

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 8

meeting date: 2 APRIL 2019
title: VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019/20
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: SALLY MASON

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To approve the allocation of voluntary organisation grants for 2019/20.

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 and makes recommendations to this Committee regarding the allocation of funds to voluntary organisations on an annual basis.

2.3 The working group traditionally consists of 3 conservative members and 1 liberal democrat member of this committee. This Committee appointed the following members at your meeting on 5 February 2019:

- ❖ Cllr S Atkinson (Chair)
- ❖ Cllr S Bibby
- ❖ Cllr K Hind
- ❖ Cllr M Robinson

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
- 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 parish/town councils and properly constituted 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 over £10,000 are required to supply a 3-year financial plan and all applicants must provide a copy of the organisation's latest audited accounts. Capital projects are limited to 50% of the approved costs to a maximum of £5,000.
4. 2019/20 GRANTS
- 4.1 20 applications requesting total support of £162,892 have been received. A summary of all applications is set out in Annex 1.
- 4.2 The voluntary organisation grant budget for 2019/20 is £111,310.
5. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP
- 5.1 The working group met on 18 March 2019. The minutes of the meeting are attached at Annex 2.
- 5.2 The working group agreed to recommend supporting 20 voluntary organisations across the Borough with a total allocation of £105,500. The group recommend holding back approximately 5% of the funds available for any new applications that may arise during the year.
6. RECOMMENDATION
- 6.1 Approve the allocation of grants as recommended by the voluntary organisation grant working group as set out in Annex 2, totalling £105,500.

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF22-19/SM/AC
22 March 2019

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2019/20

Organisation Name	Brief description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2019/20 £	Purpose of Grant request
B4RN for the Hodder Valley	Voluntary group recently set up to bring fibre optic broadband to properties in the Hodder Valley	£1,000	To fund the costs of printing mapping and wayleave agreements to create a plan and structure to install broadband
Carers Link Lancashire	Provides help, support and training to those who care for people who are ill, disabled or elderly	£2,000	To assist the organisation in providing registered carers with support, but will also assist them to identify "hidden" carers and provide outreach and support services and also awareness training for professionals across the Ribble Valley
Chipping Show	To promote agriculture, horticulture and tourism.	£500	To assist with the cost of putting on the Show and to help keep it going
Citizens Advice Bureau Ribble Valley	The service is independent and provides free, confidential and impartial advice to everybody	£82,191	To cover the core running costs of the organisation such as staff salaries, rent, insurance, information subscriptions and volunteer expenses
Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks	Plan and stage the Clitheroe Community Bonfire and Fireworks Display each November with all proceeds going to local charities	£1,000	To assist with the cost of the firework display which is about £5,000
Clitheroe Garden Club	Founded in 1976 to provide a focus for and encourage horticulture in the Ribble Valley	£50	To assist with the cost of their annual garden show
Goosnargh & Longridge Agricultural Show	To bring together the people of the Ribble Valley and surrounding areas to provide a great family day out for all ages	£500	To support the show day activities for schools, young people, including junior arts & crafts, junior horticulture, young sheep handlers, young WI section and young farmers
Hodder Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Society	To improve the standard of animal husbandry and horticultural practices and to foster and encourage interest amongst young people in agriculture and the countryside	£600	To assist the financing of the show and sponsorship of agricultural and horticultural classes

Organisation Name	Brief description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2019/20 £	Purpose of Grant request
Home Start In East Lancashire	Charity which supports vulnerable and hard to reach families who are struggling with a wide variety of issues	£5,000	To support the infrastructure of the organisation and allow it to continue in the area. It will enable recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers
Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition	Annual competition to encourage a high standard of care and maintenance in Lancashire villages and hamlets	Any support we can give	To assist in financing the competition. 2018 is its jubilee year and the organisers would like to publish a booklet promoting the competition and also replace some of the older trophies
Little Green Bus	The Charity's main activity is the provision of community transport services for mainly elderly and vulnerable people	£10,000	To support the community car scheme which provides door to door transport to and from vital medical appointments. This scheme costs almost £25,000 per year
Longridge Field Day Events	A longstanding voluntary organisation which arranges an annual spectacular event for the community of Longridge and surrounding villages	£500	To assist with the increased cost of road closures and health & safety requirements to ensure the safe running of the event
Ribble FM	A community radio station which aims to be "The voice of the valley", the main objective is being an umbrella organisation for all other charity and community organisations	£10,000	To help sustain the radio station. The station has to obtain 50% of its income from grants and donations in order to fulfil the terms of its OFCOM licence
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	Charity which provides Carer Support Workers to care for people in their own homes to give their carers a break	£15,000	To assist with the high travel costs the charity incurs as its staff have to travel around the Ribble Valley to reach clients
Ribble Valley Shopmobility and Information Centre	To provide an equipment loan service to people with mobility problems to access shops, health and leisure in Ribble Valley.	£8,000	To assist with general running costs and the cost of widening doorways at their new premises

