

## **CABINET - THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2023**

### **Report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing Lead Member Communities and Neighbourhoods**

#### **Part A**

#### CHARNWOOD GRANTS

##### Purpose of Report

To enable Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round one of the Community Facilities and Community Grants programme for 2023/24.

##### Recommendations

1. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:
  - £3,409 to Anstey St Mary's Parochial Church Council towards church rooms roof and heating refurbishment
  - £2,500 to Barrow upon Soar Community Association towards ramp and railings for Library to comply with DDA regulations
  - £8,700 to Burton on the Wolds Village Hall Renovations towards installation of new toilets and kitchen
  - £5,000 Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club towards improving disability access
  - £1,750 to Newtown Linford Tennis Club towards improving disability access
  - £7,500 to South Croxton Village Hall towards improving community facility accessibility
  
2. That the following Community Grants be awarded:
  - £2,000 to St Mary's Grub Club towards school holidays club including free meals. £1,000 awarded through Community Grants (Loughborough) and £1,000 from Cost of Living Grant
  - £2,500 to The Walk & Talk Group towards mental health & wellbeing social group
  - £2,500 to Charnwood Ukrainian Community Association towards Ukrainian community social & educational group

- £2,400 to The Arc Community Hub towards young person's social & life-skills support
- £3,000 to Love4Life towards young person's social & life-skills support (Awarded from Loughborough Grant)
- £3,000 to African Oasis towards Shelthorpe community garden & aquaponics project (Awarded from Loughborough Grant)
- £1,500 to The Baldwin Trust towards canal boat communications system
- £3,600 to Charnmac towards face to face debt counselling & support. £2,100 awarded through Community Grants and £1,500 from Cost of Living Grant
- £3,000 to Passion towards young person's social & life-skills support
- £2,500 to Age Concern Syston towards information & social support for the elderly
- £2,500 to PACE towards mental health counselling
- £2,500 to Shepshed Toy Library towards healthy eating & recycling project for children

3. That the following Community Grant applications be declined as unsuccessful:

- The Rectory Wildlife Gardeners request for gardening equipment
- Charnwood Arts request for dementia arts project
- Upstarts Gymnastics Club request for Gymnast's coaching training
- Loughborough Town Rugby Club request for girl's participation project
- Ulverscroft Camera Club requests for camera equipment
- Falcon Support Services request for mental health first aid training
- Spectrum Sensory Sports request for activities coaching & delivery
- Arthritis Support Leicestershire request for arthritis information & social support

- Charnwood Eco Hub request for a sustainability event
  - St John Ambulance request for first aid training for young people
4. That the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Grants.

#### Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants programme.
2. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Grants programme.
3. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Grants programme.
4. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the project.

#### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 makes a commitment to deliver high quality living with a range of services to meet the needs of our diverse community. It makes a commitment to support our communities by delivering a range of services which not only help residents, but also empowers them to make a positive difference in their local areas and that community cohesion will remain a priority. In addition, it wants residents to live healthy and active lifestyles and to offer services to improve wellbeing, either directly or with our partners.

At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed the revised Charnwood Community Grants, Community Facilities and Member Grants schemes following the 2021/22 budgets for the grant's schemes being agreed at Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The previous grants schemes (Community Development and Engagement, Loughborough grants and the Sports grants) were reviewed and changes made, resulting in a proposed new combined grants scheme called Charnwood Community Grants. The Community Facilities Grant scheme was revised, removing the Feasibility study and allowing for the inclusion of certain sports related projects

#### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

The Community Facilities Grants and Community Grants considered in this report will be released, providing they are approved, once the applicants have met any required pre-payment grant conditions. Grant payment terms will be on a grant-by-grant basis, depending on the nature of the organisation / project and level of grant awarded. Payment may be made in stages, and copy invoices, or proof of project expenditure, requested.

