

INFORMATION ITEM

| REPORT OF | MEETING | DATE | ITEM NO |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| RESOURCES DIRECTORATE | FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE | 28 JUNE 2021 | 16 |
| COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND | | | |

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Fylde Community Projects Funds awards grants between £300 to £2000 for groups which are based in Fylde or work exclusively with people who live in the Borough. The fund supports projects which promote or enhance the environment, encourage cohesive communities, or promote the economy.

£20k per annum is provided each year for this fund as a part of the annual budget setting process. Each year a summary report is made to this committee outlining the awards made in the previous financial year. This report outlines awards made during 2020/21.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Director of Resources

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The Committee, at its November 2018 meeting, resolved to receive an annual report in awards made from the fund.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Tracy Manning, tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk

INFORMATION NOTE

COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND 2020/21

1. In 2020/21 the council allocated £20k to the Community Projects Fund.
2. The Community Projects Fund comprises two amounts, a larger fund for bids from £300-£2000, with bidding usually split over three rounds and a smaller fund with bids up to £300.
3. Bids from the larger fund are usually awarded following a meeting of a Panel comprising the Mayor of Fylde with police and community representatives together with the Director of Resources. The smaller fund is determined through electronic discussion and agreement. However due to the coronavirus pandemic all bids received were reviewed electronically upon receipt over the course of the year. This has had the advantage of a freer flowing process for applications.
4. Of the £20,000, £16,500 was indicatively allocated to the larger fund, with the remainder to the smaller fund. However, there is flexibility across both funds to ensure that as many organisations as possible are offered support. All applications must provide an equal amount of match funding in cash or in-kind.
5. 2020/21 got off to a very slow start. With the initial lock-down there was no interest at all in the fund from community groups but once lock-down eased, together with some communications to reinvigorate applications, the latter three quarters of the year attracted bids at a pace. Although a proportion of the funding remained unallocated at year-end it is anticipated that the funding will be fully awarded in 2021/22 as in past years.
6. The Panel will continue to assess all applications virtually until the eventual roadmap for the easing of restrictions in Lancashire is clarified.
7. The successful bids for the larger fund are shown below:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Lytham Tae Kwon-Do – support for on-line support to keep interest in the club going, and to combat isolation in young people | £1000 |
| Community Golf Course: MiniLinks Lytham St Annes - Night play golf balls | £548.60 |
| Junction 4/LAOS - Replacement floor and garden improvements | £900 |
| Love My Beach - Equipment - on behalf of smaller groups | £1382 |
| Park View 4 U application for Covid safe Forest Tots sessions - equipment | £1979.17 |
| Lytham St Annes Radio - Start up equipment | £1000 |
| Well Church - Pop-up Well Cafe and Wesley's Larder | £2000 |
| Fylde Family Cycling Club - equipment | £500 |
| Kirkham Junior Football Club - equipment | £1700 |
| Clifton CIO Revised Bid - Two replacement raised beds | £1096 |
| Friends of Newton Community Park - Picnic benches for park refurb | £921 |
| Total | £13026.77 |

8. The successful bids for the smaller fund are shown below:

| Successful bids | Amount allocated |
|-----------------|------------------|
|-----------------|------------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| The South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership - Community Rail Lancashire (Friends of Kirkham and Wesham Station) - Information board | £300 |
| Friends of Squires Gate Station - planters | £300 |
| Just Good Friends - Music system and pop up stand | £295.30 |
| One Fylde – Litter picking equipment | £300 |
| Ansdell in Bloom - 7 Perennial plants for the entrance to Forest Drive off Blackpool Road. A Himalayan Birch tree (in remembrance of COVID victims) at the Well Church in Ansdell. | £300 |
| Friends of Fairhaven Lake - 50-inch smart TV | £300 |
| Well Church – laptop | £300 |
| Total | £2095.30 |

9. For the larger fund, monitoring forms are sent out after 6 months asking for feedback on how the money was spent and what difference it has made. For the vast majority of the projects, it is too early to have heard back from the groups, however historically many of the comments received is that the funding makes a big difference to the community groups in achieving delivery of their projects.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

Contact Jo Collins, joanne.collins@fylde.gov.uk