Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee
7 November 2019

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

Purpose
To consider applications for Neighbourhood Community Grant (NCG) and Councillor Ward Funding.

Recommendations
That the Committee considers:
1. the application(s) for Neighbourhood Community Grants as set out in paragraphs 2 - 22 of the report
2. the requests for Councillor Ward Funding allocations as set out in paragraphs 23 - 27 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 the applications for:
   i. Surbiton YMCA £1,500 (Neighbourhood Community Grant)
   ii. Citizen Zoo £3,000 (Neighbourhood Community Grant)
   iii. Alpha Road RA £1,000 (Councillor Ward Funding)
   iv. Rose Walk RA £To follow (Councillor Ward Funding)

C. The agreed guidelines for the Neighbourhood Community Grants programme are attached as Annex 1 and the guidelines for Councillor Ward Funding are attached as Annex 2.

Context
1. 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, as follows:
   (a) 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/ 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.
   (b) 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.

(c) **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 (NCG) application(s)**

(i) **YMCA Surbiton (Part of YMCA St Paul’s Group) - £1,500**

2. **Minimum Standards Dashboard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Standard</th>
<th>Met (Y/N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the group have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<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>
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**Application**

3. YMCA Surbiton have applied for £1,500 to support a programme of activities for their residents over the festive period between 17 December 2019 and 1 January 2020 with the main focus being the residents' Christmas celebration.

4. The YMCA have around 150 residents staying at YMCA Surbiton (and move on houses). All of the residents at the YMCA are there because they have no permanent/stable accommodation. They have for one reason or another become homeless.

5. Christmas is a particularly hard time of year for the residents for many reasons. These include, having no family to be with, being away from family - i.e residents who are seeking refuge here and cannot see their children and loved ones. Parents who cannot see their children, people suffering with addiction, overcoming DV, suffering from depression. At a time of year where everything around us, on TV, signs, in the media is about being with family, for those who can't be, and have no money to be able to give their close ones what they would like, depression soars.
6. The proposed Christmas celebration is a three course Christmas dinner, cooked by YMCA staff who wait on the residents. This is the only Christmas dinner a lot of the YMCA residents will have. The YMCA then recognise all their residents achievements with certificates, have music and singing.

7. The YMCA also want to provide, as they did last year, buffet food for residents on Christmas Day evening, Boxing Day and New Year's day in order to encourage residents to come down and socialise with other residents and staff. The YMCA would also like to provide Christmas presents for the residents, and to organise a few outings or film nights.

8. The YMCA’s main objective is to ensure none of its residents feel alone. Staff knock on all doors on Christmas Day to invite residents to speak, attend something and to make sure that they have crisis numbers. The YMCA want their residents to be able to enjoy themselves and be distracted from whatever pain they may be feeling.

9. The application’s three cited outcomes are:
   - residents having a Christmas dinner and spending time with others socially.
   - residents receiving a Christmas present and card.
   - residents, including families and those of all faiths, attending activities/ outings to help prevent isolation.

10. The YMCA will monitor how many residents get involved in the planning, and how many attend the celebration evening. The YMCA usually consult residents to see what the meal/ celebration evening should consist of, which is usually a full Christmas dinner and then activities such as an open mic set, a quiz and the awarding of certificates and acknowledgements of all the achievements the residents have made over the last term. The YMCA also like to have a few other activities- i.e a theatre trip, and buffets on Boxing Day and New Years day.

11. As well as monitoring numbers who attend we will get more qualitative feedback-quotes and observations and give out questionnaires to get feedback.

(ii) Citizen Zoo - £3,000

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| (Not yet evidenced) |

Has the group shown that it does not have an ongoing deficit that the grant application could be used to fill?  
| (Not yet evidenced) |

13. At the time of writing Citizen Zoo have not provided all the documents required to evidence that their application meets the Neighbourhood Community Grants minimum standards. The Committee are being asked to consider this application subject to this documentation being produced.

Application

14. Citizen Zoo have applied for £3,000 to help construct a nature watching hide on the Tolworth Court Farm Moated Manor Site. This will be an architecturally pioneering structure inspired by the natural world that will enable engagement with the biodiversity that surrounds the area. It is hoped that the design of the structure will help to increase interest in Alexandra’s Ward’s rich local wildlife and natural heritage.

15. This project is the focus for 30 Kingston University Architecture Masters Students, under the supervision of renowned architects Takashi Hayatsu and Jim Reed. Last year the programme worked with Shed X, and they created the yatai that is currently installed on the Ewell Road.

