

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2020/21**1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Applications and Financial Position

Details of the grant applications received are included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2020/21 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for:	
Rent awards and other commitments (#)	27,400
Less: Grants awarded to date	127,150
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>14,250</u>

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the applications from 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts, Age Concern Eastwood, Beeston Shopmobility, Bramcote Cricket Club, Broxtowe Play Forum, Chilwell Community Association, Eastwood People's Initiative and Stapleford Community Association.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX**APPLICATIONS**

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2020/21:

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2019/20 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2020/21 £</u>
Age Concern Eastwood	1	9,000	9,000 #
Chilwell Community Association	2	3,150	3,150 #
Stapleford Community Association	3	3,000	3,000 #
Broxtowe Women's Project	4	6,000	6,000
Eastwood People's Initiative	5	2,500	2,500 #
2 nd Beeston Sea Scouts	6	1,750	2,150 #
Beeston Shopmobility	7	8,500	8,500 #
Bramcote Cricket Club	8	865	1,000 #
Broxtowe Play Forum	9	5,500	5,500 #
Dig-In Community Allotment	10	495	700
		Total	41,500

The total request is made up of £14,100 in 'cash' from the balance available, with £27,400 being for rents and other commitments as covered by the provisions relating to 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts (£2,150), Age Concern Eastwood (£3,850), Beeston Shopmobility (£7,000), Bramcote Cricket Club (£1,000), Broxtowe Play Forum (£5,500), Chilwell Community Association (£3,150), Eastwood People's Initiative (£1,750) and Stapleford Community Association (£3,000).

Age Concern Organisations**1. AGE CONCERN EASTWOOD**

Age Concern Eastwood is a registered charity, established in 1970, that is based at The Colin Dyson Centre on Edward Road in Eastwood (premises owned by the Council). The group generates its membership from Eastwood and the surrounding area. Around 70 clients use its services with the majority being Broxtowe residents aged 60 years or over.

Age Concern Eastwood provides welfare facilities to local elderly residents. Its clientele includes some disabled users, others who are suffering with dementia and Alzheimer's and those who may be isolated. The charity aims to provide a quality meeting place, companionship, socialising, entertainment and advice for its elderly users by offering a wide variety of activities such as a luncheon club (before the pandemic the charity was serving over 100 meals per week, Monday to Thursday), social events and activities, arts and crafts and festive parties. In previous years, a trustee provided a Sunday lunch for up to 18 members on a regular basis and occasionally hosted a 'Friday pie day' to serve meals to those in need. A Christmas party would normally be held to provide a festive meal for those isolated and living alone, including a turkey roast dinner, wrapped gifts, and party games.

The charity provides its own volunteer driver service as transport for its more isolated members. It is seeking funding from other sources to cover the cost of the mini-bus service (Erewash Community Transport Services) as an alternative to the volunteer drivers. The group also works in partnership with the Broxtowe Mental Health team and Nottinghamshire County Social Services who recommend their service to potential new members.

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Age Concern Eastwood closed in March 2020, only re-opening for eight days in October (socially distanced with reduced capacity) before a large rise in cases meant it had no other option but to close again. Although the premises have remained closed since, its members have received regular weekly welfare calls and a Christmas hamper.

For the year ended 31 March 2020, income totalling £77,512 was generated from grants and donations (including a one-off grant of £10,000 in emergency Covid-19 funding from this Council and £14,000 as the final year of funding for the Co-ordinator from the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme), meals and drinks receipts, transport receipts, fundraising and other activities. Annual expenditure of £64,957 mainly related to employee costs (up by 50% to £28,152), volunteer expenses (mileage), equipment, repairs and renewals, meals and catering, rent, utilities, insurances and other general running costs. Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2020 increased to £69,806. Thankfully, the current financial balances as at 31 December 2020 remain around similar levels thanks to the earlier receipt of grants, furloughing of staff and the reduced level of running expenses and activities in the year.

The Council has supported Age Concern Eastwood for many years with grants towards its premises (including rental) and transport costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£9,000
2018/19	£9,000
2017/18	£9,000
2016/17	£9,000

For 2020/21, Age Concern Eastwood has requested a grant of £9,000 towards its running costs, including the rental of the Edward Road premises. Any grant award in respect of the premises rental (£3,850) would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged. Any additional award for other running costs however will have to be funded from the grant aid budget.

