

## Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee

22 July 2021

### Community Grants Programme

Report by Assistant Director Culture, Communities and Engagement

#### **Purpose**

To consider an application for a Neighbourhood Community Grants (NCG)

#### **Recommendations**

That the Committee considers an application for a £1,250 Neighbourhood Community Grant from the Sunray and Egmont Residents Association as set out in paragraphs 6 - 11.

#### **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 an application for a Neighbourhood Community Grant from Sunray and Egmont Residents Association. The agreed guidelines for the Neighbourhood Community Grants programme are attached as **Annex 1**. A summary of the application is set out in paragraphs 6-11 of the report.

#### **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:
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/ 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 has 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 (NCG) application(s)**

**Sunray and Egmont Community Residents Association (Joint application with the Hook 2 minute litter pick group) - £2500 (£1250 from the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee and £1250 from the South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee).**

6. Minimum Standards Dashboard

<b>Minimum Standard</b>	<b>Met (Y/N)</b>
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?	Yes
Has the group demonstrated how surpluses are re-invested if the group is a not-for-profit organisation?	2 Minute Litter pick is a not for profit organisation with funds going into purchasing equipment.
Does the group have a management committee or board of trustees with at least three members?	Yes
Does the group have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation?	Yes
Does the group have at least two unrelated people to authorise cheques and make withdrawals?	Yes
Does the group have an accounting system such as annual accounts to record income and expenditure?	Yes
Has the group shown that it does not have an ongoing deficit that the grant application could be used to fill?	Yes

7. SECra undertakes a litter pick once a month, on the first Saturday of the month and they work closely with the Hook 2 minute litter group who also undertake a monthly litter, on the last Sunday of each month. This application is a joint application to both the Surbiton and South of the Borough neighbourhood committees to support these ongoing litter picks.

8. The litter picks operate from March to December every year and if granted the funding would allow for the purchase of additional litter pickers and protective equipment (gloves, bags and hand gels) as well as allow for the wider publication of the events, either by the purchase of advertising space as required but more specifically the purchase of 10 Litter Pick Boards. These are placed out whenever the groups undertake picks and have generated interest and membership of subsequent events.
9. On average, each participant undertaking a litter pick will fill at least one bag with rubbish and in the case of Hook and Secra events there are usually at least 15 volunteers taking part in each event.
10. It is unfortunately clear that the incidents of littering and fly tipping have increased recently and without groups such as these all too often the litter remains in situ for far too long, leading inevitably to more litter being dropped, and if left unchecked a real visible deterioration of the public spaces within the neighbourhood.
11. In addition to the obvious benefits to the community by way of looking cleaner and more cared for, the Litter Picks are a great way in bringing communities together, across generations in a way that makes participants feel more positive about where they live and without doubt instills in the participants a sense of pride.
12. The South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee agreed to award £1250 for the SotB element on 29 June 2020.

### **Financial Context**

13. The Council is operating in an increasingly challenging financial environment. Kingston faced a number of financial challenges in the medium to longer term - even before the COVID-19 outbreak, which has further added to these challenges. The economic and financial consequences of the pandemic, growing demand for services, and limited government grant funding make it difficult to find adequate funds to meet the Borough's needs.
14. The future of local government finance faces a significant level of uncertainty. The impact of the Fair Funding Review and a future review of business rates is currently unknown, and the lasting effects of COVID-19 on our residents, local businesses and the Council itself remain uncertain.
15. Despite these challenges the Council has a drive and commitment to ensure it is doing the best for residents and communities.

### **Resource Implications**

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

### **Legal Implications**

17. 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.

18. Provided the CIL is spent in accordance with the restrictions contained in the Regulations and the Guidance there should be no legal implications arising from the Report.
19. 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.
20. 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**

21. A full EQIA was carried out during the Neighbourhoods Review, this included the consideration of grants and grant allocations.
22. 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**

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

### **Road Network Implications**

24. Grant awards are unlikely to impact local road networks 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**

- None other than those referred to in this report

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