## Report Implications

### **Financial Implications**

#### *Community Facilities Grant Funding*

The Community Facilities Grants budget allocated in the 2023-2024 Capital Plan was £50,000. The opening balance for Round One 2023/24 was £50,000. Six applications were received for funding in Round One 2023/24, and six grants were awarded at a total of up to £28,859 by the grants panel, and therefore the balance remaining for future rounds of the Community Facilities Grants scheme is £21,141.

#### *Community Grant Funding*

The 2023/24 budget for Community Grants is £50,000 which includes £15,900 ringfenced for Loughborough focused projects.

This report recommends that twelve applications are supported through the Community Grants scheme in Round One totalling £28,500, (£7,000 from the Loughborough grant). Two of applications will also be referred for additional funding through the Cost-of-Living fund. That ten applications were unsuccessful as they didn't score high enough are declined. That the 10 applications that were ineligible for funding as they didn't meet the criteria, are not submitted to Cabinet for consideration. Leaving a balance of £21,500 for Round Two, of which £8,900 is ringfenced for Loughborough projects.

It was identified that two of the applications that were received in this round could be additionally supported through the Cost-of-Living fund that has been established to help fund VCS organisations that are supporting individuals and families in the community who are impacted by the increased cost of living. Officers will liaise with those projects identified.

There have been two pressures on this round of funding 1) over-subscription in that the total value of applications is far higher than the total value of funds available to allocate and the need to ensure grant money is available for those that apply in Round Two. 2) there were a number of applications to support new emerging needs including those affecting the more vulnerable members of the borough and those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition, a full Grants Table Summary has been completed and attached at Appendix 1.

### **Risk Management**

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

| Risk Identified           | Likelihood | Impact    | Overall Risk | Risk Management Actions Planned           |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| Grants do not deliver the | Remote (1) | Minor (1) | Very Low (1) | The grants have been assessed against the |

| Risk Identified                 | Likelihood | Impact | Overall Risk | Risk Management Actions Planned   |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------|---|
| objectives of the Grants scheme |            |        |              | criteria and will be supported with appropriate monitoring information. |

### ***Equality and Diversity***

There is a requirement in the grants criteria for each organisation that applies to either have their own Equal Opportunities Policy or provide a statement that the organisation will abide by the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached at Appendix 2.

### ***Climate Change and Carbon Impact***

None identified.

### ***Crime and Disorder***

Many of the grants awarded support the provision of activities and programmes for both children, young people and adults which contribute towards reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour through the provision of diversionary activity and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

### ***Wards Affected***

All wards.

### ***Publicity Arrangements***

Not applicable.

### ***Consultations***

Not applicable.

### **Links to the Corporate Strategy**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Caring for the Environment | Yes |
| Healthy Communities        | Yes |
| A Thriving Economy         | Yes |
| Your Council               | Yes |

Key Decision:

Y

Date included on Forward Plan 07/06/2023

Background Papers: None

Officer to contact: Verity Graham  
Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Manager  
[verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk)

## Part B

### Charnwood Grants Criteria

1. At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed the revised Charnwood Community Grants scheme following the 2021/22 budgets for the grant schemes being agreed at Cabinet on the 11 February 2021. The previous grants schemes (Community Development and Engagement, Loughborough grants and the Sports grants) were reviewed and changes made, resulting in a proposed new combined grants scheme called Charnwood Community Grants.
2. The main criteria include the following:
  - maximum grant award of £5000
  - criteria have been amended to make it accessible to sports clubs and sports organisations
  - provides funding for projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector
3. The application form has been shortened and been devised to ensure that only relevant questions are asked. The associated assessment process has been adapted to ensure that the scoring system is directly related to the questions on the application form, with each question having a maximum score of 5. The Grants Panel will assess the applications and score against each of the questions, with a maximum score of 35.
4. The scoring and assessment process allows the Grants Panel members to provide an overall score of the application itself as well as provide additional comments based on the knowledge they have of groups, emerging issues in the sector or localities as well as things they have picked out from the application which can be brought to the meeting for discussion.