Members should note that the grant aid policy would normally require that all 'cash' grant awards of £5,000 or above to be subject to a Service Level Agreement. However, monitoring arrangements that 'measure and celebrate success' should also be tailored specifically to the organisation and can include written reports, feedback from service users and monitoring visits to the funded organisation.

Community Associations**2. CHILWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

The Chilwell Community Association was set up with its own Constitution in January 2002 and is responsible for the day-to-day management and development of the Council premises at Chilwell Community Centre on Inham Road in Chilwell.

The aim of the Association is to provide facilities at a competitive cost to enable local community groups and individuals to use the premises for a variety of purposes including parent and toddler groups, craft courses and educational classes run by the local college.

The main user of the facility is the Nottinghamshire County Council Library Service and this provides an important resource and meeting place for the community. The library is well used on the week days that it is open although the Covid-19 pandemic has restricted general usage since March 2020.

For the year ended 31 March 2020, the Chilwell Community Association generated receipts of £12,871 were generated from grant aid and fees. Payments amounted to £9,727 including rent, wages (£2,354), property maintenance, utilities, insurance and other miscellaneous costs. Cash and bank balances as at 31 March 2020 had increased to £37,838. These funds are earmarked towards the enhancement of facilities at the Community Centre, including the provision of additional facilities at the Centre, and to provide initial financial support to newly formed groups using the Centre in order for them to become established for long-term use.

The association has invested in improving the facilities and the interior of the Community Centre to make it even more attractive to users. It will continue with this programme in the coming year and has allocated a proportion of its reserves to do this.

As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties, the annual rental of Chilwell Community Centre has been assessed at £3,150. The Chilwell Community Association has suggested that with limited financial resources it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

This is the ninth annual application of this type that the Council has received from Chilwell Community Association and previously a grant of £3,150 was awarded. For 2020/21, the Association has requested a similar grant of £3,150 to cover the market rent of the Chilwell Community Centre. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget.

3. STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Stapleford Community Association was formed in 1954 and is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford.

The aim of the Association is to provide a high quality, low cost centre for a variety of leisure, educational and community activities in Stapleford. A number of groups utilise the facilities for these purposes including playgroups, keep fit clubs, uniform groups, senior citizen's groups, dance classes and family groups. Around 200 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis (pre-Covid-19), with an estimated 80% being residents of the Borough.

For the year ended 31 December 2020, income of £15,016 was generated from hall lettings and grant aid. This included a Covid-19 related business grant of £10,000 linked to the business premises. Annual expenditure amounted to £11,410 and included rent, repairs and renewals, cleaning and sundry expenses, insurances, heating and lighting, water charges and depreciation. Cash and bank balances at 31 December 2020 had increased to £27,272. Stapleford Community Association has indicated that these funds are earmarked towards ongoing maintenance projects and for unexpected emergencies. The funds also provide contingencies for additional costs associated with the ongoing pandemic, such as cleaning, and the reduced hire capacity. The group has indicated that these funds are earmarked towards ongoing maintenance projects and for unexpected emergencies. The funds also provide contingencies for additional costs associated with the ongoing pandemic, such as cleaning, and the reduced hire capacity.

The tenancy agreement for the Community Centre replaced the previous arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties, the rent was assessed at £3,000 per annum. The Stapleford Community Association has suggested that it has only limited financial resources and would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has previously supported Stapleford Community Association with grants towards its premises rental. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£3,000
2018/19	£3,000
2017/18	£3,000
2016/17	£3,000

For 2020/21, Stapleford Community Association has requested a similar grant of £3,000 to cover the rental of the Community Centre on Cliffe Hill Avenue in Stapleford. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget.

Caring Organisations

4. BROXTOWE WOMEN'S PROJECT

Established in 2001, Broxtowe Women's Project Limited (BWP) is a voluntary organisation that provides a unique, community-led service offering a range of high-quality domestic abuse outreach and awareness services in response to local needs. The BWP vision is that women and their families who are affected by domestic abuse in Broxtowe are empowered to feel safe, to take control of their lives and to lead safer lives. BWP wants everyone in Broxtowe to have more awareness of all types of domestic abuse.

