

DECISION

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: 30 MARCH 2021
title: VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS 2021/22
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: ARIFAH BHIKHU

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To approve the allocation of voluntary organisation grants for 2021/22.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a number of grant schemes in operation including recreation grants, culture grants and sports grants which are administered by Community Committee. The voluntary organisation grant scheme is administered by this Committee.

2.2 A member working group considers the applications received and makes recommendations to this Committee regarding the allocation of funds to voluntary organisations on an annual basis.

2.3 The following members attended the working group held on Wednesday 17 March 2021:

- Cllr S Atkinson
- Cllr A Brown
- Cllr J Clark
- Cllr M Robinson

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Applicants must clearly demonstrate that the purpose of the grant sought is to provide services or facilities that will meet the needs of communities in the Ribble Valley or directly benefit our residents.

3.2 The scheme will not normally fund the following:

- Capital projects on which work has already started or in aid of expenditure already committed or paid.
- Commercial organisations / businesses
- Any activity designed to promote political party politics or influence government policies
- Applications from the County Council or other government agencies
- Applications from religious organisations unless there is a clear broad community benefit.
- Schemes that can be funded by the Councils' other grant aid schemes.

3.3 Applicants can only be accepted from parish/town councils and properly constituted organisations operating on a non-profit making basis. A valid constitution or memorandum of articles or association, which clearly indicates the voluntary or charitable status of the organisation, should accompany all applications.

3.4 Applications for grants are to be supported by copies of recent bank statements showing how much the organisation has in its bank accounts. Where applications are for grant of over £10,000 a 3-year financial plan must be supplied and all applicants for grants of over £1,000 are required to provide a copy of the organisation's latest audited accounts. Capital projects are limited to 50% of the approved costs to a maximum of £5,000.

4. 2021/22 GRANTS

4.1 26 applications requesting total support of £167,225.20 have been received. A summary of all applications is set out in Annex 1.

4.2 The voluntary organisation grant budget for 2021/22 is £115,810.

5. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP

5.1 The working group met on 17 March 2021. The minutes of the meeting are attached at Annex 2.

5.2 After considering the applications the group made the following specific suggestions:

- Suicide Awareness Prevention UK are supported subject to a most recent bank statement being received which clearly shows total balances held in the organisation's name.
- Newton Gigabit Broadband volunteer group be awarded a grant subject to confirmation being received from Newton Parish Council detailing their involvement in administering any potential grant payments for 2021/22.
- Members expressed concern that the grant allocation over recent years for the Citizens Advice Bureau dominated the grants to be awarded, representing almost half of the total budget available. It was agreed that the Citizens Advice Bureau will be awarded a grant subject to the Council receiving satisfactory quarterly monitoring information and that payments will be made on an instalment basis, subject to Committee Approval.

5.3 The group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants as set out in Annex 2 totalling £104,797.20

5.4 The Working Group recognised that the total grants recommended was lower than the available budget by £11,012.80 but recommended holding this balance to be available for any further applications that may arise during the year.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Approve the allocation of grants as proposed by the voluntary organisation grant working group as set out in Annex 2, totalling £104,797.20

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF24-21/AB/AC
18 MARCH 2021

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
Braille IT	Delivers free Braille classes in the Ribble Valley to blind and visually impaired individuals and to their parents/carers	£1,797.20	To purchase two Perkins Brailers for learners in the Ribble Valley who would like to access distance learning opportunities (due to Covid) but are currently unable to as there are not enough Brailers available and all existing equipment held by the Organisation has been loaned out.
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team	Provides search and rescue services in the moorlands of the Forest of Bowland and beyond. Also delivers water rescue services, vulnerable missing person search and 4x4 vehicle access for the Ambulance service during severe weather conditions	£5,000	To help cover running costs of the organisation reducing the organisation's need to use up their existing reserves
Carers Link Lancashire	Provides help, support and training to those who care for people who are ill, disabled or elderly across East Lancashire	£3,000	To expand current capacity and assist the Organisation in providing carers with support services. To assist them to identify "hidden" carers and provide outreach services and awareness training for individuals/groups across the Ribble Valley.
Citizens Advice Ribble Valley	The service is independent and provides free, confidential and impartial advice to everybody	£68,486	To cover the core running costs of the organisation such as staff salaries, rent, insurance, information subscriptions and volunteer expenses
Clitheroe Caste Bonfire and Fireworks	Plan and stage the Clitheroe Community Bonfire and Fireworks display each year November with all proceeds going to local charities	£1,000	To assist with the cost of the firework display which is in excess of £5,000