Organisation Name	Brief description of Organisation	Grant Requested for 2019/20 £	Purpose of Grant request
Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper	Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper has provided a recorded version of the Clitheroe Advertiser & Times for visually impaired residents since 1978	£500	To assist with the general running costs of the service
Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society	One of the country's oldest agricultural shows. After a chequered history over the past 8 years the show has returned to its previous home at Salesbury Hall	£1,000	To help fund the "Children's Zone" at the show for free of charge activities whilst attending the show. This cost over £7,000 last year
Sabden Holme Committee	A charity that exists to fund and organise community events for the residents of and visitors to Sabden such as the annual Community Bonfire and Carols round The Tree	£729	The charity is requesting £360.00 to train 2 trustees or volunteers in undertaking road closures to ensure the safe running of events. They would also like £369.19 to purchase an additional speaker plus cabling to ensure people can hear the organisers at the various events they hold in Sabden
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	To improve the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable families in the Ribble Valley	£20,000	Currently not taking on new referrals due to lack of funding. The grant would allow the delivery of one to one Fusion therapeutic life coaching to 80 new service users
Whalley Educational Foundation	Charity which owns and manages Whalley Old Grammar School Community Centre. They provide educational opportunities to all	£4,322	£1,100 towards the cost of a defibrillator for the outside of the building and £3,222 towards projectors and screens in 3 of the rooms
Total requested		£162,892	

**MINUTES OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2019 AT 3.00PM**

Present: Councillor Stephen Atkinson (Chairman)
Councillor Susan Bibby
Councillor Ken Hind
Councillor Mary Robinson

Also in attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Accounting Technician

1. Background
 - 1.1 The Director of Resources explained to members the purpose of the working group which was to consider the 2019/20 voluntary organisation grant applications received and make recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee.
2. 2019/20 Applications
 - 2.1 The Council had received 20 applications requesting total support of £162,862.
 - 2.2 It was explained that the voluntary organisation grant budget for 2019/20 is £111,310 and that this had increased by inflation from the previous year.
 - 2.3 Councillor Bibby declared an interest in Carers Link Lancashire. Cllr Robinson declared an interest in Little Green Bus. Councillors Robinson and Bibby queried whether or not they should declare an interest where they are involved in organisations as representatives of Ribble Valley Borough Council, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. They were advised by the Chief Executive that where they were acting as representatives of the Council that was not necessary.
 - 2.4 Councillor Atkinson suggested that the Ribble Valley is potentially Clitheroe centric and that it was essential to think about the whole of the Ribble Valley when considering matters such as these grant applications.
 - 2.5 After considering the applications the group made the following suggestions;
 - The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families is offered a grant of £5,000 subject to a new licence being agreed.
 - Councillor Atkinson proposed keeping a balance of approximately 5% to fund any new grants that come in during the year especially supporting the rural strategy.
 - 2.6 The group recommended the allocation of voluntary organisation grants as attached totalling £105,500.

Organisation Name	Recommended Grant for 2019/20
B4RN for the Hodder Valley	£1,000
Carers Link Lancashire	£2,000
Chipping Show	£500
Citizens Advice Bureau Ribble Valley	£52,500
Clitheroe Community Bonfire & Fireworks	£750
Clitheroe Garden Club	£50
Goosnargh & Longridge Agricultural Show	£500
Hodder Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Society	£500
Home Start In East Lancashire	£4,000
Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition	£500
Little Green Bus	£10,000
Longridge Field Day Events	£500
Ribble FM	£500
Ribble Valley Crossroads Care	£15,000
Ribble Valley Shopmobility and Information Centre	£7,500
Ribble Valley Talking Newspaper	£500
Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society	£750
Sabden Holme Committee	£250
The Foundation for Ribble Valley Families	£5,000
Whalley Educational Foundation	£3,200
Total	£105,500