The main aims of BWP are to provide outreach support to women and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence and to provide advice, information, training, publicity and raising awareness for local agencies, individuals and community groups. BWP empower women to regain domestic control and lead independent, fulfilling, safe and positive lives. It nurtures children and young people affected by domestic violence to build resilience and understand healthy relationships and emotions. BWP challenge the stigma associated with domestic violence, advocating women, raising awareness and campaigning for an end to domestic violence.

BWP has grown and developed a range of services that support and empower women and their children to overcome the trauma of experiencing domestic violence and economic abuse. These services include outreach; drop-in support services, helpline; children's and young people's service, counselling, Freedom Programme and Freedom Forever training, befriending, partnership working, business training and support packages, legal surgery, volunteer programme, peer programme and wellbeing projects.

BWP provides an outreach service supported by specialist outreach workers and skilled therapeutic professionals. BWP advocates its service users who are often stigmatised, to navigate around financial or legal issues. The Covid-19 pandemic crisis has exacerbated existing domestic violence issues, with increased needs for BWP services continuing during this time. BWP is keen to ensure that it provides a longer-term exit strategy for vulnerable women and their families, including financial resilience and independence, mentoring and engagement strategies that move these women closer to the employment market.

In 2020 BWP received 200 referrals made through various channels, including self-referral, friends and family, CAB, Women's' Aid, children and young people, health, adult social care and others (these referrals do not include the numbers of women supported by the legal surgery or who contacted the support line). BWP aims to provide a quality service to women and to provide support as quickly as possible for them. The majority of referrals were received support on the day of referral, with the remainder largely being supported by the next day. All referrals were supported within two weeks of the referral.

Outcomes are monitored and the percentage of women that reported an increase in positive outcomes as a direct result of working with BWP during this period included client empowerment (86%), feeling safer (80%), minimised risk of harm (78%), skills increased (more informed) (76%), increased self-esteem (66%), improved mental health (58%), reduced isolation (53%), fled relationship (47%) and gained employment/training/ volunteering (30%). Furthermore, 31% of women were 'support ready' for moving onto well-being/counselling/befriending services after outreach. These outcomes provide a strong indication of the impact the BWP has had upon the lives of survivors with whom it works. It also indicates the importance of continually developing services such as the counselling to increase the positive outcomes for women.

BWP works in partnership with other service providers to help women with personal development and in changing their lives. BWP supports the Stapleford Focus Group and Eastwood South Focus Group action plan aligning with the priorities set and supported by the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership. Its active involvement in these groups highlights a commitment to working in partnership and dedication to improving the lives of survivors of domestic abuse.

BWP offers a free monthly legal surgery to women living in Broxtowe, providing legal advice on a wide range of civil matters such as child contact. Without this legal surgery, women would need to go into Nottingham to access these services and for many women who are being closely monitored by their perpetrator this is not feasible. The legal advice is offered by a domestic abuse specialist solicitor that understands the complexities involved.

BWP has successfully delivered 'Freedom Programmes' in Eastwood and Stapleford examining the roles, attitudes, beliefs and actions of abusive men in addition to the responses of victims and survivors. The aim was to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

BWP has developed a volunteer programme to extend its support to more women by offering services such as befriending once specialist support has ended. This is an opportunity for women to access excellent volunteer work experience and relevant training that will enable them to gain valuable work experience in the field. BWP has recruited volunteers to a variety of roles including trustee positions, awareness raising, fundraising, helpline and ambassador roles.

BWP is currently developing a training programme that will offer in-house training to its volunteers (as well as meeting training needs for partner organisations) on domestic abuse awareness and safeguarding. The training packages available will include accredited training.

BWP is developing its service for children affected by domestic abuse. This service offers outreach to children and young people including a therapeutic strand offering specialist counselling to those most at need.

As well as direct support, BWP consistently highlights issues of domestic abuse and is committed to improving knowledge and services for women and children to seek help and support. BWP has successfully delivered a number of campaigns, raising awareness around the impact of domestic and economic. BWP has previously worked in partnership with the Council on the White Ribbon Campaign.

