

DECISION

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: 28 MARCH 2023
title: VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023/24
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: VALERIE TAYLOR

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To approve the allocation of voluntary organisation grants for 2023/24.

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 under the voluntary organisation grant scheme and makes recommendations to this Committee regarding the allocation of funds on an annual basis.

2.3 The following members attended the working group held on Monday 6 March 2023:

- Cllr S Atkinson
- Cllr A Brown
- Cllr S Fletcher
- Cllr R Newmark

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 (including Community Interest Companies)
- 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 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 also be supplied and all applicants for grants of over £1,000 are required to provide a copy of the organisation's latest accounts. Capital projects are limited to 50% of the approved costs, up to a maximum of £5,000.

4. 2023/24 GRANTS

4.1 28 applications for grant support were received for the 2023/24 financial year. Five of the applications were from organisations requesting support to provide recreational activities and as such were outside of the scope of this grant scheme and were therefore referred to the recreation grant scheme for consideration by Community Committee. Three of the applications did not qualify under the grant scheme criteria.

4.2 A summary of the remaining 20 applications requesting total grant support of £100,646 is set out in Annex 1.

4.3 The voluntary organisation grant budget for 2023/24 is £115,810.

5. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP

5.1 The minutes of the Voluntary Organisation Working Group that met on 6th March 2023 are attached at Annex 2.

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

- a) That recommended payments of grants is subject to the applicants providing any outstanding supporting documentation that is required per the grant scheme criteria;
- b) That Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team be invited to give a presentation to Policy and Finance Committee later on in the financial year concerning how the group has benefitted from the grant funds; and
- c) That a review is carried out after six months that asks Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn to provide details of:
 - o The number of hours and the locations of face-to-face meetings that have been carried out in the Ribble Valley; and
 - o How this compares to the hours spent on face-to-face meetings in the Hyndburn and Rossendale areas

5.3 At the meeting on the 6th March 2023 the group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants as set out in Annex 2 totalling £51,750.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Approve the allocation of grants as proposed by the voluntary organisation grants working group as set out in Annex 2, totalling £51,750.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF27-23/VT/AC
16 MARCH 2023

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2023/24

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2023/24 £	Purpose of Grant request
B4RN for Bolton-by-Bowland and Paythorne	To offer full fibre gigabit internet access to every home, business and community space in the Parishes of Bolton-by Bowland and Paythorne. We hope to start laying cable in May 2023 with a build time of 7 months	Not stated	To provide financial assistance to the community based project that shall help secure the project's success and future.
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team	Provide search and rescue services. Also delivers flood recovery assistance, vulnerable missing person search and 4x4 vehicle access for the Ambulance service during severe weather conditions.	£5,000	To replace/renew waterproof and insulated clothing that is issued to each volunteer for use when helping others during extreme weather conditions. The costs are approximately £1000 per person
Cancer Help (Preston) Ltd	Aims to improve the quality of life of cancer patients, their families and their carers by providing a wide range of therapy support services. Services provided include 1-2-1 and group sessions held to help individuals cope with the impact of a cancer diagnosis and bereavement.	£921	We want to make some improvements to the Cancer Help charity shop situated in Berry Lane, Longridge. This includes a new display cabinet, bookcase and wall display and some cosmetic improvements to the walls and floor of the bathroom and kitchen areas.
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 and those needing extra support due to the cost of living crisis.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2023/24

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2023/24 £	Purpose of Grant request
Citizens Advice Rossendale & Hyndburn (Covering Ribble Valley from April 1st 2023)	The service is independent and provides free, confidential and impartial advice to everybody. Aims to ensure that individuals have straightforward and timely access to the information they need to understand their rights and responsibilities, express their needs effectively, and be empowered to resolve their problems and improve their lives.	£30,000	CARH will use the grant to retain access to information and advice for Ribble Valley residents. It will be used to employ 2 part time staff or 1 full time member of staff. This will also enable us to recruit and manage a pool of 10 volunteers who will support our paid staff to deliver accessible advice services across Ribble Valley.
Clitheroe Castle Bonfire & 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 annual firework display. Any funds secured will be used towards the first aid staffing costs, fireworks display costs and hire of sound system and electrical equipment (total cost £8,250).
Freegle	Freegle is a national organisation which operates at community level to help people give and get stuff for free locally by providing an online platform. It also has a positive effect on the environment by reducing waste and fly-tipping.	£300	To cover operating costs for the Ribble Valley Freegle community
Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Society Ltd	The promotion and general advancement of the science of agriculture and horticulture in their widest sense. Brings together the towns and villages of the Ribble Valley to "show case the best of what we got and educate people in aspects of modern countryside life"	£750	To support all aspects of the show day activities for young people, crafts junior horticulture, young sheep handlers, young farmers

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2023/24

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2023/24 £	Purpose of Grant request
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 and sponsorship of the show. The society also holds several fund-raising activities throughout the year.
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 service and to enable the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers who will provide support to families in the area.
Ian Rowe's Community Fund	To raise funds to maintain defibrillators placed in the Longridge area.	£1,000	To help with the cost and upkeep of the defibrillators we look after.
Little Green Bus Ltd	The Charity's main activity is the provision of safe, secure and caring door-to-door 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 £21,000 per year to deliver. To also cover training and recruitment costs for additional volunteers required as since the effects of covid-19 the volunteer base has shrunk.
Longridge Field Day Events Ltd	The objective is to provide an annual event which brings the local community and its schools together, with funds being raised to ensure the occasion continues for years to come.	£5,000	To financially assist with the facilitation of the event

