

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: 24 MAY 2022
title: RECREATION & CULTURE / ARTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To present the further recommendations of the working group in relation to the allocation of grants under Recreation/Culture/Arts Development and to inform committee of the Ribble Valley in Bloom grants.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To be well-managed Council providing efficient and responsive services based on identified customer need.
- Corporate Priorities - To make people's lives safer and healthier and more specifically to increase peoples' opportunities to access cultural activities and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Other Considerations – None

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The purpose of Recreation/Culture and Arts Development grants are to provide organisations with support for projects which enhance recreational and cultural provision as well as helping organisations with activities which have a specific arts focus.

3 ISSUES

3.1 In the report issued for the Community Services meeting 4 March 2022 it was stated that some Arts Development applications received needed further evidence before a decision could be reached. Some of those applicants have now resubmitted their applications along with several new applicants.

3.2 In March one arts-based grant was approved to the Ribble Valley Jazz and Blues Festival and they were sent an offer letter.

3.3 It is encouraging to see the range of applications for different projects in the recreational and arts sectors that have been submitted with a good spread across the whole of the Borough.

3.4 Although the scale of grants is relatively low in monetary value, they are none the less very well received by the individuals and organisations in receipt of them.

3.5 The ease of application and relative speed with which organisations receive an answer often helps where the Council funding is a part of a larger basket of funding being put together. The added boost they provide cannot be underestimated. These grants often provide the additionality required by organisations which help them to get funds from national schemes.

- 3.6 Committee set up a member working group to consider the applications and to make recommendations for awards.
- 3.7 That group was made up of Councillors Newmark, Atkinson, Alcock and Robinson and it reconsidered the applications received against the qualification criteria set by this committee under each heading.
- 3.8 The group was advised by your Art Development Officer, Democratic Services Officer and the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services.
- 3.9 The group was impressed with the quality of many of the applications but recognised as in previous years, the difficulty of allocating limited resources by assessing comparative values of (for the most part) applications that deserve more support than the Council can give.
- 3.10 Every application was considered, and the conclusions reached by the group form the recommended awards included in appendix 1.
- 3.11 The working group also considered the applications made under the Ribble Valley in Bloom grant scheme. Four applications were received, and the following recommendations made and offered.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	RECOMMENDED GRANT (approx. 30%)
Waddington Parish Council	Purchase of plants for the existing planters and flower bed around the cenotaph.	£174
Gisburn Parish Council	Purchase of another planter and bulbs/flowers at the war memorial gardens.	£64
Rimington & Middop Parish Council	Purchase of bulbs for verges and planters	£23
Mellor Brook Community Centre	Purchase of planters, troughs, compost, water butts including outside tap and plants	£528
	Total budget for RV in Bloom and Christmas Lights = £2060	£789

4 FINANCE

- 4.1 Listed below are the sums available for distribution:

Grant	Original Budget 2022/23 £	Reserves Balance £	TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET £
Recreation and Culture (Arts Development)	3,000	5,620	8,620

4.2 Summarised below are the number of applications received long with total value of the allocation proposed.

Grant	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Awarded	Total Value of Allocations
Recreation and Culture (Arts Development)	9	7	£8,620

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the following sums are available for distribution:
Recreation / Culture - £8,620
Ribble Valley in Bloom and Christmas Lights - £2,060
The distribution recommended by the working group is within budget.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – A grant condition is that awards must be to residents and organisations which primarily benefit residents of the Ribble Valley.
- Political – none identified
- Reputation – the grant programme is well received in the communities of the Ribble Valley and gives the Council an opportunity to support a range of organisations and individuals who otherwise might not be able to access public funds.
- Equality and Diversity – the grants are available to open to all.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

1. Endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in appendices 1 attached to this report.
2. Approve the grants made under the Ribble Valley in Bloom scheme.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Applications forms.

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.