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	To improve the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable families in the Ribble Valley	£10,000	Funds will be used towards the cost of supporting vulnerable families across the next 12 months and towards the organisation's general running costs
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society	To improve the standard of animal husbandry and horticultural practices and to foster and encourage interest among children and young people in agriculture and the countryside	£500	To assist the financing of the show and sponsorship of agricultural and horticultural classes
Home-Start in East Lancashire Ltd	Charity which works across East Lancashire and supports vulnerable and hard to reach families who are struggling with a wide variety of issues	£5,000	To support the infrastructure of the organisation and allow it to continue in the area. It will enable recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS	Main focus is promoting, organising and cooperating in initiatives to advance education, protect health and relieve poverty, distress and sickness, through bringing together voluntary organisations and statutory authorities for the benefit of the communities they support.	£3,000	To support Volunteers with travel expenses when carrying out core activities such as prescription delivery and shopping for vulnerable residents in the Ribble Valley
Lancashire Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs	A rural youth organisation who have 17 clubs across the county which deliver a wide programme of activities such as farm tours, trips and annual competitions. Also offer training courses such as First Aid and internal training in farm safety and team building	£1,500	To pay towards venue fees, first aid training costs and farm safety training. To also cover the costs of providing a 'study tour' which will provide members an opportunity to develop their business knowledge and will offer 'social interaction to combat rural isolation'

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
Longridge Field Day	A longstanding voluntary organisation which arranges an annual spectacular event for the community of Longridge and surrounding villages	£750	To enable a September event to take place in line with necessary Covid / Health and Safety measurements
Longridge Hockey Club	Volunteer-run Hockey club which trains over 50 junior members weekly. The club promotes Hockey and the benefit of exercise and social interaction to boys, girls, women and seniors	£5,000	To be used towards training costs, hire of facilities, league admissions and affiliation bills. The Hockey club have experienced an increase in costs due to Covid - i.e. extra cleaning equipment, hire of extended pitch areas, new equipment, new training kits etc and therefore require assistance to cover the short-term costs until they are able to fund-raise as normal
Little Green Bus	The Charity's main activity is the provision of community transport services for mainly elderly and vulnerable people living in the Ribble Valley	£10,000	To support the community car scheme which provides door to door transport to and from vital medical appointments. This scheme costs over £20,000 per year to deliver. To also cover training and recruitment costs for additional volunteers that the Organisation aims to recruit in the next 12 months
Newton Gigabit Broadband Volunteer Group	To install a 1000 mbps full fibre gigabit broadband network for all residential and rural properties and businesses in the village of Newton. The group are currently in the installation phase of the broadband and work under the guidance provided by B4RN Ltd	£1,000 - £1,500	Work on installing the broadband in Newton has already started however assistance is required to help fund the tools, equipment and consumables required to carry out the volunteer work, including machine hire e.g. mini digger, masonry, disc cutter etc

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
Outdoors 4 All Together CIC	Working in the Ribble Valley and surrounding areas of Lancashire and Yorkshire, the Organisation aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the public through contact with nature and so offers a variety of activities for individuals to get involved in	£1,692	To contribute towards core running costs of the Organisation (i.e. insurance costs, accountancy fees, marketing material, training costs, additional hygiene and safety costs due to Covid)
Reachout.Work CIC	Delivers early intervention and wellbeing services to young people who are unable to attend school and are struggling with mental health problems. They offer home support, child counselling and centre-based support to young people and their families and deliver learning support in various subjects including Maths, English and Science	£5,000	The organisation plan to open up a new Community Café / Hub (in Clitheroe) post Covid and need assistance towards their current rental and administration costs. They also require funding to pay towards staff costs for delivering Zoom sessions and carrying out home support visits
Ribble Valley Art4All (Ribble Valley Gateway Trust)	Provides an Art experience for adults who are disadvantaged or with special needs and learning disabilities	£1,000	To assist with material costs and delivering art projects. The Group wish to compile a booklet for a future project which will be used by students
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	Charity which provides Carer Support Workers to care for people in their own homes to give their carers a break. All individuals supported by the Charity live in the Ribble Valley	£20,000	To assist with the high travel costs the charity incurs as its staff have to travel around the Ribble Valley to reach clients. Also pay the carer support workers time between calls which are paid at NMW - due to increase in April 2021

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper Group	Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper has provided a recorded version of the Clitheroe Advertiser & Times for visually impaired residents since 1978	£500	No CD has been produced this year due to Covid however the Organisation is seeking grant assistance towards their general running costs and hope to continue with providing their services after the pandemic.
Salesbury Memorial Hall	Holds various activities and functions at the Hall. Aims to promote usage of the Hall and invite local residents / visitors to the Hall	£2,000	To carry out relevant floor and door repairs so that those with mobility issues who use the chair lifts are able to have safe access to the hall and prevent a health and safety hazard
Shop Mobility provided by Modern Mobility	Modern Mobility operate a total of three shops across Blackburn, Leicester and Clitheroe. The organisation provides mobility equipment such as scooters, wheelchairs and powerchairs and currently offers free wheelchair hire for anyone struggling to gain access to vaccination appointments due to limited mobility.	£9,000	To assist with the running costs of maintaining Shop Mobility
St Leonards Langho Scout Group	Gives young people aged 6 to 14 in the local area a rounded education in life skills and provides experiences in a safe, fun environment that they might not be able to get at home. The group attracts young people from Mellor, Whalley, Wilpshire, Barrow, Billington and Langho	£4,000	To fund camps, trips and extra activities which the Group want to hold post-Covid. The group's main fundraising activity is the Community bonfire which due to Covid was cancelled last year. Income gained from this event is normally used to subsidise all extra costs which would otherwise be paid in full by parents of the Cubs and Scouts.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2021/22

