

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION (LEISURE AND COMMUNITY)

Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Vannes Room - Civic Offices

Executive Member: Councillor Miss S M Bell



1. Report Published

To consider the following matters for decision for which reports have been published:-

Non-Key Decision(s)

- (1) **Community Funding Application - Warsash Neighbourhood Forum**
(Pages 3 - 6)



P GRIMWOOD
Chief Executive Officer

www.fareham.gov.uk

14 January 2020

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Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 22 January 2020

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Fund Application – Warsash Neighbourhood Forum
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Community Fund Programme.

Executive Summary:

An application for Community Funding has been received from the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum for the sum of £812.51 to fund £576 for an advertisement in the local Loop magazine, £56.51 for 2000 A4 flyers and £180 for one year's website hosting and domain validation.

The Forum was designated by the Council on 1st July 2019 following evidence of public support for its establishment, identified through public consultation.

The purpose of the Forum is to enable the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Warsash Neighbourhood Area, covering the villages of Warsash, Chilling and Hook. This allows residents from each of these areas to have a say in the production of the Plan.

The group is in the process of setting up as a Community Interest Company (CIC). Once the CIC has been registered, the Forum need to apply for Locality funding, which it plans to support the Group's future development and ensure sustainability.

Locality funding is allocated by the Government and provides an initial basic grant of up to £9,000 to groups working on a Neighbourhood Plan, to cover costs of publicity, hosting events, producing copies of plans and contracting professional consultants

to advise on the proposed plans. Further funding of an additional £8,000 is also available through Locality, for groups working on allocating sites for housing. The Warsash Neighbourhood Forum would meet this qualifying condition.

The Director of Leisure and Community and the Executive Member for Leisure and Community have previously met with representatives of the Forum to remind the organisation of their ability to apply for Locality funding.

The Warsash Neighbourhood Forum has received much support from the Council. The Department of Leisure and Community has supported the Forum with community consultation and advice regarding accessing Locality funding. The Planning Department continues to work closely with this group to advise on appropriate options for the Neighbourhood Plan and planning processes.

Both Ward Councillors, Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Ford, are supportive of the work of the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum.

Recommendation:

That the application for £812.51 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund, submitted by the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum, be considered.

Reason:

This application is suitable for consideration of Community Funding.

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards this project would be £812.51 which could be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this report.

Appendix A: Letter to Mr Matt Hall dated 29th April 2019.

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Appendix A

Mr Matthew Hall
Warsash Residents Forum

Director of Leisure and Community
Lindsey Ansell

Contact: Lindsey Ansell

Ext.: 4567

Date: 29 April 2019

Dear Mr Hall

Warsash Neighbourhood Forum

I write in response to your expressed concerns regarding the Council's decision not to award Community Funding to the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum. Firstly, I would like to thank you for your commitment in helping to shape the neighbourhood of Warsash. The Council fully appreciates the support and perspectives of local people who are passionate about the future of the Borough.

The Council has had time to reflect on the initial response you received to your funding enquiry, and I can confirm that you are correct in your assumption that it would pose no conflict of interest. Please accept my apologies for any confusion caused.

Neighbourhood planning gives local communities powers to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. The Council's Planning Officers can provide free professional advice to support prospective or established Neighbourhood Forums progressing a Neighbourhood Plan in a Neighbourhood Area. May I reassure you that the Planning Policy Team within the Council, will continue to provide advice to you, and this can be accessed throughout the different stages of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

However, this does not change the Council's decision regarding the awarding of Community Funding. The Government allocates funding specifically to help support the establishment neighbourhood planning, currently through Locality. Titchfield Neighbourhood Forum was successful in securing Locality funding, and as such, a precedent for the Borough has been set for emerging Neighbourhood Forums to pursue this route of funding in the first instance.

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I understand that Council Officers may have directed you to an organisation, called One Community, who are funded by the Council to assist and support local voluntary groups to identify and successfully apply for funding streams. I am aware that Warsash Neighbourhood Forum met with an individual from this organisation in the early days of its establishment and was offered support to access Locality Funding at that time. If you now feel in a position as an organisation to begin this application, my officers will be delighted to set up another meeting to assist you.

During this process, the response from the current community consultation may help to demonstrate the extent to which the Forum is supported by local residents, and it is for this reason that it was suggested meeting once the consultation has concluded. However, if you are keen to meet sooner, to understand the support that is available to you, please let me know, and I will ensure that a meeting with Cllr Bell and key officers is arranged.

In the meantime, the Council looks forward to sight of your plan, and to working with you in future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ansell', written in a cursive style.

Lindsey Ansell
Director of Leisure and Community