BWP has submitted its latest financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for scrutiny. Financial activity is split between restricted and unrestricted funds. In the year, BWP generated total income of £200,742 mainly from grants and donations. The charity considers the majority of this funding to be restricted and significant grants were received from the Big Lottery Fund (£93,037), Children in Need (£38,894), Lloyds Bank Foundation (£25,000), The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (£9,994), QBE (£5,000) and this Council. Expenditure for the year amounted to £185,742 and mainly related to employee costs (£124,052 with £87,524 from restricted funds), activities and premises rental and room hire costs. The average number of employees during the year was six. BWP had overall cash and bank balances of £82,426 as at 31 March 2020, with unrestricted funds amounting to £32,046.

The project continues to apply to a range of funders for all aspects of its services and costs. Most funding is restricted to specific project costs. BWP recently applied to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Violence Reduction Unit to fund wellbeing activity that enables women to get closer to the labour market and young people understanding positive relationships and avoiding anti-social behaviour (outcome undetermined). The Big Lottery Fund for the Outreach Service, due to end in October 2021, has been extended until March 2022. Other funding has been received from Lloyds Invest (part fund an Outreach Worker), Children in Need (for a Children's Worker and Children's Therapist), Coalfields Regeneration Trust (for wellbeing groups in Eastwood). BWP also secured Covid-19 support funding from the Ministry of Justice, Nottinghamshire County Council and Lloyds Invest Covid-19 Response. This has enabled BWP to provide clinical supervision sessions to Outreach Workers who work with women in crisis and to buy equipment so that our staff are able to work safely from home without losing any service delivery or quality of support.

BWP add that it is difficult to access funding for core costs (rent, utilities etc.) so without the Council's support it is increasingly difficult to develop the service further and meet the needs of the service user.

The Council has supported BWP for many years with funding towards core costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were:

2019/20	£6,000
2018/19	£6,000

2017/18	£6,000
2016/17	£6,000

For 2020/21, BWP has requested a similar grant of £6,000 to meet its rental obligations and to contribute towards other core costs. Members should note that the grant aid policy requires that grant awards of £5,000 or above may be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

5. EASTWOOD PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

Eastwood People's Initiative is a registered charity that was formed in 1982 that serves Eastwood and the surrounding communities in north Broxtowe.

The objectives of the charity are for the relief of poverty, sickness and distress amongst the unemployed, those with low incomes, the homeless and individuals with a drugs dependency in the surrounding area. The charity also aims to advance the education and promote the benefit of local people.

Eastwood People's Initiative offers practical help and emotional support for any individual, with particular regard to people on low income or unemployed. The charity provides support aimed at improving self-confidence, developing social and practical skills and enhancing employment potential. To achieve this, the charity operates a community facility that provides computer and phone facilities, in addition to giving users with advice on welfare rights, finances and budgeting, employment and training.

The charity offers free weekly sessions for the community from its premises, which are attended by over 25 people. The core component of each session is the use of computer facilities for writing CV's and as an internet access point to online services, job, training and learning opportunities. The charity also has a free phone service for calls regarding jobs, benefits, housing and utilities. The sessions are supported by a team of volunteers, as the charity strives to develop as a community run facility. Over 3,000 people have visited the charity at its premises.

For the year ended 5 April 2020, Eastwood People's Initiative generated total receipts of £5,073 from grant aid, room hire, investment receipts and donations. Annual expenditure of £10,695 related to costs linked to the lottery grant received in an earlier year (£2,990), rent, ICT, telephone and utilities costs, professional/legal fees and other operating costs.

The net investments, bank and cash balances as at 5 April 2020 amounted to £95,311. Investments include the capital receipt from the sale of the bungalow on Seymour Road in 2018/19. The charity considered its options in terms of the capital receipt, with its Finance Committee agreeing to invest £90,000 in an ethical savings account that is estimated to provide a suitable rate of return that will sustain the charities balances for at least 10 years.

The charity state that with this investment and the ongoing support of the Council, its future looks financial sustainable.

Eastwood People's Initiative continues to operate from Council owned premises on Scargill Walk in Eastwood. There is a tenancy agreement in place with the rent assessed at £1,750 per annum as part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties.

