

Community Services Committee report

The Community Services Committee meets four times a year usually in May, September, November and February and is responsible for a number of Council services. All of our meetings are open to the public and our agendas, reports and minutes are published on the website.

A major part of our work relates to the Council's community grants scheme. There is a sum of £18,000 available to support the work of clubs and societies and we are keen for word to get round so that full use is made of these funds. The application forms and guidance notes are on the website and you may also pick up paper copies from our offices.

This year grants have been awarded as follows:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper	Abingdon Food and Drink Festival – 23 rd June 2018	£875
Abbey Brass Band	Additional items to uniform – jumpers and waterproof jackets with logo	£850
Smash! Badminton Club!	Enhance learning project – access to a professional coach for young people	£480
Oxfordshire Play Association	Play and activity day at Southern Town Park, Saturday 21 st July 2018	£1000
Abingdon Music Centre Trust	Purchase of a set of instruments to support activities to encourage students to learn instruments	£1000
All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon	To create three separate toilets areas which can be associated with the three main hiring areas & to provide disabled toilet access in each of these three areas.	£1000
ATOM Festival of Science	ATOM Festival	£1000

Dance Creative	To support a Falls Prevention Dance Class based at the Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre	£800
Thames Valley Police	Will go towards the delivery of accredited training for representatives of groups/charities/organisations that regularly work with young people.	£150
The Abingdon Music Festival	Towards the cost of Abingdon Music Festival	£1000
Assisted Reading for Children (ARCH)	To support St Nicolas Primary School with their financial contribution towards the ARCH.	£1,000
Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project	To support ten young people to work with Volunteers in the Community. At least five of the young people will work towards an AQA qualification in youth leadership.	£2,500
My Life My Choice	To buy essential equipment for their monthly group for adults in Abingdon.	£800
Abingdon Passion Play	To increase their publicity and advertising budget for the 2019 Passion Play.	£500
Thrive South Abingdon	To launch a mentoring programme for young people living on the Saxton Road Estate.	£1,000
Abingdon Joint Schools Carnegie Forum	Towards the cost of the 2019 Carnegie Forum Event	£500
Abingdon Freewheeling	Towards the cost of the 2019 Abingdon Cycle Festival in Abingdon Market Place	£800
Abingdon Concert Band	To help support the expenditure on new music to play in 2019 and future years.	£400
6 th Abingdon (Trinity) Scout Group	Towards the cost of new equipment and storage facility	£1500
The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society	Towards the cost that come with moving premises such as electricity checks and cleaning and some redecoration	£1000

Other areas which I would highlight are:

Communications

The Committee has a modest budget for Council communications.

At the beginning of 2018 we published the comprehensive Abingdon Town Guide and this was delivered to every household in Abingdon. It is full of a wealth of information.

Our website is one of the most comprehensive websites operated by a town council. Our original vision was for it to be a “one stop shop” for all things Abingdon. I would draw your attention to two aspects of the site:

- (i) The events listing section. This enables organisations to input their events directly on to the website.
- (ii) The history section. I would like to thank Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society for their continuing work in developing the people and places section of the site.

However nothing stops still and we are aware that the current site is now 6 years old so we will continue keep the website under review, in line with the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into force in May 2018.

Summer Events

In June 2018 the Council organised Fun and Music in the Park, both of which are now established Abingdon events. The daytime Fun in the Park was followed by an evening of entertainment with Music in the park, yet again a sell-out event.

This year I am pleased to confirm that both events will take place on Saturday 1st June and we will continue with the same level of security that we had at the two previous events.

The Council has a sub-committee, chaired by Cllr Alice Badcock and reporting to community services. Would you like to add anything to what I have said Alice?

Markets

Finally I would like to highlight the markets. The Council has been responsible for markets since 1556 and is, by law, the market authority for Abingdon which means that it has to give permission for any markets held within 6 and 2/3rds of a mile of Abingdon.

We have a number of regular markets all organised in partnership with other bodies:

- (i) The traditional Monday charter market – this takes place every Monday and is a trader-organised market;

- (ii) The monthly Farmers market - this takes place on the third Friday of the month and the next one is this Friday. This is organised by the Thames Valley Farmers' market co-operative.
- (iii) The quarterly local excellence markets and the twice-yearly craft fairs organised by the Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce.