

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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.

Department of Finance and Resources
Civic Offices Civic Way Fareham PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100 Fax: 01329 550576

Voicemail: 01329 824630 lansell@fareham.gov.uk

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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