It is proposed that the level of score achieved will reflect the level of grant recommended. A low score will result in no award being recommended, a medium score will result in some of the grant applied for being awarded, with high scoring applications receiving most, if not all the funding applied for.

| Score        | Level of funding                   |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Low score    | Nil                                |
| Medium score | Some of grant funding applied for  |
| High score   | Most or all of funding applied for |

### Community Facilities Grants

5. At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed to the revised Charnwood Community Facilities Grants scheme. The Community Facilities Grant scheme was revised, removing the Feasibility study and small environmental project elements, and allowing for the inclusion of certain sports related projects.
6. The criteria include the following:

- That the maximum amount awarded would be £20,000 for projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - Inclusion of sports clubs and sports organisations who previously were not able to access this grants scheme.
7. Schemes are scored using an assessment matrix which looks for:
- Well-prepared schemes, with a realistic costing of the work, and projects that are well targeted, have good local support and strong input from volunteers.
  - Projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - Applications from organisations with a strong local base and full accessibility to the community.
  - The need of the community for the facility and the need of the organisation for the funding.
8. The assessment matrix produces a maximum score of 100. A scheme scoring below 30 on the matrix is recommended for refusal and the Grants Panel will provide feedback to the community organisation on the reasons why it was not successful. Where a scheme scores between 30 and 40 on the first assessment the Grants Panel will work with the community organisation to see whether the bid can be improved and strengthened. Schemes scoring 40 and above are normally recommended for approval. However, applicants seeking a large grant which scores only just over 40 are advised that they may only receive part of the money they have applied for.

### **Community Facilities Grant Applications**

9. Six applications were received for the Community Facilities Grants in Round One for 2023/24. The applications were assessed against the grants criteria and six applications were recommended for funding.

### **Anstey St Mary's Parochial Church Council**

10. The objects of the organisation are to ensure St Mary's Church Rooms are maintained in an environmentally friendly way, to a modern, efficient standard so that the facilities are available for the use and social wellbeing of the community helping Anstey to be a Healthy Community.
11. The application is for funding towards the Church Rooms roof and heating refurbishment to bring the roof of the small hall and the heating system to a modern, efficient standard. This supports Charnwood's Healthy Community Plan.
12. The project will benefit:
- Friday Coffee Mornings attended by mainly older people, many of whom live alone and welcome the company of others. Several have limited mobility and are able to use buggies to travel to the group.



- Tuesday Food Bank, a hub of Soar Valley Food Bank, helping over thirty households who are struggling financially by providing food parcels. Advice is available from trained volunteers.
  - Tea and Craft Group providing friendship to all attendees.
13. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Church Rooms will once more be a dry, warm, welcoming building.
  - Church Rooms can continue to be used for groups that support the marginalised and the wellbeing of all members of the community.
  - Church Rooms will once again be available for greater use by the Church and for groups and individuals to hire thus reducing the inequality that exists at present with the lack of availability of community facilities.
14. The application of £3,409 is for 50% of the total project costs of £6,818
15. The Panel scored this application at 46.1 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,409 be awarded towards the cost of a new roof.
16. The Panel feel that the organisation provided good evidence of need for protecting the church rooms existing community use and where additional use is expected because of the refurbishments. Although there are other community facilities in Anstey none are on a par with the church rooms in terms of size, accessibility and variety of use. For these reasons and the high score, the panel recommends a full award.

### **Barrow upon Soar Community Association**

17. BUSCA is an umbrella organisation that manages Barrow library on behalf of Leicestershire County Council and is independent of it financially. The organisations aims and objectives are to run a successful and totally inclusive library service for Barrow and the surrounding villages as well as providing a community hub for wider activities.
18. The application is for funding towards the installation of a stainless-steel ramp and railings that fully comply with the relevant regulations. This will help to make Barrow library truly accessible to people with mobility issues. It will also make it possible for people with young children to enter the library safely without having to walk along the narrow passage, which is also a driveway, to the main front door. It will also be appreciated by people entering the library to attend classes (e.g. yoga, Pilates, craft) who tend to be laden with equipment.
19. The project will benefit anyone with mobility difficulties, of any age. Families with small children. Users with equipment.
20. The project outcomes include:
- Improved access to a community facility.
  - Improved access to service and activity information.
  - Increased activities to reduce social isolation.