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2023/24

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2023/24 £	Purpose of Grant request
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	Charity giving respite breaks to Carers in the Ribble Valley since 1988. Provide specialist personal care, overnight care, end of life care and for those with dementia. Provide weekly Dementia group called 'Time for You'.	£20,000	To assist with the high travel costs the charity incurs as its staff have to travel around the Ribble Valley rural area to reach clients (rate of reimbursement increased from 45p to 55p this year). Also pay the carer support workers time between calls which are paid at NMW - due to increase in April 2023 by 9.7%.
Ribble Valley First Aiders	This is a new group set up to provide free first aid training to the local community and free first aid cover at local events. They can also provide assistance with major incidents and are currently training to assist in missing person searches.	£6,000	To purchase equipment including response bags, AED, and training manikins. Also to expand on community training, including delivering awareness courses in schools and more volunteers being able to respond to medical emergencies.
Ribble Valley Visually Impaired Group	This group is a peer support group for blind and visually impaired people in the Ribble Valley. The group serves to reduce isolation and encourage good mental wellbeing and independence.	£2,500	For the cost to hire the little green bus which allows beneficiaries to socialise on trips out to favourite venues. This enables a safe pick up and drop off from home and escorted travel.
Ribchester Field Day Committee (Ltd)	To organise and run an annual field day (3rd Saturday in June) for the enjoyment of the residents of Ribchester and visitors from the surrounding towns and villages.	£1,000	To assist financing the field day with increasing costs and limited income streams. Some examples of cost increases; traffic management for the parade £1600 (2019 £300) and insurance £1000 (2022 £500). Also amusement stalls require some repairs/renewals.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2023/24

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2023/24 £	Purpose of Grant request
St Vincent de Paul Society Clitheroe Conference	Dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage. In the Ribble Valley, the aim is to provide care, comfort and support for all members of the community. This involves visiting elderly, isolated and disadvantaged; providing furniture, clothes etc where needed; giving financial support to help with heating bills, rent and cost of living increases.	£1,000	To provide material and financial assistance for our beneficiaries as follows: the provision of furniture, white goods, clothes and school uniforms; financial help towards increasing heating and food bills, rent and cost of living rises.
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families (FRVF)	To provide swift, accessible, impactful mental health and emotional wellbeing support for residents of the Ribble Valley	£7,000	To support a new model which offers and develops different treatments, including recruiting 2/3 associate therapists. This will allow an additional 74 sessions for clients (30% increase).
Whalley and District Lions Club CIO	Part of an international network who work together through selfless, effective community service to answer the needs that challenge communities. Helping the local community including families, those affected by flooding, events for older residents, raising funds for a defibrillator and for other charities	£675	To cover the costs of a first aid course for 15 teenagers and a first aid refresher course for 15 adults
Total		£100,646	

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 06 MARCH 2023 AT 4.00 pm**

Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chairman)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor S Fletcher
Councillor R Newmark
Chief Executive
Director of Resources
Senior Accountant (P&F Committee)

Apologies:

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of the working group was to consider the 2023/24 voluntary organisation grant applications and to make recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee.

2. 2023/24 Applications

- 2.1 The Voluntary Organisation Grants Working Group met to consider 20 applications requesting grant support that totalled £100,646 out of an available budget of £115,810 for the 2023/24 financial year.

- 2.2 The working group discussed the grant scheme criteria and recognised updates that were approved by this Committee in March 2022, including that no single organisation will be allocated more than one third of the total grant fund available for the year.

- 2.3 Whilst considering the applications the group made the following specific suggestions:

- That recommended payments of grants is subject to the applicants providing any outstanding supporting documentation that is required per the grant scheme criteria;
- That Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team be invited to give a presentation to Policy and Finance Committee later on in the financial year concerning how the group has benefited from the grant funds; and
- That a review is carried out after six months that asks Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn to provide details of:
 - The number of hours and the locations of face-to-face meetings that have been carried out in the Ribble Valley; and
 - How this compares to the hours spent on face-to-face meetings in the Hyndburn and Rossendale areas

- 2.4 At their meeting on 6th March 2023 the working group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants totalling £51,750 as set out at section 3.

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 06 MARCH 2023 AT 4.00 pm**

3 Recommended Grant Allocations for 2023/24

3.1 The group recommended the allocation of Voluntary Organisation grants for 2023/24 on the following basis:

Organisation Name	Recommended Grant for 2023/24 £
B4RN for Bolton-by-Bowland and Paythorne	£1,000
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team	£5,000
Cancer Help (Preston) Ltd	£0
Carers Link Lancashire	£1,500
Citizens Advice Rossendale & Hyndburn (Covering Ribble Valley from April 1st 2023)	£5,000
Clitheroe Castle Bonfire & Fireworks	£750
Freegle	£0
Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Society Ltd	£750
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society	£750
Home-Start in East Lancashire Ltd	£4,000
Ian Rowe's Community Fund	£500
Little Green Bus Ltd	£10,000
Longridge Field Day Events Ltd	£750
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	£18,000
Ribble Valley First Aiders	£500
Ribble Valley Visually Impaired Group	£500
Ribchester Field Day Committee (Ltd)	£750
St Vincent de Paul Society Clitheroe Conference	£0
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	£2,000
Whalley and District Lions Club CIO	£0
Total	£51,750