

AGENDA ITEM 9

BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

14th October 2013

Report of : Jenny Hoadley, Chair of the Grants Task Group

Title: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE WELLBEING FUND

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The Wellbeing budget stands at £17,019.74 for new bids for 2013/14. The following organisations recommended to be funded, in full or in part, amounts to a total of £16,263.

- a) Ashley Down School PTA £350
- b) Carers Support Centre £1250
- c) Friends of St Andrews Park £863.77
- d) Gloucester Rd Traders Association (GRTA) £7,500
- e) Sefton Pk School PTA £6,000
- f) Westbury Park Community Association £300

2) The Wellbeing Fund has to be allocated by 31st March 2014. The Neighbourhood Partnership may wish to consider whether it wishes to allocate all the money to the above applications or whether it would wish to divert part of the fund to other priorities of the Partnership eg street trees, thus increasing its surplus from £756.74.

1 Recommended grant applications

1.1 The total amount of grant aid requested was £8,763.77 from 5 applicants and a further £7,500 provisionally reserved at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on June 24th 2013 pending a further GRTA application.

1.2 Summary of the final applications, and comments by the Grants Subgroup.

Organisation	Purpose	Priorities met (code in 4) below)	Targeted area	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Ashley Down School PTA £350	To cover editorial costs of a road safety film made for students at Ashley Down College	4	Bishopston	£350	£350
Carers Support Centre	To provide set up costs for a volunteer support service for the cared-for and their carers with the BCR area	5iv)	Whole BCR area	£1250	£1250
Friends of St Andrews Park	To install a netball hoop and markings	3	Redland (visitors from other wards)	£863.77	£863.77
Gloucester Rd Traders Association	Strategic co-ordinator for 9 mths to apply for Business Improvement District (BID) status and co-ordinate other activities on the Glos Rd	5vii	Bishopston and Redland	£10,000	£7,500

Sefton Pk School PTA	To provide outdoor equipment on the school site for education and play	4	Bishopston Redland	£6,000	£6,000 (but see recommendation 2 below)
Westbury Park Community Association	To cover the printing costs of the Westbury Park Character Assessment and Design Statement report for distribution	2	Redland	£300	£300

1.3 Background to the recommendations:

1.3.1 *Ashley Down PTA*

This is from a group of parents at the school who were concerned about the amount of student traffic at Ashley Down College outside the new school campus and potential danger to schoolchildren. They have made a film about road safety with donated equipment to show at the college and the school at the beginning of the academic year for the next few years. The money would be used for the final professional editing. Grant money would be paid to the school PTA. The Grant Subgroup felt that this is a useful project undertaken by parents on a voluntary basis and should be funded.

1.3.2 *Carers Support Centre*

The Carers Support Centre received money from both the DoH and Bristol City Council in 2010 to do a feasibility study about the need for a support and sitter service for carers and people for whom they care, and pilot a preferred model of working. Having proved the need they have decided to roll out the programme across the city by working within local communities to set up a network of local volunteers and the cared-for – this Neighbourhood Partnership is one area of three which has been chosen, because of the documented need (particularly elderly isolated people) and because there is evidence that there is a pool of potential volunteers. The money is to seed the office costs (support and training for the volunteers, office costs, publicity etc) as it is hoped that it will become self-financing through a £12/hour charge to users. To ensure equality access, the Centre has secured money from charities to financially assist those who are unable to afford the full cost. The Grant Subgroup thought that this was a well thought through project and the objective meets a recognised need within our community. It will be used to fund some revenue costs which normally the Partnership is reluctant to do, but as the project has a financial plan for future sustainability, the Grant Subgroup felt that this was an appropriate project to fund.

1.3.3 *Friends of St Andrews Park*

Because of the popularity of local netball teams (both children and adults) FoSAP felt that a netball hoop within the children's play area would be an attractive addition to the park and duly consulted on this earlier in 2013. They are less noisy than basket ball hoops and as the park is not lit at night it is felt that there would not be additional noise nuisance. Given that this would encourage girls to take active exercise, and there has been local consultation, the Grants Subgroup felt that a netball hoop was appropriate for funding. The quote is based on costings supplied by the Council.