21. The application of £2,500 is for 50% of the total project costs of £5,000.
22. The panel scored this application at 45.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded towards new disabled access.
23. The Panel feel that new disabled access is vital for this well-used community library and is happy with the Leicestershire County Council's confirmation regarding security of tenure. The application scored high and is therefore recommended a full award.

### **Burton on the Wolds Village Hall Renovations**

24. The aim of the organisation is to provide a community hub facility for the use of the villagers for meetings, classes and family gatherings.
25. The application is for funding towards the installation of new toilets / washroom and a kitchen, which will include improved disabled access.
26. The project will benefit all residents in the village including those attending the playgroup, befriending group, regular coffee and cake mornings, the gardening club, salsa, boxercise and yoga classes.
27. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
  - Improved and more accessible community space.
  - Increased opportunity to reduce social isolation.
  - Increased interest and use by a more youthful audience with children's groups, sports, children's parties.
  - Increased revenue towards being more financially sustainable.
28. The application of £13,688 is for 50% of the total project costs of £27,376.
29. The panel scored this application at 40.1 and recommends that a grant of up to £8,700 be awarded towards toilet / washroom refurbishment.
30. The Panel recognises the value of the village hall as the only community facility for local residents and community groups and is key to their support. The panel recommend a partial award for the applicant to prioritise as they require towards the refurbishments.

### **Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club**

31. The organisation's aim is to progress all member tennis journeys, and those of the wider community, whilst developing the sport as a year-round one, not just a summer one.
32. The application is for funding towards new floodlights, change existing floodlights to LED and 3 clay court installations.

33. The project will benefit children and young people and anyone with physical and learning disability and visual impairment.

34. The project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved and more accessible sports facility.
- Increased opportunities to develop additional use by children and young people.
- Increased use by those with disabilities.
- Increased access to wheelchair tennis.

35. The application of £15,000 is for 16.4% of the total project costs of £91,420.

36. The panel scored this application at 40.1 and recommends that a grant of up to £5,000 be awarded toward creating a more disability accessible facility.

37. The panel recognises the club's unique commitment to inclusive tennis and wider-community benefit in Charnwood and so would like to recommend an award towards improving disability access. The award is not for general maintenance of club facilities.

### **Newtown Linford Tennis Club**

38. The organisation's aim is to be a community hub, both a meeting place and providing access to outdoor tennis and therefore improving physical and mental wellbeing.

39. The application is for funding towards a new path for disabled access, resurfacing of courts, repair of broken and dangerous edges court surrounding (including broken posts).

40. The project will benefit local students with autism and other special needs, an after-school tennis club for up to twenty pupils at the local primary school. The extension of our community work to Wellness tennis, with GPs and Health centers referring patients to us in the future.

41. The project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved and more accessible sports facility.
- Increased opportunities to develop additional use by children and young people with special needs.
- Increased use by those with disabilities.
- Increased wider-community use and benefits of playing tennis.

42. The application of £14,800 is for 50% of the total project costs of £29,600.

43. The panel scored this application at 36.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,750 be awarded towards improving disabled access.

44. The panel recognises the club's commitment to local community engagement however, the applicant has not sufficiently demonstrated a level of wider-community benefit required to score higher. The panel would like to support improvements to disability access and recommend an award towards that. The award is not for general maintenance of the club.

### **South Croxton Village Hall**

45. The organisation's key aims are to provide community facilities and activities for the inhabitants of South Croxton village.