Organisation Name	Brief Description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2021/22 £	Purpose of Grant Request
St Vincent de Paul Society Clitheroe Conference	Tackles poverty in the locality by: Visiting and befriending those who need support, providing food parcels, offering holidays to those who can't afford a break, distributing furniture, housing the homeless and supporting disaster relief projects worldwide.	£1,000	All grant funding will be used in the provision and delivery of projects for the needy and disadvantaged (as outlined under 'brief description of organisation')
Suicide Awareness Prevention UK	To prevent suicide and suicidal idealisation by promoting a healthier mental health and supporting those in need via the SAPChat Service	£500	To support SAPChat - SAPUK's phone line service
Whalley and District Lions Club CIO	To serve the local community and provide charitable support in crisis situations around the world. The club help during floods both physically and financially, help in tree planting, litter collecting and regularly organise social events for children and adults to attend	£1,000	The Organisation have been unable to raise funds over the last year due to Covid. Any funding gained will be added to their Charity Account
Worston Mission Room	Provides Worston with a community building for groups and individuals to use for group activities and social events	£5,000	To fund renovation costs for the Mission Room - The mission room would like to redecorate, put in new carpets, update the toilet facilities and put in safety features for the disabled. Also want to install handrails to both the front and rear exits in time for the May Election
Total Requested		£167,225.20	

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2021 10.00AM**

Present: Councillor Stephen Atkinson (Chairman)
Councillor Alison Brown
Councillor Judith Clark
Councillor Mary Robinson
Head of Financial Services
Senior Accountant (P&F Committee)
Accounting Technician

Apologies: Councillor Jonathon Hill
Chief Executive
Director of Resources

1 Background

1.1 The purpose of the working group was to consider the 2021/22 voluntary organisation grant applications received and make recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee.

2. 2021/22 Applications

2.1 The Council received 26 applications requesting total support of £167,225.20.

2.2 It was explained that the voluntary organisation grant budget for 2021/22 is £115,810.

2.3 After considering the applications the group made the following specific suggestions;

- Suicide Awareness Prevention UK are supported subject to a most recent bank statement being received which clearly shows total balances held in the organisation's name.
- Newton Gigabit Broadband volunteer group are to be awarded a grant subject to a letter of confirmation being received from Newton Parish Council detailing their involvement in administering any potential grant payments for 2021/22.
- Members expressed concern that the grant allocation over recent years for the Citizens Advice Bureau dominated the grants to be awarded, representing almost half of the total budget available. It was agreed that the Citizens Advice Bureau will be awarded a grant subject to the Council receiving satisfactory quarterly monitoring information and that payments will be made on an instalment basis, subject to Committee Approval.

2.4 The group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants as attached totalling £104,797.20

2.5 The Working Group recognised that the total grants recommended were lower than the available budget by £11,012.80

2.6 In the review of the applications, a declaration of interest was made by Cllr Mary Robinson in respect of the applications made by Little Green Bus and by St Leonards Langho Scout Group. As a result, Cllr Mary Robinson left the meeting at the stages when these applications were discussed and took no part in the decision-making process on these application.

3 Recommended Grant Allocations for 2021/22

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2021 10.00AM**

- 3.1 The group recommended the allocation of Voluntary Organisation grants for 2021/22 on the following basis:

Organisation Name	Recommended Grant for 2021/22 £
Braille IT	1,797.20
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team	5,000
Carers Link Lancashire	1,500
Citizens Advice Ribble Valley	52,500
Clitheroe Castle Bonfire and Fireworks	750
The Foundation for Ribble Valley families	5,000
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society	500
Home-Start in East Lancashire Ltd	4,000
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS	1,500
Lancashire Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs	750
Longridge Field Day	500
Longridge Hockey Club	0
Little Green Bus	10,000
Newton Gigabit Broadband Volunteer Group	1,000
Outdoors4All Together CIC	0
Reachout.Work - CIC	0
Ribble Valley Art4All (Ribble Valley Gateway Trust)	0
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	17,500
Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper Group	500
Salesbury Memorial Hall	0
Shop Mobility provided by Modern Mobility	0
St Leonards Langho Scout Group	500
St Vincent de Paul Society Clitheroe Conference	1,000
Suicide Awareness Prevention UK	500
Whalley and District Lions Club CIO	0
Worston Mission Room	0
Total	£104,797.20

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2021 10.00AM**

- 4.1 The group commented that it would be advantageous if the application timetables for this grant scheme and that of the Recreation and Culture Grant scheme could be aligned in future years, as there was often a number of grant applications received under this scheme which should fall under the Recreation and Culture Grant scheme.