

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community Services Committee – 12th January 2021

Agenda item 8 – Grant applications

Community Grants

The budget for community grants for 2020/21 is £20,000 (413 / 4251) and grant applications are considered at the four (quarterly) meetings of this committee.

The amount of grants awarded at the June 2020 meeting was £4,000, the amounts awarded at the September 2020 meeting were £3,500 and no grants were awarded at the November 2020 meeting. Therefore the amount remaining in the budget is £10,500.

The following grant applications have been received for consideration by the Committee. In accordance with the previous resolution of the Committee only the forms and not all the supporting papers, are attached with this report. Any other background/ supporting papers are available for inspection in the office.

	Name of Applicant	Summary reason for the grant application (for full details see grant application form)	Grant requested
1	Cothill House School	Towards the cost of creating a Virtual Sandbox that can help local communities by bringing in the local schools to teach them about geographical and scientific knowledge.	£762.91
2	Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project	Towards funding for extra hours needed in South Abingdon as that is the largest catchment area.	£2,500
3	Oxfordshire Play Association	Towards the cost of the Community Play and Activity day in South Abingdon Schedules for July 2021.	£1,000
4	The Archway Foundation	To help cover costs to reach, support and connect with Abingdon residents who are lonely and isolated (the majority not digitally connected) by providing telephone support and posting a fortnightly Newsletter containing up to date Coronavirus Guidance, quizzes and word searches, ideas for craft activities to do at home and contributions of poems, stories and photos from readers.	£2,500

The total of the above applications for consideration at this meeting amounts to £6,762.91.

Community Fund Note that the Council also has a “Community Fund” under the control of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This Committee has the power to refer grant applications to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration under the Community Fund, with a recommendation in relation to the grant.

When the Community Fund was established in 2010/11 it was focussed on supporting organisations who were losing funding as a result of grant reductions from the District and County Councils and in particular organisations working with and supporting children, young people and the elderly. It was later (2011) stated that “the Council is aware of the pressures on local services and community groups and this Fund will help support groups and services and also new projects for the Town.” The criteria were deliberately kept wide to enable the Fund to be flexible and responsive to emerging demands.

In practice the Fund has been used to award grants in excess of £1,000.

Grant determinations from the Community Grants budget (413/4251) will be a resolved item. If the Committee considers that an application could benefit from the Community Fund then this will be a recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with or without a suggested figure.

Louise Brown
Communications, Marketing and Events Officer
5th January 2021