The Council has regularly supported Eastwood People's Initiative with grants towards its operating costs. The grants awarded in the past four years being:

2019/20	£2,500
2018/19	£2,500
2017/18	£2,500
2016/17	£2,500

For 2020/21, Eastwood People's Initiative has requested a similar grant of £2,500 to cover the market rent and buildings insurance (£1,750) and other associated premises costs (£750). Any grant awarded in respect of the rental element would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget. Members should note that any additional award for the other operating costs will have to be funded from the grant aid budget.

Uniformed Groups

6. 2ND BEESTON SEA SCOUTS

The 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts was established in 1928 and is based at Lilac Grove in Beeston. The group serves the South West Notts Scout District, including Attenborough, Beeston South, Beeston Rylands and the west of Nottingham City. It currently has 95 members (including 70 junior members) with the majority living in Broxtowe.

The aim of the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts is to provide scouting activities, under the policy and rules of the Scout Association, with the speciality of water based activities such as canoeing, kayaking, rowing and sailing. The main activities of the group attempt to develop young people in life skills in many areas of physical, social and mental development. Water activities are held at the base on the River Trent at Barton Island.

For the year ended 31 December 2019, 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts generated receipts of £34,153 from subscriptions, grants, donations and fundraising activities. Total payments amounted to £34,899 and included premises expenses, such as heating and lighting and repairs and renewals, boat maintenance, youth programme activities (i.e. camps), purchase of equipment and capitation. The cash and bank balances at 31 December 2019 increased to £24,907, of which £15,775 is earmarked towards a headquarters new building fund.

As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties, the rental of the Lilac Grove premises was assessed at £1,750 per annum. This has been increased to £2,150 for 2020/21. The 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts

suggests that it has only limited financial resources and would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has regularly supported the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts with grant aid towards its rental obligations. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£1,750
2018/19	£1,750
2017/18	£1,750
2016/17	£1,750

For 2020/21 the 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts has requested a grant of £2,150 to cover the increased market rental of the Lilac Grove premises. This grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the potential award being matched by allowances within the premises income budget.

Disability Groups

7. BEESTON SHOPMOBILITY

Beeston Shopmobility has been operating since June 2001. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee that is independent of the Council.

The aim of Beeston Shopmobility is to enable people with temporary or permanent mobility difficulties the freedom of movement around Beeston town centre through the loan of disability aids, manual and powered wheel chairs and scooters. The scheme helps people with disabilities to lead more independent lives and often provides a welcome respite for carers. Mobility equipment can be used to access shops and services and enables users to socialise more frequently with friends in and around Beeston.

The charity is run by a team of unpaid volunteers. The scheme is normally open daily from Monday to Saturday each week throughout the year. In 2019 the scheme has 89 registered users and provided benefit to 70 Broxtowe residents. In a typical year there would be around 500 hirings, although numbers had fallen back in the summer 2020 to 54 users and an average of 20 hirings per week – clearly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The charity has 15 scooters and wheelchairs which can be hired for a charge of £1 per two hour hiring or £30 per week for a longer-term hiring.

Due to the significant impact of the pandemic, Beeston Shopmobility has been unable to provide its services for several months during the course of 2020. When the lockdown situation ends, and the town gets back to some normality, the group (and its trustees and volunteers) will have a fleet of well-maintained scooters and wheelchairs ready to call upon.

For the year ended 30 September 2020, the charity generated income of £8,732 from grant aid, fees and donations. Expenditure of £9,652 mainly

related to premises costs, insurances and equipment repairs. Cash at bank and in hand at 30 September 2020 was £10,146. It has been indicated that funds are partly earmarked towards the scooter replacement programme (units cost around £1,500 each).

Members will recall that in January 2018 that Beeston Shopmobility relocated from the Council owned Cavendish Lodge to Oban House on Chilwell Road. Oban House is privately owned and was leased in its entirety to Voluntary Action Broxtowe (VAB). Beeston Shopmobility was a sub-tenant at Oban House, paying an all-in rental of around £7,000 per annum.

Following the expiry of the lease at Oban House (through with VAB), Beeston Shopmobility has been looking for alternative accommodation in the town centre. An opportunity has arisen for the charity to take on the tenancy of the Council owned premises at 33-34 The Square, Beeston (previously occupied by Explore Learning).

