

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 June 2019**

### **S137 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

#### **Recommendation**

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: -**
  - (a) Discuss and Approve the applications for funding.
  - (b) Discuss and Decline the applications for funding outlining the reasons not funded this time.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 137, Hedge End Town Council sets aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will be of benefit to residents within Hedge End. This report sets out the procedure for grants under s137 and the applications received for funding. There are more applications for funding than the grant fund available and this may result in some organisations not receiving grant monies.

#### **Introduction**

3. Section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is a statutory power. It gives council's the power 'to incur expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorised.' It is only used when there is no other specific power available; it is a 'power of last resort', it must benefit some or all inhabitants, not an individual, nor can it be made retrospectively.
4. S137 was amended in s36 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The amendment stipulates that expenditure and benefit must be balanced.
5. S137 payments are index-linked. The figure for 2019/2020 is £8.12. The annual s137 budget is limited and calculated by multiplying £8.12 by the total number on the electoral role on 1 April. Financial records must show a separate account for s137 spending.
6. The Town Council in setting its annual budget agrees a figure within this sum for the purposes of grant giving to the community. The figure for 2019/20 was agreed as £2,000.

## **S137 Approach**

7. Grant Applications are published on the website and via social media and applications are invited throughout the year without set deadlines.
8. The applications for consideration are the first in this financial year.
9. The grant criteria are limited to the remit of Section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is statutory power:
  - (a) It must benefit some or all inhabitants, not an individual, nor can it be made retrospectively.
10. As part of the application applicants have to demonstrate aims and objectives and how this will benefit some or all inhabitants of Hedge End. There are seven applications to consider.
11. Given that the current level of applications exceeds the level of funding available. Councillors may wish to consider other factors when making their decisions.
12. Other factors could include:
  - (a) Funded in previous years
  - (b) Additional funding received to support the project
  - (c) Number of direct Hedge End beneficiaries
  - (d) End of year balances
13. Previously applications were agreed by the Communities & Culture Committee which has now ceased.

## **Grant Applications**

14. Applications for projects have been received from:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Hedge End Guides
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Itchen North (Amazon) Sea Scout Group (Norman Rodaway)
  - Hedge End Village Hall Preschool
  - Itchen South District Scout Canoe Centre
  - The [d.@rtCentre](#), Wildern School
  - Victim Support
  - Wildern Opportunity Group
15. A summary of all the bids is included below:

**Applicant:** 4<sup>th</sup> Hedge End Guides  
**Amount Requested:** £736.00

**Overview:** Girlguiding empowers girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves to make a positive difference in their community.

They along with 3<sup>rd</sup> Hedge End Guides are organising a trip to Switzerland in February 2020 and are hoping that fundraising and grants will enable the trip to be possible. They are applying for a grant towards the sledging and hiking activity they have planned.

All the guides attending are from Hedge End.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: Indicated numbers of beneficiaries are 23 at £32 per head. Grants have been awarded by HCC and the Youth Council to fund the trip itself.

**Applicant:** 31<sup>st</sup> Itchen North Sea Scout Group  
**Amount Requested:** £600.00

**Overview:** The purpose of the group is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, making a positive contribution to society.

As a sea scout group they have a wide range of boats and ancillary marine equipment. All this equipment has to be insured at a high cost to the group- (£1,849.00 for 2019). Also, the annual bill for marine repairs and servicing normally comes to over £400 per year.

The request of a grant is to help towards these expenditures, thus enabling more of the monies raised to be spent on replacing and improving the facilities and activities on offer.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: There are no indicated numbers of beneficiaries. Grants have been awarded for the purchase of new items but not overheads. Subs have significantly decreased in recent years which means that overheads are not continually met. The group have approx. 25% of their operating budget as carry forward.

**Applicant:** Hedge End Village Hall Preschool  
**Amount Requested:** £500.00

**Overview:** They are committed in providing an excellent standard of childcare and preschool education within the local community.

They are requesting a grant to help towards a sensory area for their special needs children. This will help them to experience many different experiences and help their development.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: There are no indicated numbers of beneficiaries. The group hold fundraising activities but have not stated any grants received, however they do receive the Early Years funding from HCC. The group have approx. 10% of their operating budget as a carry forward balance.

