Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee
18 July 2019

Community Grants Programme
Report by the Corporate Head of Healthy & Resilient Neighbourhoods

Purpose
To consider applications received for Neighbourhood Community Grants (NCG) and Councillor Ward Funding (CWF).

Recommendations
That the committee CONSIDERS:
1. the application from Surbiton Salons for the award of a Neighbourhood Community Grant as set out in paragraphs 5-12 of the report; and
2. whether it wishes to allocate Councillor Ward Funding to Anstee Bridge as set out in paragraphs 13-17 of the report.

Benefits to the Community:
To encourage local voluntary and community sector organisations, faith groups, charities, and not-for-profit organisations to access funding and expand their capacity.

Key Points
A. There are three different funding sources under the new Community Grants Programme available for Neighbourhood Committees and Ward Members to support and encourage local voluntary and community activity in their neighbourhoods.

B. The Committee is being asked to consider a Neighbourhood Community Grant application as set out in paragraphs 5-12 and a request for Councillor Ward Funding as set out in paragraphs 13-17. The agreed guidelines for the Neighbourhood Community Grants programme are attached as Annex 1; and the agreed guidelines for Councillor Ward Funding are attached as Annex 2.

Context
1. There are three different funding sources under the new Community Grants Programme that are available for Neighbourhood Committees and Ward Members to support and encourage local voluntary and community activity in their neighbourhoods, as follows:

2. Neighbourhood Community Grants (previously known as Your Kingston Grants and New Initiatives Grants), of up to £3,000 per application, are available to fund projects, activities and services to benefit communities in each of the four Neighbourhood areas. Each Neighbourhood is awarded £20,000 per annum, which is reduced as Neighbourhood Community Grants are awarded throughout the financial year.

3. Councillor Ward Funding, at £2,000 per Councillor per financial year, will remain at the discretion of individual Ward Councillors unless the
Neighbourhood Committee have decided to pool all or part of the Councillor Ward Funding budget.

4. **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) must be spent on infrastructure needed to support development in the Borough. The upper limit of funding to apply for will be the amount allocated to each Neighbourhood Area - allocation will vary by Neighbourhood and is not time limited.

**Neighbourhood Community Grant Application - Surbiton Salons Festival 2019 (£3,000)**

5. The Neighbourhood Community Grants guidelines, as set out in **Annex 1**, set a number of minimum requirements for the award of a grant. The table below sets out whether this application meets those minimum requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Met? (Y/N)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the group have a written constitution or memorandum and articles or set of rules that establishes that it is a voluntary, community, faith or other not-for-profit organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the group demonstrated how surpluses are re-invested if the group is a not-for-profit organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the group have a management committee or board of trustees with at least three members?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the group have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the group have at least two unrelated people to authorise cheques and make withdrawals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the group have an accounting system such as annual accounts to record income and expenditure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the group shown that it does not have an ongoing deficit that the grant application could be used to fill?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Application Details**

6. Surbiton Salons have applied for £3,000 to support their festival which is taking place at the cornerHOUSE Arts Centre between 24th - 28th July 2019. The programme includes five evening concerts of classical music and jazz, three talks given by local speakers on a variety of subjects including the works of Jane Austen and Georgian costume, and three participatory workshops on the subjects of body percussion, acappella jazz, and Shakespeare’s sonnets. For those participating in the acappella jazz workshop there will also be the opportunity to perform the piece of jazz they develop together with a jazz quartet at the evening performance. Evening performers include Nicky Spence (Tenor at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), early music ensemble Ceruleo, and pianist Emmanuel Vass. The
festival’s aim is to provide a sociable and relaxed environment to enjoy music-making.

7. The festival aims to combat loneliness and isolation within the borough. Their application cites that there are 24,000 people aged over 65 within the borough and that this is the fastest growing cohort of the local population. The borough also has a growing BAME population with a number of community groups working specifically with BAME older people. During their marketing stage, the applicant has stated that they will actively work with several local organisations to encourage participation from the aforementioned groups and monitor their presence at the festival. These organisations include: the CornerHOUSE; U3A; Milaap Centre; Korean Elders; and Sohali Hub. The festival will seek to enable isolated individuals and those with life-limiting illnesses living in Surbiton and its surrounding areas to participate in cultural activities locally, make new friends, and bring them joy and fulfilment.

8. The festival will bring high calibre artists, the likes of whom would not usually perform in the area, to these types of audiences. Some of the workshops will enable the audience to actively participate, culminating in all attendees participating in an evening performance.

9. This mainly volunteer-led project was started by a group of people who overcame the barrier of loneliness and isolation by setting up their own choir in Surbiton through the University of the Third Age, from which the festival grew. Originally taking place during the summer at a choir member’s home when activities stopped for the school holidays, the festival has now outgrown the original venue due to its increasing popularity, requiring a relocation to a larger community space.

10. The three main outcomes that the applicant states that they want to achieve are:

   1. Reducing isolation.
   2. Expanding artistic and creative horizons for our audience.
   3. Improving community engagement and understanding by using music and performance to break down age barriers.

**Officer Comment**

11. The council’s Cultural Services team were consulted on the application and, having considered the application, made the following comments:

   ● These are high calibre musicians with performance and teaching pedigree.
   ● The festival appears to have grown organically from links with the U3A/Milaap and demand for summer activities.
   ● Have the groups the applicant are targeting had any input into the development of the programme?
   ● Is the festival free and what is the applicant’s ticketing strategy?

