

**DECISION**

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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meeting date: 9 APRIL 2024  
title: VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS 2024/25  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: VALERIE TAYLOR

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To approve the allocation of voluntary organisation grants for 2024/25.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a number of grant schemes in operation including recreation grants, culture grants and sports grants, Ribble Valley in Bloom and Christmas lights grants which are all administered by Community Services 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 Thursday 14 March 2024:

- Cllr D Birtwhistle
- Cllr L Edge
- Cllr R Newmark
- Cllr S O'Rourke
- Cllr A Wilkins-Odudu

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 – this year several applications of a Recreation, Arts, Culture and Sporting nature were received.

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 £100 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. 2024/25 GRANTS

4.1 Twenty-nine applications were received that requested total funding of £194,430.

Detail	Number of applications	Total funding requested £
Referred to and supported under the Recreation and Culture grants schemes (community services committee)	5	£44,750
Did not meet the criteria (business/commercial)	2	£7,400
Put forward for considered by the voluntary organisation grants working group	22	£142,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>£194,430</b>

4.2 A summary of the 22 applications considered by the voluntary organisation grants working group is set out in Annex 1.

4.3 The voluntary organisation grant budget for 2024/25 is £115,810.

#### 5. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP

5.1 The minutes of the Voluntary Organisation Working Group that met on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 are attached at Annex 2.

5.2 The working group recommended grant support of £68,100 to 13 applicants as set out in Annex 2.

5.3 For three of the applications the working group suggested that the grant offers be subject to conditions as follows:

- £15k to Citizens Advice East Lancashire on condition that a comprehensive face-to-face service is provided in the Ribble Valley
- £12k to Little Green Bus Ltd on condition that there is wider publication of the service across the Borough
- £4k to The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families on condition that the organisation promotes awareness of the services offered, particularly for young people in the Ribble Valley

5.4 As it has been several years since Policy and Finance Committee have reviewed the grant scheme the working group recommended that a report be brought to a future committee meeting to allow for options to update the scheme to be considered by committee members.

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 £68,100.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PF23-24/VT/AC  
25 MARCH 2024

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2024/25

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2024/25	Purpose of Grant request
Art4all	To provide free weekly art lessons for adults who are disadvantaged or have learning difficulties. Art4all is under the umbrella of the registered charity Ribble valley Gateway Trust.	£4,000	To assist with the cost of materials and to enable field trips for students.
Carers Link Lancashire	Provides information, support and training to carers and to raise awareness in all aspects of carers and caring.	£3,000	To expand current capacity and support to carers and dedicating more time to reaching out to hidden carers, especially to those who are vulnerable.
Chipping Playgroup	To provide a weekly term time parent supervised playgroup for children aged 0-5 years in the village of Chipping and surrounding areas. The playgroup has been run by volunteers for over 30 years.	£500	To help with increased running costs, insurance and new play equipment.
Citizens Advice East Lancashire	Citizens Advice East Lancashire (CAEL) provides access to free, confidential, impartial, and independent information and advice to the residents of Rossendale, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley and Pendle.	£30,000	To retain and expand access to information and advice for Ribble Valley residents. The £30,000 we are requesting 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. Also includes premises costs for suitable premise in Clitheroe Library. We will secure additional premises for another regular session in Longridge. Re rural communities we will work with the LCC mobile library service who recently offered for us to accompany them on suitable routes across the Ribble Valley.
Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks	Plan and stage the Clitheroe Community Bonfire and Fireworks display in November each year 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 £8,750).

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2024/25

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2024/25	Purpose of Grant request
Community Spotlight	Support voluntary and community sectors of Hyndburn and Ribble Valley to ensure their continuity.	£4,000	The organisation consists of 3 self-employed workers and 3 volunteers who are the trustees. We would like to apply for a grant to pay the three self-employed workers
Dunsop Bridge Jubilee Play Area Charitable Trust	To provide and maintain facilities including play area and playing fields and fundraise to replace equipment when needed.	£10,000	To procure and install new play equipment estimated to cost £50k. This is replacing previous equipment which is now old and unsafe.
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"	£1,000	To support all aspects of the show day activities for young people, crafts junior horticulture, young sheep handlers, young farmers
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	£750	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	Charity which works across East Lancashire to recruit, train and supervise local community volunteers to deliver a variety of support interventions to vulnerable families.	£5,000	To support the infrastructure of the service, to continue the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers who will provide support to families in the area.
Knowle Green Gigabit Broadband Project (via Ribchester PC)	Project to provide hyper fast broadband capability to the Knowle Green village and local rural community	£5,000	To contribute to the £88k shortfall of funding for the project. Total cost of the project is £408k. So far £320k has been raised including £229k from Gigabit Voucher Funds.

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2024/25

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2024/25	Purpose of Grant request
Little Green Bus Ltd	The Charity's main activity is the provision of safe and caring door-to-door community transport services for mainly elderly and vulnerable people living in the Ribble Valley	£10,000	To support the volunteer car scheme which has grown over the last 12 months.
Longridge Field Day Events Ltd	The objective is to provide an annual event which brings the local community together, with funds being raised to ensure the occasion continues for years to come.	£2,500	To financially assist with the facilitation of the event by funding payment for the closure of the roads and traffic management.
Ribble Valley Archaeology	Amateur archaeological group who undertake their own research projects but also offer their skills and resources to other researchers or historical groups who seek support. Eg heritage trail in Rimington and private landowner in slaidburn. Welcome anyone who wishes to learn about archaeology and take part in activities.	£180	To pay for insurance so archaeological experiences can offered at low or no cost.
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 care 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 last year). Also pay the carer support workers time between calls which are paid at NMW - due to increase in April 2024.
Ribble Valley Netball Club	Provides a netball club for all ages and abilities with a strong grass roots training programme. Run by approximately 30 volunteers.	£5,000	To assist with running costs including venue hire fees (Oakhill Leisure, Whalley around £3750 per month). The venue is hired 5 nights a week in term time plus additional for club matches.