46. The application is for funding towards a new path that will allow easier physical and disabled access to the only green space and recreation area in the village and that is immediately adjacent the village hall.

47. The project will benefit all residents in the village and wider-community in the south of the borough in particular the elderly and others with mobility issues, families with babies and toddlers.

48. The project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved accessibility to green space and recreation area.
- Increased use by those with disabilities and mobility issues.
- Increased opportunities to reduce social isolation.
- Increased opportunities for new revenue from village hall use / hire.

49. The application of £7,500 is for 50% of the total project costs of £15,000

50. The panel scored this application at 41.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £7,500 be awarded towards new disabled access.

51. The panel noted that no community grants have been made in recent years to communities in the most rurally isolated parts of South Charnwood and where community facilities are not available in every village. South Croxton village hall is the hub of a small but diverse community and other villages close by where lack of access to an adjacent green space and recreation area seriously affects residents' opportunities to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. The panel are recommending a full award.

### **Community Grant Scheme Applications**

52. Thirty-two applications were received for funding in Round One for 2023/24. Ten applications were ineligible and not scored by the panel but will be offered feedback and funding advice and support by the Voluntary and Community Support Officer. Twenty-two applications have therefore been assessed against the criteria. Twelve applications have been recommended for approval, and ten were unsuccessful as they didn't score high enough and are recommended for decline.

There have been two pressures on this round of funding  
1) over-subscription in that the total value of applications is far higher than the

total value of funds available to allocate and the need to ensure grant money is available for those that apply in Round Two.

2) there were additional applications to support new emerging needs including those more vulnerable members of the borough and those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

As a result of these pressures, the Grants Panel agreed to give priority to requests that provided wider community support to more vulnerable groups and/or support to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on VCS organisations and those they support. Therefore, some applications either received a lower award or were unsuccessful and declined.

When allocating the grant amount the panel also considered the need to ensure that the grant awarded would support the projects viability and enable them to start or continue to offer their services.

### **St Mary's Grub Club**

53. The aim of the organisation is to support families on low income the opportunity to come together and experience a range of craft, art and physical activities as well as receiving a hot nourishing mid-day meal three times a week for a period of at least four weeks during the summer break and on two occasions during half term breaks.

54. The application is for funding towards the 'Holiday Food & Fun' project during the May, summer and October school breaks.

55. The project will benefit children from nine schools within Loughborough: Cobden Street, Robert Bakewell, St Mary's, Sacred Heart, Loughborough C of E, Beacon Academy, Thorpe Acre Junior, Mountfields Lodge and Outwoods Edge.

56. The project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased provision of a nourishing meal to children disadvantaged by poverty / low incomes.
- Reduced pressure on families to replace free school meals during holiday periods.
- Increased opportunities to reduce social isolation.

57. The application of £2,000 is for 63.5% of the total project costs £3,660.

58. The Panel scored this application at 30.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded.

59. The Panel recognises the importance of this work in supporting children and families struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis in areas of high deprivation. The Panel would like to continue supporting this club and so a full award is recommended.

### **The Walk & Talk Group**

60. The organisation aims to support vulnerable adults with their mental health and wellbeing, no matter what their circumstances are.
61. The application is for funding towards the general running cost of weekly walk and talk sessions in and around Loughborough.
62. The project will benefit people suffering with mental health problems including Bipolar, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome, autism and to prevent suicide. GP Social Prescribers have a new source of support to refer clients.
63. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
  - Improved mental health and wellbeing amongst vulnerable adults.
  - Improved physical health.
  - Reduced social isolation.
  - Improved access to sources and information and support.
64. The application of £3,319 is for 100% of the total project costs.
65. The Panel scored this application at 29.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
66. The Panel feel this group is responding to a growing need for local level, very simple but important activity that has high impact particularly around mental health. It is well networked with and has received very good endorsements from local health care providers. The Panel recommends a partial award towards the setup and running costs of the group.