12. These comments were shared with the applicant and the following reply was received:

   *We have visited several local community choirs to talk to them about the festival and hand out flyers, namely Encore, Singing for Fun, Strawberry Hill Choir, and the Landmark Singers. We are also offering local community organisations a special discount code to access discounted tickets for all events once the early bird sales end. Currently we will be offering this to*
Achieving for Children, Doxo Deo Community Church (City Changer Projects), Milaap Elders Project, Oxygen, Man&Boy, Refugee Action Kingston, Love Kingston, and Kingston Voluntary Action. We are also working with Refugee Action Kingston to provide two free places at the Body Percussion workshop to young refugees. The venue is located on the ground floor and is wheelchair accessible, with wider access toilet facilities.

In previous years the talk and workshop programme was developed by a member of a local choir who also hosted the events at her house. She has had to take a step back this year, however both of our talks are being given by local people who sing in community choirs in the area.

Unfortunately despite all artists offering us discounts on their usual fees, the cost of artists and, in particular, the piano hire, has meant it has not been possible to make this festival free. Tickets range from £12 - £25 depending on the event type and we offer Early Bird incentives until the 30th June. We also offer a week pass which grants access to all events and represents a discount on buying individually. As mentioned above, we will also be offering discount codes to groups in the local area that we have been in touch with.

Going forward we will be looking for ways to reduce the ticket price to enable the festival to become more accessible to the local area.

We have been flyering extensively in the area, visiting choirs, libraries, community centres, cafes, shops, GPs surgeries, theatres, and churches, as well as door-to-door flyering. We will also be posting posters in 35 local community noticeboards managed by Kingston Council as well as other locations in the area.

We have a legacy donation and occasionally receive small private donations from supporters.

Councillor Ward Funding (CWF) application - Wonderland by Anstee Bridge

13. Members have been approached by Anstee Bridge (Achieving for Children) for support for their Wonderland Project and, as the Committee have decided to pool this year’s allocation of Councillor Ward Funding, this request is being reported to the Committee for consideration.

14. The Councillor Ward Funding Scheme, first introduced in 2016/17, is aimed at providing local councillors with the ability to support the award of flexible, small and timely funds for local initiatives within their Ward. The scheme provides increased opportunities to improve levels of engagement and influence at a very local, street-based level addressing the ‘here and now’ issues. Ideally, projects/activities should enable communities to help themselves and lead on delivering local solutions. Overall, the fund should enhance the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the Ward community and residents’ quality of life. The full guidelines are attached as Annex 2.

Application
15. For 2019/2020, Anstee Bridge will collaborate with Bounce Theatre to bring to life an imaginative reinterpretation of Alice in Wonderland. The classic tale of Alice in Wonderland will be 155 years old in 2020 and Anstee Bridge will reimagine it as a contemporary tale about identity and transformation. Addressing the concerns around the rising mental health needs in young people, students will reimagine the story for the digital generation. Merging the surreal magic of the original tale with “snapchat-able” language and contemporary design, students will be empowered to explore identity, body image and mental health (depression). They will consider how people transform, change, and remove the labels forced upon them to find their true selves.

16. As part of this project, Anstee Bridge students will create a tea party network. Bringing to life the warmth, humour, and fun of the Mad Hatter’s tea party, students will host pop-up tea parties to create intergenerational links with people across the borough. Each tea party will allow people to discuss their own experiences around the themes in the play, creating an intergenerational community of people committed to having positive conversations about mental health with each other.

17. Anstee Bridge are hoping to raise £3,000 from Councillor Ward Funding to bring to life their tea party vision in Surbiton. This will support Anstee delivering a tea party network in the neighbourhood and working with a cohort of local primary school age children who would benefit from a little bit of Anstee magic! Anstee Bridge aim to support groups of Year 6 children who may be struggling with the pressures of SATs and the transition to secondary school. Through the Mad Hatter tea parties, Anstee Bridge will work with the children throughout the year, offering support and coping strategies to maximise their chances of balancing the pressures of Year 6 with the opportunity to enjoy their childhood.

Resource Implications

18. No additional resources will be required. This will be delivered within budget by existing resources and operates within Financial Regulations.

19. The Committee is yet to award a grant this year; thus £20k remains within its Neighbourhood Community Grants budget and £24k remains within its Councillor Ward Funding budget.

Legal Implications

20. Part 11 of the Planning Act 2008 provides for the imposition of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, as amended, (the Regulations) implement the detail of the CIL using powers provided in Part 11 of the Act, including specifying how the CIL should be spent by charging authorities. The Government has also issued Planning Practice Guidance on the CIL.

21. Provided the CIL is spent in accordance with the restrictions contained in the Regulations and Guidance, there should be no legal implications arising from the report.

22. The award of Neighbourhood Community Grants and Councillor Ward Funding grants by the Neighbourhood Committee or councillors should not give rise to any legal implications provided the grants are distributed in accordance with the relevant criteria to appropriate persons, bodies or organisations.

23. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) the Council must, when exercising its functions, including considering applications for grant or CIL funding, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and
victimisation and other prohibited conduct, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between those who share a ‘protected characteristic’ under the 2010 Act and those who do not. A ‘protected characteristic’ is defined as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are also protected characteristics for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination.

Equalities Impact Assessment

24. A full EQIA was carried out during the Neighbourhoods Review, which included the consideration of grants and grant allocations.

25. There are no known direct equalities impacts arising from the decisions set out in this paper. However, community groups funded through these grants will need to consider equalities when planning their projects and/or submitting bids.

Health & Air Quality Implications

26. Organisations and groups are encouraged to submit grant applications that promote the health and wellbeing of their local communities.

Road Network Implications

27. Grant awards are unlikely to impact on local road network or parking issues. However, in the event of a grant being considered where road closures may apply i.e. street play/playing out/community road party, the Neighbourhood Manager will review and liaise with Highways and road network officers.

Background papers held by author:

None other than those referenced in the report.

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