The lease for this unit is due to be completed shortly (with similar rental terms) and the necessary works undertaken to convert this unit as necessary. These premises will provide the charity with an excellent location for its operations right in the centre of the town centre and next to the transport hub. Beeston Shopmobility has requested grant support towards its rental obligations and states that with only limited financial resources it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has supported Beeston Shopmobility for many years with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2019/20	£8,500
2018/19	£8,500
2017/18	£14,500 (including £6,000 internal rent)
2016/17	£9,650 (including £8,150 internal rent)

For 2020/21, Beeston Shopmobility has requested a grant of £8,500 for the cost of annual rental of premises at The Square (£7,000) and towards insurance cover and scooter servicing costs (£1,500). Any grant awarded in respect of the rental element would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget. Members should note that any additional award for the other operating costs will have to be funded from the grant aid budget.

Sports Clubs

8. BRAMCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Bramcote Cricket Club was founded in 1858 and is based at Bramcote Hills Park on Ilkeston Road in Bramcote. Bramcote Cricket Club provides an opportunity to play and watch cricket. The club currently runs a number of league cricket teams and has occasionally coached midweek junior teams.

The Club is open to anyone interested in playing or coaching cricket and currently has around 50 adult and 10 junior members, the majority of whom live in Bramcote, Beeston, Chilwell and the surrounding areas. In addition, a further 70 juniors regularly attend the club to play 'kwik-cricket', also supported by parent volunteers, and visiting clubs from Chilwell, Attenborough and Beeston also enjoy use of the Club's facilities.

Unlike some clubs in the region, Bramcote Cricket Club continues to experience strong participation, particularly amongst juniors who attend for coaching sessions. Some of these juniors have joined from larger clubs where, due to the numbers involved, they have been unable to receive one-to-one coaching. The club hopes to continue to provide this opportunity for juniors to participate in cricket.

Bramcote Cricket Club provided its draft financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 for scrutiny. These show income totalling £5,256 being mainly generated from subscriptions, match fees, bar sales, grants and sponsorship and other fundraising activities. Annual expenditure of £5,945 included bar expenses, ground equipment maintenance, playing equipment, pitch hire, rent, insurances and other running costs. Cash and bank balances as at 31 December 2020 are recorded as £9,934.

The figures above exclude a £10,000 grant received via the Council in April 2020 as part of the emergency Covid-19 funding in respect of the business premises. The club has confirmed receipt of this grant which had been transferred to a business reserve bank account. The draft accounts will be amended prior to approval and show increased financial reserves of £19,934.

The Council owns the clubhouse used by the Club on Bramcote Hills Park and as part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its properties the rent has been reassessed at £1,000 per annum following a rent review.

The Council has supported Bramcote Cricket Club for many years with grants towards its premises costs (including rental) and the occasional capital grant towards facilities and equipment. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£1,000
2018/19	£865
2017/18	£865
2016/17	£865 (plus £2,500 capital grant)

For 2020/21, Bramcote Cricket Club has requested a revenue grant of £1,000 towards the total cost of its annual rent obligations. This award would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget, leaving the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Miscellaneous Groups

9. BROXTOWE PLAY FORUM

Broxtowe Play Forum was established in 1983 and is based in Council owned premises at Montrose Court in Stapleford. Broxtowe Play Forum generates its membership from across the Borough and, in a typical year, around 130 local member groups and families use the facilities provided, supporting over 3,000 children and young people.

The primary aim of Broxtowe Play Forum is to support and encourage play in the borough and the group achieves this by providing play resources for children's groups. Broxtowe Play Forum also organises meetings at its premises, provides office services and craft workshop facilities and offers reasonably priced art and craft materials for sale in its play resource centre.

It is open to the general public on a Wednesday, holding a card making club for adults. Broxtowe Play Forum has also attended local play days and play events in partnership with the Arts and Events team.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2020 income totalling £10,621 was generated from grants, membership fees, equipment hire and resource sales. The grants received were from Nottinghamshire County Council (£3,000) and this Council. Total expenditure amounted to £11,328 and included rent and utilities, the purchase of resources and equipment and general running costs. Total cash funds as at 31 March 2020 amounted to £19,316.