**Applicant:** Itchen South District Scout Canoe Centre  
**Amount Requested:** £1,000.00

**Overview:** The aim of this centre is to promote and support paddle sports, such as kayaking and canoeing offering coaching, recreational and competitive opportunities in paddle sports, as well as promoting the centre within the Hampshire Scout and Guide Communities.

Any contribution would be of great help and a suggested grant would help towards the purchase of a specialist trailer for the safe transportation of their equipment.

The centre has around 70 participants aged between 8 and 25 from groups based in Hedge End taking part in taster sessions each year.

This group received £500 in 2017 for buoyancy aids.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: There are approx. 70 beneficiaries per annum meaning the contribution would be £14 per head. Grants have been received from HCC with no indication of the total cost of the project and how much the shortfall would be and how the group intend to fund the shortfall. indicated numbers of beneficiaries. The group have approx. 76% of their operating budget as a carry forward balance.

**Applicant:** The [d.@rtCentre](#), Wildern School  
**Amount Requested:** £475.00

**Overview:** The [d.@art](#) Centre is a community arts centre offering courses in arts and crafts, workshops and courses as well as dance workshops and community choirs.

They are seeking funding to support their Big Draw Campaign event on Saturday 19 October with the theme this year being 'drawn to life'. It aims to shine a light on the vital role that creativity can play in mental health and wellbeing. They will be holding a full day of workshops, activities and performances and the grant would help to cover tutor costs and advertising costs.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: The group are aiming to attract 200+ people putting the contribution at £2.37 per head. There will be a small session charge and no other grants have been applied for. The group have not attached the most recent annual account or bank statement.

**Applicant:** Victim Support  
**Amount Requested:** £200.00

**Overview:** Victim Support provides free and confidential support to victims and witnesses of crime. Their service is provided by fully trained staff and volunteers.

They are requesting a grant to purchase security items, (personal alarms, dummy CCTV and window/door alarms) that are provided free to victims and their families. These items used to be funded via the Prisoner's Earnings Act but this funding has now ceased and the provision of these items have proven to be very beneficial in the victims recovery.

Due to the new GDPR regulations they are unable to provide exact numbers of residents helped, but in previous years they have supported an average of 215 Hedge End residents and don't expect this number to differ over the years.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: Numbers of beneficiaries have not been provided and is vague as to the period of time for the numbers that have been provided. The committee would need to be assured that the expenditure was going towards Hedge End residents as the service is county wide. The service has been funded previously by S137 but this does not exclude them from applying again. The group have approx. 17% of their operating budget as a carry forward balance.

**Applicant:** Wildern Opportunity Group  
**Amount Requested:** £400.00

**Overview:** The aim of this group is to provide a fully inclusive preschool experience for all children, including those with special needs from Hedge End and the surrounding area.

They are requesting a grant to be able to replace the x2 wooden sheds in the play area. These sheds are used to store outside toys and a Wendy house and provide a stimulating play area to children in Hedge End.

**Officer feedback:** Officers have assessed the proposal against the criteria and have the following observations: There are no indicated numbers of beneficiaries. Grants have not been sought from other organisations. Bank statements have been provided. The group have approx. 40% of their operating budget as a carry forward balance.

## Equalities Implications

16. The Public Sector Equality Duty, under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, places a responsibility on local authorities to exercise 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.'
17. There are no equality and inclusion implications arising directly from this report, the protected characteristics have been considered when assessing all proposals.

## Risk Management

18. Whilst there is little risk in funding any of the projects there is an organisational risk that the limited funds will be spent in the first round of applications leaving no money for remaining applications throughout the 2019/20 Financial Year.

## Financial Assessment

19. The financial implications are set out in the main body of the report.
20. Further information in relation to the groups applying for funding is included below:

Organisation	Grant Request
4 <sup>th</sup> Hedge End Guides	£736.00
31 <sup>st</sup> Itchen North Sea Scouts	£600.00
Hedge End Village Hall Preschool	£500.00
Itchen South District Scout Canoe Centre	£1,000.00
The <a href="#">d.@art</a> Centre	£475.00
Victim Support	£200.00
Wildern Opportunity Group	£400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,911.00</b>

**Sarah Jelley**  
Town Clerk

**June, 2019**

**Background Papers:** S137 Grant Applications available on deposit for the committee at the Town Council.