

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 6 December 2021

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Fund Application – 1st Warsash Sea Scouts
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

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

Executive summary:

An application for Community Funding has been received from the 1st Warsash Sea Scouts for £15,000 towards their project to modernise the group's Headquarters in New Road, Warsash.

1st Warsash is a popular scouting group with 175 youth members, anticipated to increase to 250 next year with the launch of a new 'Squirrels' section for 4 to 5 year olds. The group's Headquarters provides a base for various scouting activities, storage space for equipment and has been used by other District Scouting Groups as a location for sleepovers due to the size of the facility. The Explorer Scouts for the District also frequently use the Headquarters as a location for their meetings.

Whilst the building itself is in good repair, the accessibility of the facility and its electrical wiring are no longer fit for purpose. The 1st Warsash Sea Scouts have been fundraising towards a project to modernise the Headquarters, which includes the rewiring of the main building, the provision of accessible toilet facilities and showers, the replacement of the entrance doors to further improve accessibility, the upgrading of the current toilets and the reconfiguration of the stairs to meet health and safety standards.

The Group has been in contact with both the Council's Estates and Building Control teams to ensure that their plans are acceptable to the Council and fit for purpose.

1st Warsash Sea Scouts owns the entire headquarters building, leasing the ground on which it sits from Fareham Borough Council with use of the site currently restricted to scouting purposes in that lease arrangement.

The total cost for each of these elements has been quoted at £52,028. The group has raised £36,151 to date towards the project, from successful applications to the Gosling Foundation, Bernard Sunley, Garfield Weston, Co-op Local Giving, Bank of England Grant and County Councillors Funding, including an allocation of £6,000 from the Scout Groups funds.

The group is requesting £15,000 from the Community Fund to meet their target and provide a small contingency for the project. The Scouts last had a successful application to the Community Fund in 2017, when they were awarded £2,000 for Canadian canoes and a replacement dinghy.

At the end of March 2021, the Scouts listed £63,876 in their accounts. They are proposing to allocate £6,000 of these reserves towards the project as the group's normal annual expenditure is around £70,000.

Both Ward Councillors, Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Ford, are fully supportive of the application.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the application for £15,000 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund submitted by 1st Warsash Sea Scouts, towards their project to refurbish the Scout Headquarters in New Road, Warsash, be approved.

Reason:

This application meets the Community Fund criteria for financial support for community capital projects.

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards the project will be £15,000, which can be met from the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no risks associated with this report.