

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT REF JPCSD\_2020\_0001  
A Summary of The Grant Application Meetings**

**Author: Cllr A Okey - Chair Interviewing Panel  
Ratified by JPC – Refer to Minutes for Full Results.**

After reviewing the grant applications this year, it is apparent that many of our local charities have become to expect an annual grant from the JPC. After closer examination of some of the applications it is clear that some of these grant requests cannot be justified. We must remember a grant should be used to support a group NOT to fund it in its entirety or to top up its cash reserves. Also grants should only be provided where there is a clear demonstration on how the money will be used to grow the charity and help it become a viable cause in its own right. With that in mind the Grant Application team who conducted the interviews have made the following proposals.

SCAN            £200

20 / 30 Residents attend a network group every two months.  
Speakers from the Doctors surgery, District Council, Benefits office and wheelchair dancing. Own fundraising mainly through a stall at the Court Leet Day

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A WELL ATTENDED LOCAL NETWORK GROUP FOR OUR ELDERLY RESIDENTS

**DECISION FROM COUNCIL RECOMMENDED NO GRANT TO BE AWARDED THIS YEAR DUE TO BALANCE IN BANK RESERVES AND RELATIVELY LOW RUNNING COSTS**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH            £200

34 Members in total with about 20 attending a meeting every 3 months. PCSO also invited to attend. 2 members also attend the county meetings in Stratford and report back. Own fundraising via a stall at the Court Leet Day. Advertised in Parish newsletter

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A NECESSARY & IMPORTANT GROUP FOR OUR TOWN.

Accounts show a bank balance of £594.18. Grant of £150 2016, £150 2017, £175 2018

**DECISION OF COUNCIL. DUE TO THE RESERVE HELD IN BANK ACCOUNT AND THE NOMINAL ANNUAL COSTS IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT JPC WILL NOT SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION THIS YEAR. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE GROUP LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROMOTE THIS GROUP TO A WIDER AUDIENCE IN HENLEY IN ORDER TO RAISE ITS PROFILE**

EVERGREENS            £300

Approx 60 members who meet 1st Wednesday of each month in the Baptist Church Hall.

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A well attended community group offering support to our elderly and potentially lonely residents. Supported by Johnson's coaches who funded last years Christmas Dinner.

DECISION OF COUNCIL - DUE TO RESERVE HELD IN BANK ACCOUNT, AND THANKS TO THE GREAT FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NO JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANT THIS YEAR

DEMENTIA CAFE £500

Unable to attend meeting but full report submitted and circulated to all councillors. A new group which needs support in its first year. Expectation is that the grant will be less next year due to own fundraising and from fees charged over the year.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL - APPEARS TO BE A REASONABLE REQUEST FOR A NEW START UP GROUP HELPING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS IN OUR TOWN. JPC TO WORK WITH DEMENTIA CAFE TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE MEETING ROOM IN HENLEY RATHER THAN ULLENHALL IF POSSIBLE. PROPOSE FULL GRANT SUBJECT TO A WRITTEN PROPOSAL FROM THE TRUSTEES STATING HOW THEY INTEND TO PROMOTE AND GROW THE ATTENDEES FROM HENLEY GOING FORWARD

PARISH CHURCHES OF HENLEY £855

Grant request to illuminate St Johns Church Tower £250 and to prepare and deliver monthly newsletter to every house in Henley. £805. (actual cost £1210)

DECISION FROM COUNCIL To Grant full amount. This newsletter covers all residents and provides valuable information to residents who do not have access to online. Also promotes the local community groups.

GUILD HALL TRUST. ARTS FOR ALL. £1250

A passionate and inspiring pitch made by Laurence Marshall. Arts for All and Jazz festival now in its 5th year and numbers growing year on year. Also schools are now involved in the event. Grant money to fund promotion, leaflets and publicity. Also provides an amount of tickets which can be purchased at a reduced rate where necessary.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL - GENERAL CONSENSUS. FULL GRANT TO BE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR GIVEN THE BENEFIT AND INCLUSION OF RESIDENTS AND SCHOOLS AND ALSO PROMOTION AND EXTRA BUSINESS BROUGHT INTO OUR TOWN.

HWMT Memorial Hall. £2000

Duncan explained grant requested to contribute towards solar panels and replace fluorescent lighting  
Total cost would be £9500 with payback within 5.2 years. Energy costs are currently the highest cost to the hall at approx £6k per annum. The hall operates as a business with income last year of £21k and costs of £15776. The request is for £2k this year and another 2k the following year. The remainder of the work being funded from their own generated income and fund raising.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL. Full Grant to be supported. High use of hall for the residents of Henley. A sustainable project which will payback for itself within 5 years and with energy costs only on the increase this is considered to be a sensible and pro climate solution to the ever rising energy costs.

HENLEY HERITAGE CENTRE. £2500

Grant requested to create a heritage trail around Henley. No representation made at the interviews so difficult to conclude at this stage. Although the idea is considered to be good and to be a benefit to the whole town and our local businesses.