1.3.4 *Gloucester Rd Traders Association*

An original application was discussed at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on June 24th, which decided that it would award £2,500, withholding the remainder until the outcomes of the consultant's report on the feasibility of a BID application, due in early September were known. The report, a further job description for the co-coordinator's post and a redrafted funding application was submitted. As there are clear outcomes with corresponding timed deadlines throughout the nine month period, and a system of governance in place, the Grant Subgroup would recommend that a further £7,500 should be granted. It is also recommending that the invitation for Council representation on a managing group and a local councillor should be immediately taken up. If the BID was successful this would attract a lot of money into the Gloucester Rd area which would make it more sustainable.

1.3.5 *Sefton Park School PTA*

Sefton Park School does not have a lot of outside space around it and the PTA felt that it could be made more stimulating for play and be more useful as an outside learning space, if additional equipment was installed. The PTA has already raised over half of the money required, and wanting to provide things like a willow, tunnel, a jungle play den, seating, and shelters. The children have been involved in discussing what they would like. Matched funding is attractive to the Grant Subgroup and as this would enhance many children's lives over a long period it was felt that this was appropriate for funding. However part-funding his application will not stop the project going ahead if the Neighbourhood Partnership wishes to use the Wellbeing Fund for other Partnership work during the rest of the financial year – see point 2) below.

1.3.6 *Westbury Park Community Association*

A lot of voluntary effort has gone into drafting the Westbury Park Character Assessment and Design Statement, and the Community Association only requires £300 to print sufficient copies to be available for consultation processes around local planning issues. The Grants Subgroup wished to support this as an

example of local people wanting to be involved in their local community in preserving a cultural heritage and promoting street scene design which is pleasing and on a human scale.

2 The Wellbeing Fund for 2013/14

If all the above applications are funded as recommended this would leave a balance of £756.74. The entire budget has to be allocated by March 31st 2014 so the second recommendation above is advising the Neighbourhood Partnership to consider *how* it wants to do this and *on which projects* it wants to spend money.

Where the Partnership has particular projects in mind eg street trees which are always popular with local residents, it could increase this balance by not funding some of the above applications or part-funding the larger ones: the Sefton Park one would be an obvious candidate for part-funding as that would not stop that particular project going ahead but perhaps only delay its completion whilst the PTA seeks other funding. The crucial issue is that the Partnership must decide at the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting in January 2014 how it wants to allocated any surplus.

3 Criteria

3.1 The criteria for 2013/14 are:

- (1) Local traffic and transport
- (2) Improving the built environment and street scene
- (3) Parks and green spaces and trees
- (4) Young people
- (5) Improving the lives of people living in the neighbourhood, the main priorities for 2011/12 being:
 - i. neighbourliness
 - ii. local arts where they are likely to appeal to a wide section of the community
 - iii. provision and facilities which engage with people facing social disadvantage
 - iv. activities which support carers and the "cared for"
 - v. schemes about food sustainability to encourage people to "grow-their-own" fruit and vegetables
- (6) Improving relations and communication between local businesses and residents
- (7) Supporting the small business community
- (8) Enabling all people to feel safe in public spaces

3.2 As part of a review of the strategic use of the Wellbeing Fund within the Partnership area, the Grants Subgroup did look at how one other Partnership used its Wellbeing money to improve the quality of life in their community. The process is slightly different but there was little evidence to suggest that our own criteria and procedures should be radically changed at the moment. At a recent VOSCUR meeting, VOSCUR did agree it would be considering bringing together Neighbourhood Partnership people together to look at the distribution of the Wellbeing money and a) how local charitable resources might complement it, b) how to broaden knowledge within the community sector about the Wellbeing fund c) how to improve local groups' skills in applying for grant aid of any kind

4 The Wellbeing Fund for 2014/15

4.1 It is proposed that the deadlines for 2014/15 are May 2nd 2014 and September 5th 2014. This then would allow the last Neighbourhood Partnership meeting of the financial year in January 2015 to finalise any outstanding issues.

4.2 Articles will be published in both *Bishopston Matters* and the *Redland and Westbury Park Directory* advertising the deadlines, as well as on the Bishopston Society website.