

BISHOPSTON, COTHAM AND REDLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

20th June 2016

Report of: Jenny Hoadley, Chair of the Small Grants Sub Group

Title: **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE SMALL GRANTS FUND**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) It was agreed at the NP meeting on April 11th 2016 that £12,000 would be allocated to small grants on June 20th 2016, from a total spend limit of £20,000 for 2016/17. There were seven applications, and one late application. Six have been recommended for full or part-funding, totalling £10,418.
 - a) **ABC £562**
 - b) **Chandos Rd Neighbourhood Association £876**
 - c) **Golden Hill Community Garden £1,640**
 - d) **Playing Out £2,340**
 - e) **Redland Parish Church £2,000**
 - f) **Sustainable Bishopston/Living Room Project £3,000**
- 2) The Subgroup recommends that a further £5,000 to be available for small grants in 2016/17, bringing the annual budget from £20,000 to £25,000.
- 3) The deadlines grant applications for 2016/17 are September 5th and additional date November 28th 2016.
- 4) The Subgroup recommends that, where agreed and is eligible, that all/part of the applications from Chandos Neighbourhood Association, Redland Parish Church and Sustainable Bishopston/Living Room to be funded from CIL allocation up to the value of £5,073.

1 Recommended grant applications

1.1 The total amount of grant aid requested was £18,207 from seven applicants. All applicants met the criteria (see 3 below), and all, at different levels, involved volunteers within the activities, or in the case of Redland Parish Church, the impact of the funding would encourage further voluntary activity. Four had secured other financial resources and all used volunteer time, some extensively. The Small Grants Subgroup asked for additional information from most of the applicants.

1.2 Summary of the applications recommended

Organisation	Purpose	Priorities met (code in 2 below)	Targeted area	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Action for Balanced Communities	To undertake on-line opinion surveys about communities and the student population in 3 selected areas	8	Cotham Redland	£562	£562

Chandos Rd Neighbourhood Association	Community notice board and the ABC survey (see above)	8	Cotham	£1,076	£876
Golden Hill Community garden	Play sessions for SEND children and their siblings	4a)	Bishopston	£1640	£1640
Playing Out	Support playing out in 15 additional streets	4a) 8	Bishopston Redland	£2,340	£2,340
Redland Parish Church	Contribution to installing hearing loop in new church hall	7	Redland	£2,000	£2,000
Sustainable Bishopston/Living Room	To “green” the Ashley Down area and run a weekend community event to carry out the work	1 2b) 8	Bishopston	£8337	£3,000

1.3 Background to the Recommended Applications

1.3.1 Action for Balanced Communities

ABC is an organisation which seeks to provide evidence about the impact of non-permanent residents and HMO's (eg a high student population) on neighbourliness, and the local economic and social infrastructure. Fewer family residences, the loss of shops replaced by fast food outlets or bars are seen as some of the negative consequences which ABC believes could be dealt with by a different approach to planning. The outcome of this work would, for example, provide evidence when planning permission is requested for conversion to "small" HMO's (ie less than the size of a licenced HMO). Chandos Rd was one of the areas cited which has a very high proportion of students (and has already done some work in the area).

ABC has already done work in Clifton which was funded by the local Neighbourhood Partnership, and a report has been published. Our Neighbourhood Partnership has done work around issues raised by large student populations although this is an application to do with the underlying planning issues and might be seen to be tangential to the criteria listed below. However the Small Grants Subgroup decided to recommend this project, but would wish to acknowledge the contribution students also make to their communities.

1.3.2 Chandos Rd Association

This is a newly formed neighbourhood association which wants to promote its local neighbourhood. As mentioned in 1.3.1 above it has concerns about the dominance of the local student population and wants to undertake the ABC survey and its application allows £200 towards this. It also wants a community notice board (publicity has been done on lamp-posts in shops so far) and can secure one to the railings outside the church development in Chandos Rd.

The Small Grants Subgroup recommends funding for the community notice board only *if* ABC receives its requested funding.

1.3.3 Golden Hill Community Garden

In partnership with a local parent carer group who have children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Golden Hill Community Garden wish to provide 3 4-hour play sessions this summer for up to 16 children with disabilities and their siblings. SEND children often attend different educational facilities than their brothers and sisters, and

frequently out of the area, and this would provide an opportunity for families to play together and make new friends.

As usual this application was well written and researched, and the Garden has a track record of working with people with a wide range of health problems and disabilities. The Partnership has not funded any activities aimed at this disadvantaged group of children and recommends this for full funding. Although the application is to cover the play leaders pay, this activity will require input from volunteers as well as the parents themselves. Parents will also be expected to make a contribution.

1.3.4 Playing out

Playing Out is funded by Bristol City Council Public Health to work only in areas of high priority, which does not include our Partnership. So if the Partnership wants to see Playing Out sessions increase it will need to consider whether it wishes to contribute to that funding.

The Partnership funded Playing Out in 2012 for some initial work in the Bishopston and Redland area. Following on from work undertaken with a Green Capital grant last year, this application would continue to develop more streets for playing out than the current 11 in Bishopston and 4 in Redland, by working with the following schools: St Bonaventure's, Bishop Rd, Ashley Down, Brunel Fields, and Colton's. This is a revenue grant to pay the sessional worker to support the current 10 streets which are part way to becoming independent and to get a further 5 to set up playing out sessions over the next 6 months. Support costs and the necessary materials are paid from Playing Out's reserves. Playing Out is about community development and neighbourliness, as it provides a means of residents of all ages getting together to provide a safe place for local children to play together. Thus the Small Grants Subgroup recommends this application for funding

1.3.5 Redland Parish Church

The church has replaced its church hall with a new building constituting three new spaces within. The application is to request 50% funding for a loop system to be installed throughout the new building.

