroom flooring that is used daily at the nursery.</p> <p>To help raise the funding needed to replace the flooring the nursery held a comedy night which raised £1,193. They have also approached the Henry Smith Fund for funding towards the costs.</p>				

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

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community Investment Fund has now closed. Successful grant applicants have been informed.• Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.• The winners of the North Herts Heroes awards have all been contacted and filming is underway. The Awards ceremony will take place at the Chair's Civic event on Friday 1st March.• 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.• The Community Partnership Team met with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to discuss this year's Letchworth Remembrance Day Parade and how they can recruit more members from across North Herts.• Holocaust Memorial Day hybrid event took place in the North Herts Council Chamber and can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel.
Area Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reaching out to village halls and community centres to gain knowledge on local community groups. Recently met with the manager at Great Ashby Community Centre and the work they do.• Working with Ickleford Parish Clerk towards addressing loneliness in rural areas. Met with CDA Herts (Community Development Action Hertfordshire) to discuss how to create digital inclusion as part of addressing this and support available in the local area.• Toured St Ippolyts with Parish Councillors to find out more about the community and local area.• Attended a school democracy visit for year 5/6 with Cllr Barnard to Cockernhoe Primary School.

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