

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2021

Agenda item 9: Grants Determination

APPENDIX A

At the Community Services meeting of 12th January 2021 Oxfordshire Play Association had submitted a grant request of £1000 towards the cost of the South Abingdon play and activities day 2021. it was minuted that *'Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) has applied for a grant for several years and has been asked to provide details of how the event helps families with identified needs in Abingdon'*

Please see the below information now provided by Martin Gillett from Oxfordshire Play Association to assist with the consideration of the grant request:

"For the previous 5 events held at Southern Town Park we have an average attendance numbers of 1000 guests

The vast majority of these are from Abingdon and in particular the Caldecott Ward

The benefits the event brings are contained within our Key Aims and Objectives;

For Children & Young People

- 1) *Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)*
- 2) *Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity*
- 3) *Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)*

For Parents / Carers

- 1) *Provide an Event offering both FREE Entrance & FREE Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for ALL*
- 2) *Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials*
- 3) *Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area*

For Communities

- 1) *Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – 'Love Where You Live'*
- 2) *Promote local clubs, groups and societies*
- 3) *Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event*

Here is some feedback we collected from the 2017 event;

Feedback from Activity Providers

Heart of the Wildwood – A child from last year’s event came running towards us smiling, saying that he loved the activity so much last year. He helped out on the stall, decorated a stick and made 3 breads. It was so nice to see more Teenagers at the event, Abingdon has a lot of very polite teenagers! They were asking about cooking and asked for receipes

Thrive - Thank you so much to you and your team for organising such an amazing event on Saturday! Was so great to see so many different organisations coming together and helping each other out. For example Orinoco invited Puddle Ducks to share their gazebo due to the rain. This kind of community spirit was perfectly in-keeping with my hopes for the day. One mum commented how grateful she was that were running a holiday club and looking to begin running other events for young people in South Abingdon as there is currently “nothing” for them to do. I was able to give her a list of other charities and events happening in her local area that she and her family could access. We achieved what we set out to do, and more! Thank you so much for allowing Thrive to be part of such a wonderful, well organized, and fun day!

White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre – Thank you for inviting us, we engaged with over 30 families and attracted 12 new members on the day.

Abingdon Carbon Cutters – We attended to support an interesting and worthwhile project. We made Edible Hanging Baskets to encourage Families to grow their own fruit, salad and vegetables and to encourage Healthy Eating. We made over 50 ‘growing’ pots for Children and Families to take home and their enthusiasm was great. Our activity was very successful.

Groovy Su – A large extended family with lots of Children persuaded the older boys to play and engage with the activity, it was lovely to see the older ones being ‘kids again’

Caterpillar Care – This was our first Playday event, it was very well organized and had a very nice Community atmosphere, it was a very successful event for us

Abingdon Vineyard Church - The success story for us was that we got to meet many of the families of kids who come along to our youth club and to get feedback of how much the kids enjoy and value the club.

Feedback from Guests

Sharon Howse (Facebook) - Ivie had a great time at Playday today, she learned lots of new things like cooking bread on a camp fire, making bubbles out of string and planting plants to name a few. Thank you OPA for organising it.

Kim Lane (Facebook) – Finley had a great time yesterday x Well organised xx well done everyone especially OPA

Kevin Barnes (Facebook) – This was the first Playday we have attended, the kids loved it – I thought that we would never get home!

Thank You, we've had so much fun!

We loved trying things we would not normally do

This is awesome, can you do a few more in Abingdon? There is so much to do and it is all FREE

Could we improve the events? – No you're doing great!

Attending Playdays will definitely make a difference to us as a family in the future ☺

We have attended over 10 Playdays and you always seem to come up with new activities and ideas – today it was Edible Hanging Baskets!

My kids loved the Science experiments ☺

Please keep these events going, they are brilliant

There were so many 'hands on' activities, it was great

What did your kids like best? How long have you got!!

A range of Food Stalls would be good, people may stay even longer

Feedback from Guests Via Social Media (2018 event)

- *Ruby and her friends had a fab day at South Abingdon Playday. Big thanks to you and your team*
- *My Boys loved this! Great day had by all. Well done*
- *Another fantastic day, Ivie enjoyed everything including go karting, making bubbles, making slime, making a candle, crafting a sun catcher, box and key ring. Well done to OPA and your team. Looking forward to next year*
- *Lush afternoon just me and my 3 little cute ones. Thanks OPA for a great afternoon boys loved it*
- *Amazing day xx thank you to all that was involved in making it such a lovely day xx*

2016 event feedback.

- *Emma Davis (via Facebook) – Me and my boys had a brilliant day today at Lambrick Park, Thank you ever so much*
- *Lisa Newport (via Facebook) – My Children and I had a great time at the Abingdon event, Thank You so much to all involved in organizing it! Looking forward to the next one already*
- *Catherine Oliver (via Facebook) – Thank you for a fantastic day at Southern Town Park in Abingdon. My 2-year-old have a lovely time and we look forward to the next one*
- *Yet another excellent event - Councillor Alice Badcock, Abingdon on Thames Caldecott Ward.*
- *Brilliant day, brilliant event, thank you for the invitation - Flt Lt Joan I Smith RAF VR(T) 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn ATC*
- *Thank you so much for all you did to make Saturday such a great event. The many people I spoke to were blown away that the event, the first one of its kind to be held in the area, provided so much variety and was free to all - Ray, Abingdon Vineyard Church*
- *Just wanted to let you know how much my little boy enjoyed the activity day in Abingdon on Saturday. I thought he would have gone straight to the go carts and never left them but actually he was far more occupied with so much of the other activities. He loved the bubble man and made a number of repeat visits. The 'grass track cycle course' was another favourite, wearing the gloves and helmet and using a pretty cool bike really put him in a racing zone! He is becoming really competitive and went round dozens of times with his best time of 26 seconds. A new bike is now top of his Christmas list! He also visited the Smoothie Bike, the Body Zorbs, the stocks and the police transit. I've often said from a policing and community perspective these are great days but now I can also say from a parent's and child's point of view they are fabulous, I think you do a great job in organising these and it was obvious to see that they add great joy to the community, which I'm sure is especially valued in the current difficult times. Well done mate, I know all the agencies pull together well and give their time, but I hope you also get the recognition you deserve, it was brilliant – Michael Dix, School Liaison Officer, Safer Schools Partnership, Thames Valley Police”*

Martin - OPA