

Exeter Community Grants Panel Meeting – Large, Small and Community Buildings Fund

29 September 2022

Present: CLLR Martin Pearce; CLLR Anne Jobson; CLLR Naima Allcock, CLLR Marina Asvachin, Cllr Paul Knott
Apologies: Cllr Catherine Rees

Advisory Members Present: Carole Pilley (Exeter Community Initiatives)

Dawn Rivers Programme Manager – Communities, Mahi Ahmed Community Officer

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Recommendations and decision making

Large Grants Fund

Six applications were reviewed:

1. Age UK Exeter
2. Topsham Adventure Centre
3. Food Action Exeter
4. Hospiscare
5. Topsham Cricket Club
6. ISCA Enterprise

This funding is to support building or refurbishment costs or the purchase of equipment. Groups need to demonstrate a minimum of 50% match funding (unless in a priority community).

The Large Grants Budget for the current financial year is £60,000.

In previous rounds £20,000 has been awarded to the Islamic Cultural Centre Exeter, Positive Light's and St Sidwell's Community Centre, plus £10,000 was committed to the Whipton Community Association subject to proof of match funding. £12,000 was awarded in current round. We have **£18,000** remaining for the 3rd round later in the year.

Organisation	Applied For	Project	Outcome
Age UK	£5,000	Men in sheds: Renovating the shed in Wardrew Road to include a retail outlet.	Declined in this round. Although the panel wanted to support, the application didn't have enough information re: spending breakdown. Possibility for council to support the project from other sources.
Topsham Adventure Centre	£10,000	To build and run a multi-purpose centre for educational, social and leisure activities in Topsham, Exeter.	Paused for now. This is a very large project. Application didn't have enough information re: spending breakdown. However, the applicant is encouraged to make a fresh application if their other funding applications are successful.
Food Action Exeter	£3,500	Installation of a walk-in chiller.	Awarded £3,500.
Hospiscare	£10,000	Build a special cabin in their Hospiscare garden at Searle House in Exeter.	Awarded £5,000.
Topsham Cricket Club	£1,200	The purchase of cricket (hard and soft balls) and tennis balls.	Declined. Defer to the Ward Grant.
ISCA Enterprise – Beacon Community Centre	£5,698.18	Replacing one of the two heating boilers in the Beacon Centre.	Awarded £3,500.

Total Awarded = £12,000

Community Buildings Fund

Community Organisations can apply for a maximum of £5,000. The aim of the funding is to help Community Organisations with their financial planning. This fund is to contribute to the everyday running costs of community centers such as wages, utility bills, rent etc.

- £80,000 available (this is the April 2020 – March 2023 budget covering 3 financial years)
- £42,000 committed in “legacy” 3-year grants going back to April 2020
- £15,000 awarded in 2021/22
- £12,000 awarded so far this year (2022/23)
- £11,000 is therefore available for 2022/23

Out of the £11,000 budget for the current round, £5,000 was awarded to the Stoke Hill Community Association; remaining budget = £6,000

Applicant: Stoke Hill Community Association (St Kathrine’s Priory)

Applied For: £5,000

Awarded: £5,000

Discussion to take place at next panel meeting to discuss future plans for this fund.

Small Grants Fund

The Exeter Small Grants Fund will support groups and organisations with a one-off grant of up to £2,000 to help run events, festivals and projects that aim to encourage community participation.

This fund can also be used for a one-off purchase or repair of equipment.

Awards will be for a maximum of 80% of the funding target. Applications reviewed on a monthly basis, with no closing date.

£50,000 available; £22,315 was already awarded in the first few rounds; so £27,685 was available for the current round. We awarded **£6,000** in the current round, therefore **£21,685** is available for the next round.

Organisation	Project	Applied For	Outcome
DYS Space Ltd	Exeter Young People's Residential trip	£4,238.14	Agreed in principle to fund £2,000. This is conditional on providing information on how many young people will go on the trip.
Sweetpea Smallholdings CIC	Disability Community Group	£3,149.00	Awarded £2,000.
Inclusive Exeter	Drop-In Support Service	£2,000.00	Awarded £2,000.
The Exe Ensemble	The Birthday Party	£2,000.00	Declined (does not meet grant criteria).
National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS)	Help and support in Exeter for those living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	£1,227.50	Declined (does not meet grant criteria).
Exeter Phoenix	Dave's Woodstock	£2,000.00	Declined (does not meet grant criteria).
Friends of St Thomas Library	Community Engagement Project	£900.00	Deferred to the Ward Grant
St Thomas Winter Market	St Thomas Winter Market	£1,000.00	Declined (does not meet grant criteria).
Devon Filipino Community Association	Supporting wellbeing and cultural connection	£2,000.00	Declined. Group received some funding for their Zumba classes through Live and Move. They are encouraged to work with Inclusive Exeter to adjust their project and spend funds that they are already receiving through the Live and Move project. Applicant is encouraged to apply for a Ward Grant for their Community choir.

Total Awarded = £6,000

3. Proposals for funding for Cost Of Living pressures

Cllr Pearce introduced the proposal to be able to offer a ring-fenced budget of £10,000 to offer community centers and other community based organisations the opportunity to apply for a grant up to £500 to help support increased energy costs over the winter. This would be based on the center's offering or promoting 'warm spaces' for local people to meet to join existing activities or just to meet to enjoy company and a warm space.

The suggestion is that £6,000 is reserved from the Community Buildings Fund, and £4,000 reserved from the Small Grants budget, giving a £10,000 budget as part of the COL fund. This would be supplemented by Ward grants where groups can continue to apply for a ward grant up to £350 to support additional costs over the winter.

The panel gave support for this proposal.

Cllr Pearce to check with Leaders from Opposition groups missing from today's meeting before a final decision is made.

4. Dates of future meetings

Suggested date 26 January 2023 at 11.00am. Closing date for applications (Large Grants 12 January).