**DECISION FROM COUNCIL :** Following further information supplied from the GHT it was decided that due to the plans still being in their infancy, and given that no quotes or date for work to commence is forthcoming at present. Decision made to not provide funds from Grant at this time. However, we very much look forward to supporting the Heritage Centre with this proposal moving forward.

#### HENLEY IN BLOOM. £2500

Interview attended by Sheila. According to the accounts HIB purchases on average 4000 plants per year at a cost of approx £4600 last year they spent an additional £2000 on new troughs and £3400 on watering. In addition to grants of £2160 last year they also received sponsorship of £2904 and donations of £4298. Along with additional fundraising this brought in an income of £10784 with costs of £10675.

2019 show a bank balance of £14792. In addition Go Fund Me raised £1070 which HIB has yet to receive or put in their balance sheets.

**COUNCIL DECISION.** This is a great community practice, however we cannot see justification to fund HIB with a grant of £2500 this year, due to the high cash reserves held in the bank. Happy to support in future years if funding proved to be necessary

#### HENLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. £3500

Brian Westmacott has only recently taken over the running of this committee. Brian and his team have demonstrated the many fund raising activities they have planned to support this great event for our town. A Just Giving page last year raised £1320.

This year the grant request is mainly intended to be used for the many repairs needed to the existing lights. They are now at an age where wear and tear is taking its toll and the very wet weather we experienced this year has seriously affected the lights.

**COUNCIL DECISION** This is a great town tradition that we must strive to support as a community to enable it to be continued year on year. The grant requested represents 1/3 of the total anticipated costs. The remainder being funded from fundraising events. There has been a lot of noise about the cost of the lights from residents. Brian has confirmed that they will be putting the work out to tender this year with a minimum of 3 tenders to be considered. Proposal to pay the full amount of grant requested subject to the committee reporting the true cost to the town residents following receipt of tenders this year.

#### GUILD HALL TRUST GROUNDS. £6900

The jubilee gardens have in the past been tended for by volunteers of the town. Unfortunately this volunteer group has now ceased and the GHT have now been handed back the responsibility to maintain the grounds.

The GHT are requesting a 100% of their ANTICIPATED costs for maintenance and repair. No quotes have been obtained at the time of the grant application.

**COUNCIL DECISION - UNABLE TO MAKE A DECISION AT THIS TIME. THE GRANT APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED WITHOUT ANY CONFIRMED COSTINGS AND NO QUOTES OR TENDERS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. ALSO A PRESENT HWMT ARE REQUESTING 100%**

OF THE COST OF WORK. JPC SHOULD NOT BE FUNDING THE WHOLE AMOUNT, FUND-RAISING / OWN RESERVES SHOULD BE USED TO COVER A % OF THE WORKS. DECISION PENDING NEW APPLICATION WITH QUOTES / TENDERS. THE JPC DID HOWEVER OFFER TO FUND AN INITIAL TIDY UP OF THE GARDENS PENDING APPROVAL OF GRANT, THIS WAS HOWEVER REJECTED BY THE GHT.

HENLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY £7000

Full report provided from the trustees and circulated to all councillors. Detailed report showing monthly visitors has been provided. The library is actively involved with the local schools and nurseries and able to demonstrate monthly attendances. It also provides a summer project for local primary school children. Considered to be an essential addition to our community.

Profit last year £1787 and reserve at the bank £4300.

COUNCIL DECISION - DECISION PENDING - going forward the trustees are open to using different premises which could dramatically reduce our annual commitment to the library. The JPC should work with the library to look for alternative accommodation. Feedback is that many residents are not aware that we have a library. Any grant provided needs to be made subject to a report from the Trustees detailing how they can better promote and grow members of the library this year.

HWMT PLAYING FIELDS & PAVILLION £7000

The trustees attended the meeting and confirmed that although they can see additional income streams and growing members this year, they feel it unlikely that they could keep this project viable after this year.

COUNCIL DECISION TO GRANT THE FULL AMOUNT - Given the situation with WASPS and our general need for a local community sports facility At this stage it is considered essential that we support this facility with the amount of grant requested with the hope of retaining sports teams for the future to continue to provide an income.

THE HUB £28,242

After attending the Grant Sub-Committee, Peter Crathorne made it clear that The HUB have not applied for a Grant but have submitted a report which includes a new draft contract between the HUB and the JPC to provide substantial funding for the next two years. The JPC can see no rationale for supporting this route of funding and do not believe that we would have the support of the residents. The JPC have requested that The Hub submit a new Grant Application, along with supporting documents as requested by the JPC

COUNCIL DECISION - THE HUB NEEDS TO RESUBMIT A NEW GRANT APPLICATION WHICH FITS OUR CRITERIA AND MUST DEMONSTRATE A GENERAL NEED AND VALUE FOR MONEY TO THE TOWN ALONG WITH CLEAR PLANS AS TO HOW THEY CAN MAKE THIS A VIABLE BUSINESS AND NOT BE RELIANT ON JPC FUNDING YEAR AFTER YEAR.

END OF REPORT