

NOTES of the COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY AREA GROUP MEETING
held in the Council Chamber on **TUESDAY 25 August 2020** at 19.00 hours.

Present: Kathleen Willis Chairman

Peter Chapman
Emma Coe-Gunnell White*
Simon Hicks
Tofojjul Hussain
Sarah Lawrence
Sylvia Neumann

Also Present: Judy Pointing Community Development Manager

Matthew Cornish
Robert Eggleston
Anne Eves
Lee Gibbs
Janice Henwood
Chris Thomas-Atkin Burgess Hill District Lions Club

** Denotes non-attendance*

(19.00)

Chris Thomas-Atkin was welcomed to the meeting. He had been invited as a representative of Burgess Hill District Lions Club as they had contributed a third of the funding for the COVID-19 grants.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

46. SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutes.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Robert Eggleston declared a personal interest in Sheddingdean Baptist Church as he was a member of the church.

48. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Kathy Willis proposed Simon Hicks as Vice Chair of the Community Engagement Key Area Group, seconded by Tofojjul Hussein and agreed unanimously.

49. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Notes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Key Area Group held on Monday 15 June 2020, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

50. **MINOR GRANTS PHASE 1**

Members noted the application by the Worlds End Association for £1,000 towards the cost of restoring the brick pavement outside The Watermill pub had been approved via email following the last meeting, as outlined in Agenda Item 6.

Members considered a Phase 1 grant application by the Escape Youth Club, as outlined in Agenda Item 6 and Appendix 1. It was clarified that the original application was for £580, which was submitted before the COVID-19 outbreak when it was anticipated the group would also raise funds towards the cost. As they had been unable to carry out any fundraising activities due to the COVID-19 lockdown they were requesting the full cost of £1,080. It was noted the maximum Minor Grant that could be awarded was £1,000.

RESOLVED that:

- A) the contents of the report be noted; and,
- B) a grant of £1,000 be awarded to the Escape Youth Club.

51. **COVID-19 COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Members and Chris Thomas-Atkin, representing Burgess Hill District Lions Club, considered ten applications that had been received for a COVID-19 grant, as outlined in Agenda Item 7 and Appendix 2.

It was agreed that not all the COVID-19 funds had to be spent immediately and that any unallocated money could be included in the Grants Fund to support other groups adversely affected by COVID-19.

Robert Eggleston clarified the situation regarding the reserves of Sheddingdean Baptist Church, much of which were allocated towards a new building. However, it was pointed out that the RFO's analysis of their financial position was based on their unrestricted reserves.

The following grants were awarded:

2nd Burgess Hill Brownies £345 - towards the purchase of a flag and running costs.

4Sight Vision Support - £632.20

7th Burgess Hill Scouts - £500
The Monday Group - £250

Music for Memories Mid Sussex - £400

Sheddingdean Baptist Church – NIL - sufficient funds

Sussex Search & Rescue - £500

Burgess Hill Heritage & History Society - £150

Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey & Sussex - £300

Burgess Hill Guide & Brownie Association - £1,000

Chris Thomas-Atkin stated that Burgess Hill District Lions Club would donate an additional £1,000 to the Guide & Brownie Association.

A total of £4,077.20 was awarded from the COVID-19 fund, leaving £2,147.80 which would be added to the Grants Fund to support other groups affected by COVID-19.

RESOLVED that:

- A) the above grants totalling £4,077.20 be awarded; and,
- B) the balance of £2,147.80 be added to the Grants Fund to support other groups affected by COVID-19.

52. **SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

The update on Summer Holiday Activities, as outlined in Agenda Item 8, was noted.

Jennifer O’Grady and Emily Bryant were congratulated on the success of the Crazy Golf Day and the Lions were thanked for their financial support for the event.

It was felt more such events should be held in the town centre. As so many of our other events had been cancelled funding was available. Supporting the town centre was felt to be a priority. The new monthly market would help and further events were planned under the Bridge

the Gap initiative.

RESOLVED that:

- A) the contents of the report be noted; and,
- B) continued support be given to the town centre.

53. **SILVER SUNDAY**

Members noted the report outlined in Agenda Item 9 and felt this was a worthwhile project. Various companies and supporters were being approached for donations of items for the bags. A link with a local school was being pursued to see whether the children could make cards.

It was agreed that funding from the COVID-19 emergency fund could be used to purchase items if necessary. It was not known how much would be needed as it depended what was donated.

RESOLVED that:

- A) the contents of the report be noted; and,
- B) funding from the COVID-19 emergency fund be used to purchase items if required.

54. **CHRISTMAS 2020**

Members discussed the proposals for *It's Christmas in Burgess Hill!*, as outlined in Agenda Item 10. It was agreed that Plan B was the safest option under the current COVID-19 circumstances. Events in other towns and villages had been cancelled but the Town Council was very keen to do something to support our traders. Members hoped the Cosplay Star Wars characters would be able to attend and were keen to involve local community groups.

The shops would be contacted regarding taking part in a Best Dressed Shop Window competition during December with a competition for children. It was suggested an online form could be created for this.

It was agreed the Christmas Lights Switch-on would have to be a low-key event this year as it would not be safe to attract crowds. It would take place on Friday 20 November after the French Market had packed up and would be live-streamed so residents could watch it at home.

The possibility of the Christmas lights coming on earlier on Saturday 21 November would be investigated as it was felt this would add to the atmosphere at the Christmas event.

RESOLVED that:

- A) Plan B be adopted for the Christmas event;
- B) a Best Dressed Shop Window with children's competition be organised; and,
- C) the Christmas Lights be switched on and live-streamed on Friday 20 November.

Meeting terminated at 20.51 hours.