16. Kingston University are funding the vast majority of the project, committing £7,000, however there is a shortfall which is needed to help cover the architects’ costs so, in order to ensure this project is the best it can be, Citizen Zoo need to source an additional £2000. Citizen Zoo will also be running community volunteer sessions to ensure that the site is fully prepared for the structure installation. These two sessions will cost £250 each thus coming to £500 total. Citizen Zoo are also planning on running a grand opening ceremony and nature celebration next Summer, also at a cost of £500.

17. In line with national trends Kingston’s general population currently suffer a great disconnect with the natural world. There is now a significant body of evidence that strongly supports that engagement with the natural world can have a positive impact on physical and mental well being, as well as strengthening community cohesion. By encouraging engagement with the natural world, Citizen Zoo are looking to proactively enhance public health outcomes for the community, while also engendering a newfound sense of value about the environment, which can influence environmentally friendly behaviours.

18. Over the past 12 months Citizen Zoo has started to capture local people’s imagination about our natural heritage, identifying that, if given the opportunity, people will choose to learn more about the natural world. This has been shown by bat walks run by Citizen Zoo that have attracted hundreds of people and by the WILD Kingston event at the Rose Theatre which was attended by over 800 people this summer.

19. This project will work to pioneer how nature watching hides are built in the future, reflecting the natural world and inspiring new groups of people who previously have not engaged with nature themed activities.
20. The application's three cited outcomes are:
   - creating a pioneering structure that can revolutionize how nature watching hides are created in the future.
   - inspiring new members of the community to engage and take an interest in local wildlife.
   - giving Kingston University Masters student a greater appreciation for the natural world, which may influence how they practice architecture in the future to take into account the natural world and the environment.

21. This project aims to create an inspirational and engaging space for people to observe wildlife in a hidden away nature reserve. This will be the main project for Kingston University Architecture Masters students, all of whom will complete a feedback form following the creation of structure. All who visit the site will also be asked to complete a feedback form, also as the site only allows restricted access. Citizen Zoo will be able to accurately monitor how many people engage with the nature reserve.

22. Due to the renowned architects who run the architectural masters programme, Citizen Zoo are confident that this project will generate significant positive media attention, opening people's eyes to the incredible natural heritage that Kingston has to offer, using state of the art architecture inspired by nature to attract attention. Citizen Zoo will be able to record the level of media coverage that this project gains.

Councillor Ward Funding (CWF) applications

(iii) **Alpha Road Residents Association - £1,000**

23. The Alpha Road Residents Association are applying for £1,000 to help support their end of year activities.

24. £450 will be used to support the association’s Children’s Christmas Party on 14th December between 1pm and 3pm. Held at Surbiton Library Hall the party is for children up to 8yrs old living on the estate and includes an entertainer, face painter, tea party and a visit by Father Christmas.

25. £550 will be used to support the association’s annual road trip for elderly residents in either April or May 2020 to an attraction within driving distance. This year’s destination has not been decided. Last year the group visited Birdworld.

(iv) **Rose Walk Residents Association (RWRA) - £To follow**

26. The RWRA are applying for support for their Christmas gathering and to help them to provide a Christmas tree and decorations. The association are keen to place a Christmas tree by Berrylands Station and to decorate the tree and provide lighting. Rose walk residents have formed a committee to organise a Christmas gathering in their street, to provide hot drinks, mince pies and to have a 'switching on the light' on the road where they hope to encourage children to participate in carol singing.

27. At the time of writing, RWRA haven’t provided the Council with a breakdown of the costs or set how much assistance they require from Councillor Ward Funding. As soon as this information is available, the Committee will be updated by way of late material.
Resource Implications

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

29. **Neighbourhood Community Grants** - The Committee had £20,000 available this year. Thus far the Committee have allocated £14,100, the remaining £5,900 of the original pool is unallocated. The Council has recently received the return of a £3,000 grant from a previous grants programme, for a Surbiton project that could not be completed. This has been allocated to this year’s Neighbourhood Community Grants Programme for Surbiton therefore the Committee has £8,900 available to fund applications this year.

30. **Councillor Ward Funding** - The Committee have £24,000 available this year. Thus far this year the Committee have allocated £17,045 and £6,545 is unallocated.

Legal Implications

31. The award of community funding 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.

32. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) the Council must, when exercising its functions, including considering applications for grant, 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

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

34. 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 & Sustainability Implications

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

Road Network Implications

36. 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 the author of the report: James Geach, Neighbourhood and Communities Manager, james.geach@kingston.gov.uk, Tel 020 8547 5062

- None other than those referred to in this report