

Report to County Councillor Loraine Cox
Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:

Accrington North; Accrington
West & Oswaldtwistle Central;
Great Harwood, Rishton &
Clayton-le-Moors;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application
from:

Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum

Contact for further information:
Local Member Grants

, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal and Democratic Services,
LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £2000 towards architects fees from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £2000 from the Local Member Grants Scheme towards the same project. Requests have been made to each of the following county councillors and a separate report will be submitted to each councillor for their determination:

- County Councillor Loraine Cox - £1000
- County Councillor Noordad Aziz - £500
- County Councillor Munsif Dad - £500

Recommendation

That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

Detail

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division.



Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.

For the financial year 2024/25, each county councillor has a budget of £2000. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Loraine Cox's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

Full name of your organisation	
Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£2000	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Accrington North	£1000
Great Harwood, Rishton and Clayton-le-Moors	£500
Accrington West and Oswaldtwistle Central	£500
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
Architects fees - £4500	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
As soon as possible. Once funding is in place, we can commission the architect to provide conceptual drawings of the proposed new development at Gatty.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum are an umbrella organisation covering the whole of Hyndburn's parks and public open spaces. It is made up of numerous voluntary groups - friends of, forums, panels. It was established in 2005 by 4 community groups with a drive to improve and promote the Borough's parks, open spaces and leisure facilities available to the Boroughs 81,000 residents.	



Member and groups are all volunteers. They work with Hyndburn Council's Parks Dept and other external organisations, to bring in funding, which the Council cannot access, to carry out various projects.

Projects are too numerous to list but include replacement parks playground equipment - Memorial Park redevelopment and improvement works, Mercer Park, Knuzden Rec, Milnshaw Park, Bullough Park, Lowerfold Park - renovation of the duck pond in Oakhill Park, a community food growing garden in Oakhill Park, pavilion at Lowerfold Park, pump track in Milnshaw Park, community building in Milnshaw Park, Rhyddings Park (£2million project for coach house restoration, new service buildings, kitchen garden, glasshouse, park restorations, orchard), Haworth Park Rose Garden, Peel Park, St James Church grounds Accrington.

Members have exhibited at or been involved with RHS Tatton Show, Chorley Flower Show, Southport Flower Show, BBC Gardeners World Live, Harrogate Flower Show, an invitation to RHS Chelsea in 2018.

HGSF Chair was involved with the redevelopment of Accrington Town Square and is currently involved with the Town Centre Initiative Panel, Town Team, Cultural & Heritage Initiative Panel, UK Prosperity Fund, Accrington Town Centre Greening Team and soon to be established Great Harwood Greening Team. The Chair has personally driven the re-development of the Accrington Pals Garden, Church St, Accrington; which is well underway.

To date the Forum has brought in £11 million worth of funding not accessible by the Council. Gatty Park was awarded a Golden Green Apple Environmental Award in 2011 for best environmental practice. In 2019 they were honoured with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service which saw 2 members attend Buckingham Palace for the Queens Garden Party. The Forum were a finalist in 2019 Hyndburn Business Awards "Not For Profit Award." Groups and volunteers have worked with the Parks Department to help achieve and retain 10 Green Flag Awards.

HGSF have no base, no identity, nowhere to meet or put down roots. We rely on the goodwill of other groups, members and volunteers to meet or use facilities. The latest project for which this initial funding request is for, is to redevelop the existing growing site at Gatty Park which has been used by various member groups for over 20 years. It will see demolition of the existing polytunnels and glasshouses, construction of a new glasshouse divided into 4 to create a community growing hub with a separate building to house an office, welfare facilities, storage, meeting room, multiuse room to have funded sessions for anyone wishing to learn to grow, learn a traditional craft, sell produce from. This will enable HGSF to have a base, encourage more volunteers, provide a better service to the Hyndburn community.

We aim to have solar photovoltaics, water harvesting and any other appropriate renewables, to keep running costs low and to be more self-sufficient with running costs. This ambitious project is estimated to be in the region of £1 M+. A major investment for the Borough and its volunteers. Although based in Gatty Park, HGSF will continue to work in and deliver Borough wide projects in conjunction with Hyndburn Council Parks Department.



We have submitted an expression of interest application to the Community Ownership Fund - a substantial package of UK wide levelling-up interventions building opportunity and empowering communities to improve their local places. COF have invited the Forum to submit a full bid, however without the starting point of topographical survey and architect drawings we cannot move forward. COF have contacted HGSF to offer support in submitting a full application.

Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.

£2000 - to be spent on architect fees.

If you are not asking for the full amount of the cost of your activity / equipment, please give us details of where the rest of the funding is coming from. Please also explain what you will do if we give you the grant, but you do not get the other funding.

£2200 received from Hyndburn Council Community Chest fund.

If the councillor offers a grant of less than you have asked for, please explain below how that will affect your proposal – for example, will you still be able to complete your project or purchase, will you scale the project back, or seek funding elsewhere?

We will continue to search for funding to make up the balance, however, this is a difficult item to find funding for.

Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?

- Yes
- No

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

Finance

An up-date of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:



Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£200.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,200.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
£0.00		
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,200.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
£0.00		
NEW REQUESTS	Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum	£1,000.00
£1,000.00		
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£1,000.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,200.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