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2024/25

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2024/25	Purpose of Grant request
Ribble Valley Village Halls Association	The association exists to support village halls within Ribble Valley. To create opportunities for the local communities to share skills and resources in the development and maintenance of the village halls and amenities. To promote village halls throughout Ribble Valley and amongst neighbouring districts. To help create an economically sustainable future for village halls in Ribble Valley	£2,500	To continue offering help to community venues by funding sector specialists, hosting training and sharing valuable information.
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 to bring together families and a sense of community	£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 in 2022 £1600 (2019 £300) and insurance £1000 (2022 £500). Also amusement stalls require some repairs/renewals.
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	To provide swift, accessible, impactful mental health and emotional wellbeing support for residents of the Ribble Valley	£4,100	To support service costs including continuing delivery of therapeutic packages, more group activities/workshops and identifying a need for face to face peer group support activities.
Waddington Hospital	Provides accommodation for single, independent women, mainly between the ages of 60 and 90, who are self-caring, but with the added support of a part-time warden and an emergency personal alarm system	£25,750	To repair, refurbish and upgrade various community areas and property issues on site. Total cost £51,500.

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2024/25

Organisation Name	Brief description/ aims of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2024/25	Purpose of Grant request
West Bradford Community Hub	To provide a not-for-profit community hub for use by people of all ages and abilities. To provide a facility to complement the Village Hall, offering an alternative, small space to be used for a range of activities; for example, fitness classes, groups, Tea and Toast, and fundraisers.	£4,000	The old Sunday School building, belonging to St. Catherine's Church is being renovated using funding from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF). This funding would be used for decorating, blinds and soft furnishings, and repair and renovation of the existing floor which are not accounted for in the LEF funding.
Whalley and District Open Gardens	Community garden project including biodiversity reversal through re-wilding, encouraging 'grow your own food' and the main focus, an event weekend in July in Whalley consisting of 12 open public/private open gardens, all appraised under the National Garden Scheme.	£3,000	Plants, planters, gravel and compost



**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON 14 MARCH 2024 AT 2.00 pm**

Present: Councillor D Birtwhistle  
Councillor L Edge  
Councillor R Newmark  
Councillor S O'Rourke  
Councillor A Wilkins-Odudu  
Chief Executive  
Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive  
Senior Accountant (P&F Committee)

Apologies: None

**1. Background**

1.1 The purpose of the working group was explained which was to consider the 2024/25 voluntary organisation grant applications received and to make recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee.

**2. 2024/25 Applications**

2.1 The Voluntary Organisation Grants Working Group considered 22 applications requesting grant support that totalled £142,280 out of a budget of £115,810 for the 2024/25 financial year.

2.2 Working group members made the following declarations of interest:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Organisations</b>
Councillor O'Rourke	Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks Little Green Bus Ltd Ribble Valley Crossroads Care
Councillor Newmark	Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks Home Start in East Lancashire (previously trustee) Ribble Valley Village Halls Association

2.3 The working group felt that five applications were from organisations of a recreational or culture nature (which are considered for support under community services committee grant schemes) and that three applications should be referred to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund or Rural England Prosperity Fund schemes for possible consideration:

<b>Recreational/ Culture Activities</b>	<b>Referred to UK Shared Prosperity Fund/ Rural England Prosperity fund Schemes</b>
Ribble Valley Archaeology	Dunsop Bridge Jubilee Play Area Charitable Trust
Ribble Valley Netball Club	Knowle Green Gigabit Broadband Project
Ribble Valley Village Halls Association	Waddington Hospital
West Bradford Community Hub	
Whalley and District Open Gardens	

2.4 It was noted that the 2024/25 voluntary organisation grant scheme budget is based on historical expenditure levels and that this previously included annual grant support of up to £68k for the now discontinued Ribble Valley Citizen's Advice Bureau.

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON 14 MARCH 2024 AT 2.00 pm**

- 2.5 The group recommended that as it had been several years since Policy and Finance Committee had reviewed the grant scheme that a report be brought to a future committee meeting to allow for options to update the scheme to be considered by committee members.
- 2.6 The working group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants to 13 organisations at a total cost of £68,100 as set out below:

**3 Recommended Grant Allocations for 2024/25**

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Recommended Grant for 2024/25 £</b>	<b>Suggested conditions</b>
Art4all	£4,000	-
Carers Link Lancashire	£3,000	-
Chipping Playgroup	£100	-
Citizens Advice East Lancashire	£15,000	That a comprehensive face-to-face service is provided in the Ribble Valley
Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks	£1,000	-
Community Spotlight	£0	-
Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Society Ltd	£1,000	-
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society	£1,000	-
Home start in East Lancashire	£5,000	-
Little Green Bus Ltd	£12,000	That there is wider publication of the service across the Borough
Longridge Field Day Events Ltd	£1,000	-
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	£20,000	-
Ribchester Field Day Committee (ltd)	£1,000	-
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	£4,000	That the organisation promotes awareness of the services offered, particularly for young people in the Ribble Valley
<b>Total</b>	<b>£68,100</b>	