Prior to the rebuild, the church hall provided a well-used venue for non-church community and other activities, and it is hoped that this re-vamped space will now be more accessible to people with mobility and hearing loss as well, thus increasing its usefulness as a community venue. The Small Grants Subgroup recommends that this should be funded as requested.

1.3.6 Sustainable Bishopston/Living Room

In January 2016 the Brunel Fields PTA submitted an application for a range of activities around traffic calming and other neighbourliness projects with the Ashley Down area. We did not fund it as it was not sufficiently focussed, but encouraged the local activists to work with Matt Jones to focus their activity. Living Room is the result and has been very pro-active in developing local networks within the area, including the Gloucestershire Cricket Club (which has promised over £1000), the Co-op shop and the college. This application is generally to increase biodiversity locally, to "green" this area with a range of planters, make safer walks to school and encourage community activity. The application was hugely enthusiastic and ambitious. The Small Grants Subgroup felt that such community development in this new area of housing was essential and wished to support it but felt that the original application was too big to fully fund. After discussion with the representatives of the group they were in agreement with the recommendation of a smaller amount of funding for a reduced area of activity: materials for six planters in the Arthur Milton Street area with plants etc, where there is a core of enthusiastic residents, a bench, materials for bird boxes and money to run a two-day community event in September to get people to meet each other, as well as contributing to getting the planters made and installed. It is recommended that a grant of £3,000 is made, recognising the

amount of community work which has already taken place, and the financial support the GCCC will make in addition.

2 Non Recommended Grant applications

There were 2 applications we have not recommended.

2.1 Background to the Applications not Recommended

2.1.1 *Friends of St Andrews Park (£2,212)*

St Andrews Park is no longer part of the BCR area, but given the number of residents who use this resource the Sub Group feels that part funding of applications in future should at least be considered.

The application was for a) increased signage towards the toilets and b) signage to remind dog walkers to clear up dog mess. This application suggests there is an anti-social behaviour issue in the Park area. However the Small Grants Subgroup felt it was unfortunate that the evidence of the effectiveness of signage was limited in the application. A similar application was submitted for the November 2015 deadline and the Subgroup made that same point - yet no additional evidence was submitted in this later application. The application was also referred by the parks subgroup to the Partnership meeting in April but again the Partnership refused to fund. Consequently the Small Grants Group felt it could not recommend funding this application.

2.1.2 *SCAF (North Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum)(£250)*

This organisation is planning to run a second free conference in September for practitioners and survivors of domestic abuse in North Bristol at the Lockleaze Hub. Four NP's have been approached to contribute £250 to cover the costs. This was a late application, which was **not** addressed to BCR NP but was sent by the local Partnership Co-coordinator who was concerned that there might not be enough money coming in to fund the event from the other NP's. Domestic abuse is present in every community, but the statistics submitted as part of the application would indicate that BCR is not a hotspot. Normally we would not consider applications which are more than a day or so late – it can set difficult precedents. On the other hand, this fits our criteria and the Partnership has never funded anything to do with domestic abuse before. On balance though, especially as the Partnership has not been directly requested to make a contribution, the Small Grants Subgroup would recommend not to fund this otherwise well-intentioned project.

3 Criteria

- 1) Enhancement of, and increase in, green spaces
- 2) Improved urban environment:
 - a) tackling anti-social behaviour
 - b) road safety and promotion of walking and cycling
- 3) Crime reduction and community safety:
 - a) awareness raising around issues of domestic and sexual violence
 - b) anti-social behaviour in public spaces
- 4) Promotion of a good quality of life:
 - a) leisure activities and/or support services for i) children and young people, and ii) adults (including their carers) facing barriers to leading enriched lives due to age, health, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender
 - b) activities which promote healthy lifestyles
 - c) local arts where it is likely to appeal to a wide section of the community
 - d) encouragement of lifelong access to learning
- 5) Promotion and maintenance of the diversity of our retail high streets
- 6) Promotion of community food-growing projects
- 7) Support for development of publicly accessible community facilities

8) Support initiatives which promote neighbourliness within or between communities within the Partnership area.

The Partnership is asked to note that future applications will be assessed according to the priorities list of the revised Neighbourhood Partnership Plan for 2016/17 which will be approved at this meeting.

4 The Small Grants Budget 2016/17

4.1 If the above recommendations are agreed, there remains £9,582 of the original allocation of £20,000 spend limit. The Small Grants Subgroup wishes to request that a further £5,000 should be added to the Small Grants budget for 2016/7, bringing the total spend limit for the year to £25,000. If an additional deadline is agreed (see 4.2 below) and given the continuing difficulty voluntary organisations have in finding funding, we think that possibly we might wish to recommend allocating more than the £18,000 spent in 2015/16. Small grants are an effective way of encouraging community development, dealing with social disadvantage and improving the quality of life for all.

4.2 The next deadline is September 5th 2016, recommendations to be decided on October 10th 2016. However the Small Grants Subgroup wishes to recommend a further deadline for applications on November 28th, to be agreed at the NP meeting on January 23rd 2017.

4.3 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 and the Neighbourhood Partnership websites, and notification through social media.

5 Allocation of CIL

There is Community Infrastructure Levy money allocated to the BCR according to local developments in the area, to mitigate the impact which such developments might directly or indirectly have on the local infrastructure. Advice has been sought and the table below shows which of the above recommendations might be funded from this source (total £5,073):

Organisation	Eligible aspects of the application	Amount
Chandos Neighbourhood Association	Community Notice board	£873
Redland Parish Church	Hearing Loop installation	£2000
Sustainable Bishopston/Living Room	Community notice board Moveable planters	£2,200