

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,  
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,  
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2019/20**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 application received are included in appendix 1 for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2019/20 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for: Rent Awards and Other Commitments	44,850
Less: Grant Awards to Date	101,910
<b>BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION</b>	<u>22,040</u>

A summary of the grants awarded under delegated authority since June 2019 is included for information at appendix 2.

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2019/20 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total amounts requested in this report total £3,495. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £1,980 if all applications are fully supported.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- 1. CONSIDER the request in appendix 1 and RESOLVE accordingly.**
- 2. NOTE the grants awarded under delegated authority in appendix 2.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX 1

**APPLICATIONS**

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2019/20:

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2018/19</u> £	<u>Grant Request 2019/20</u> £
Beeston and District Local History Society	1	1,000	3,000
DIG-IN Community Allotment	2	515	495
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3,495</b>

**Miscellaneous Category**1. **BEESTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The Beeston and District Local History Society was formed in 1972 and currently has around 50 members with the majority of members living in Attenborough Beeston, Bramcote, Chilwell, Stapleford and Toton.

The main activities of the Society are related to the study and promotion of the history of the local area. The group organises regular meetings for people with an interest in the history of the area and encourage research into the past. These meetings typically include expert speakers on local history subjects. The Society also arranges local exhibitions of memorabilia (over 200 visitors to the Heritage Open Days, plus carnival displays, local library events etc.) relating to life in the area and occasionally produces a society magazine. The Society collects and preserves records, maps, newspaper cuttings, photographs and artefacts of the area and records changes to the environment, thus providing information for people carrying out local or family research.

The Society previously occupied storage rooms in Cavendish Lodge, which were rented from the Council with grant aid support. These rooms became unsuitable as there was not enough room for the Society to arrange displays or complete any work. In addition, access was difficult particularly when carrying heavy boxes. As a result, the Society moved to more suitable accommodation at Oban House on Chilwell Road in Beeston, which is rented from Voluntary Action Broxtowe. Unfortunately, the annual rental of £3,000 is becoming a heavy burden for the group, especially with dwindling membership and other constraints.

For the year ended 31 August 2018, income amounted to £3,743 which mainly related to grant aid, subscriptions and proceeds from the sale of books and magazines. Annual expenditure totalled £4,048 and was mainly in respect of premises rental, book printing, speakers' expenses and other running costs. The deficit was taken from cash and bank balances, which at 31 August 2018 amounted to £953. The Society also holds a restricted Museum Account, which had balances of £7,372.

The Council has supported the Beeston and District Local History Society for many years with grant aid towards its premises costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2018/19	£1,000
2017/18	No application
2016/17	£1,000
2015/16	£1,000

For 2019/20, the Beeston and District Local History Society has requested an increased grant of £3,000 for the cost of utilising a storage room at Oban House, which is rented from Voluntary Action Broxtowe. Members should note that the grant aid budget does not include any specific provision earmarked for the Beeston and District Local History Society and any grant awarded in respect of this application will have a direct impact on the balances available.

## 2. DIG-IN COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The DIG-IN Community Allotment scheme 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 2018 the scheme has delivered:

- 102 volunteer sessions with an average of nine volunteer attendees per session across the year.
- 13 produce distributions where surplus fruit and vegetables are given to local families at Albany Infants School, the food bank at the church on Montrose Court and Bramcote animal rescue (for expired produce).
- Two outreach sessions helping with weeding overgrown flower beds and planting a wheelbarrow which involved local schoolchildren.
- 20 gardening information sessions at Dig-In 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 104 adults and 6415 children.
- Delivered two annual events – the Summer Celebration and Harvest Festival which attracted over 100 local people
- Provided various community workshops attended by 36 people (of all ages) including family sessions, bird feeder, pond-dipping, sensory walk, painting and planting flower pots, general gardening and tasting produce.
- Four physical benefit sessions, where participants wore fitness trackers to monitor the health benefits of gardening tasks..

For the year ended 28 February 2019, income totalling £11,413 was derived from grants and donations. Expenditure of £9,019 related to wages (£6,525), 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 2019 had increased to £17,359 (the group state that this has reduced to £10,430 as at 4 August 2019). All external funding, including National Lottery Awards for All funding, is project specific.

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:

2018/19	£515
2017/18	No application
2016/17	£515
2015/16	£337

For 2019/20 the Dig-In Community Allotment has requested a grant of £495 towards insurance premium (£285), water charges (£132), membership and affiliation fees (£38) and web domain renewal and hosting (£40).

## APPENDIX 2

**DELEGATED AWARDS**

A summary of the grants awarded under delegated authority since June 2019 is included below. The Council's policy in respect of grant aid to voluntary organisations is to award the amount requested by the organisation or the maximum specified whichever is the lower. Additional consideration is given to groups who can demonstrate that they are meeting the particular needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

All requests under £250 are considered under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee. This includes applications from individuals involved with sport and the arts.

This Committee determines all requests for grants in excess of the £250 maximum.

**Groups**

Group	Total No. of Members	No. of Broxtowe Residents	Grant Award in 2018/19	Grant Award in 2019/20	Purpose of Grant Award
Age Concern Chilwell	24	24	£250	£250	Premises, insurances and transport costs.
The Friendship Club	20	20	£100	£100	General running costs.
Play and Praise Toddler Group	40	Majority	£100	£100	General running costs.