Broxtowe Play Forum has occupied units at Montrose Court in Stapleford since 2014. As part of the Council's aim to secure market rental on its properties, the annual rent for the premises was assessed at £5,500. The group has limited financial resources and would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has supported Broxtowe Play Forum for many years with grants towards the cost of its rent obligations. The sums awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£5,500
2018/19	£5,500
2017/18	£5,500
2016/17	£5,500

For 2020/21, Broxtowe Play Forum has requested a similar grant of £5,500 towards the cost of its rent obligations. This grant would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Miscellaneous Category

10. DIG-IN COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The Dig-In Community Allotment scheme ('Dig-In') was established in 2004 and is based at the Albany Allotments on Pasture Road, Stapleford. Dig-In provides a facility for local groups and residents to grow fruit and vegetables and explore biodiversity and horticulture. It is the only community allotment of its kind in the area and through its development has built up trust with local people.

The aim of Dig-In is operating a sustainable community allotment where people of different ages and backgrounds come together to share skills, knowledge and experience of organic food growing in a friendly supportive environment. The scheme encourages its users to learn and develop skills by providing an opportunity to merge arts and horticulture in creative projects, run accredited courses, link with similar projects and encourage an understanding of 'garden to plate' ethos with cooking sessions. The project also holds events to celebrate growing and associated activities to encourage wider involvement.

Dig-In also aims to improve the health and wellbeing through its activities. It acts as a community hub for outdoor events and workshops which bring the local community together with a shared purpose. Combating social isolation, improving mental health and developing skills and knowledge are all integral to Dig-In and the reach it has into the communities around the Stapleford area

All activities are evaluated and this informs action planning for future events, workshops and sessions. The volunteers shape the Dig-In activities and growing sessions are tailored around needs of the group.

Dig-In is free and open to all (the project asks for donations at its events). Community groups and families use the site as a resource. Without this scheme many families would not access green spaces or be encouraged to growing healthy food on their own doorstep. The project welcomes volunteers from across the Borough as this not only strengthens the local community of Stapleford but offers a beneficial geographical diversity.

Dig-In is managed by a voluntary management committee made up of local residents, voluntary groups and local agencies/authorities. In 2019 the scheme has delivered:

- 98 volunteer sessions with an average of 10 volunteer attendees per session across the year (50 different volunteers and 2,056 hours).
- 20 gardening information sessions at the allotment with groups such as Albany Junior School, Wadsworth Fields Primary School, local Beavers,

Rainbows and Brownies groups and college groups, with these visits including 117 adults and 450 children.

- Delivered two annual events – a summer celebration and an autumn events which attracted 94 and 174 people respectively.
- Delivered six community workshops based around its lottery funding theme of “dig in for the future”. These were attended by 39 adults and 35 children with family sessions covering bird-feeders, plants for pollinators, pond-dipping, mini-beasts. bird-box making and insect homes for the winter.

Although the pandemic did impact on the planned events in 2020, Dig-In was still able to maintains a community hub for outdoor events and workshops (operating within Covid regulations) which brought the local community together with a shared purpose of combating social isolation and developing skills, knowledge and self-confidence.

For the year ended 29 February 2020, income totalling £11,439 was derived from grants and donations (including £10,563 in restricted grants – all external funding, including National Lottery Awards for All funding, is project specific). Expenditure of £12,325 related to wages (£8,151), activities and events, materials and other operating expenses. Stapleford Town Council supports the project by donating the three allotment plots for community use and as such no rental is charged. Cash and bank balances at 28 February 2020 amounted to £16,452 (the group state that this has reduced to £6,652 as at 7 December 2020). A limited amount of funding from the Big Lottery Awards for All remains to fund the remaining volunteer sessions until March 2021. The group is applying for new funding to start in April 2021 for its weekly sessions, workshops and public events for 2021/22.

The Council have supported the Dig-In Community Allotment for many years with grant aid towards its running costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2019/20	£495
2018/19	£515
2017/18	No application
2016/17	£515

For 2020/21 the Dig-In Community Allotment has requested an increased grant of £700 towards insurance premium (£271), water charges (£131), membership and affiliation fees (£40), web domain renewal and hosting (£78) and other ICT and mobile phone costs (£180).