### **Charnwood Ukrainian Community Association**

67. The aim of the organisation to support Ukrainian refugees in Charnwood with the daily challenges they may face and helping them to smoothly integrate into local community.
68. The application is for funding towards the start-up costs of the Community Association and a programme of activities to provide services for Ukrainian refugees to ensure their smooth integration into the local Charnwood community and increase resilience and a sense of belonging in both Ukrainian and local community through a range of social and educational activities.
69. The project will benefit Ukrainian refugee adults and families with children and the wider-communities of Charnwood.
70. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
  - Reducing social isolation for vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Charnwood and rurally isolated communities.
  - Improving mental wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees and enhancing their integration with the local community.

- Increased provision of a safe space for Ukrainians to gather and be supported.
- Increased participation in cultural activities is becoming a part of the integration process.
- Facilitation of the employment rate increase among Ukrainian Refugees.

71. The application of £3,920 is for 79.6 of the total project costs £4,920.
72. The Panel scored this application at 28.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
73. The Panel recognises the need for this new group supporting Ukrainian refugees in Charnwood and the positive impact it will have on their lives, socially, educationally and through community integration. The Panel would like to support with an award towards the start-up of the group and a programme of activities.

### **The Arc Community Hub**

74. The aim of the organisation is to provide a centre for the residents of Shelthorpe and Grange Park to come together and build community by engagement, connection, contact and inclusion for all members of the community and host a of services, voluntary and community groups.
75. The application is for funding to continue the Arc Youth Group supporting young people on the 2 estates providing a focus and safe space to develop skills and avoid falling into anti-social behaviour patterns.
76. The project will benefit young people aged 10-13 most at risk of making poor life-choices, being involved with gangs and anti-social behaviour.
77. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Improving life chances for disadvantaged/disengaged young people.
  - Improving physical and mental wellbeing for disadvantaged/disengaged young people.
  - Improving quality of life for local residents by reducing anti-social behaviour.
  - Improving community cohesion and a sense of ownership of the local area.
78. The application of £3,672 is for 50% of the total project costs £7,344.
79. The Panel scored this application at 28.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,400 be awarded.
80. The Panel recognises this is important work engaging and supporting 'hard to reach' disadvantaged young people. It is establishing a base for Go-Getta's detached work that is successfully maintaining levels of anti-social behaviour in a priority neighbourhood. The Panel recommends a partial award in support of the project.

## **Love4Life**

81. The organisation aims to support vulnerable girls to develop their self-esteem and form positive and empowering relationships.
82. The application is for funding towards the cost of delivering support groups at Fearon Hall Group in Loughborough and The Arc in Shelthorpe.
83. The project will benefit 11–18-year-olds who identify as girls/were born female to navigate the specific challenges associated with being female, dealing with body image, social media and navigating friendships and those experiencing high levels of socioeconomic deprivation.
84. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
  - Improved health and wellbeing.
  - Improved life chances of disengaged young people.
  - More self-confident and resilient to make positive life choices.
  - Increased opportunity to make new friends, develop social skills/circles.
  - Improved access to much-needed support and advice.
  - Improved access to honest, age-appropriate Relationship and Sex Education.
85. The application of £4,505 is for 90.1% of the total project costs £5,005.
86. The Panel scored this application at 27.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded.
87. The Panel feel this organisation is providing specialist support that is having a positive impact on the mental and emotional wellbeing of young people in two areas of high deprivation. It is well networked with key support agencies and is producing excellent results through the 'Safer Streets' programme. The Panel recommends a partial award towards the continuation of the project.

## **African Oasis**

88. The aim of the organisation is to improve incomes, business opportunities, enhance the health, lives, livelihoods, of marginalized communities and to overcome the hardship they experience, and to create a better and just world for everyone and for the next generation.
89. The application is for funding towards the start-up costs of a new Shelthorpe Urban Farm project which will include a community garden and aquaponics at a CBC owned garden in Shelthorpe.



90. The project will benefit all residents in Shelthorpe through community gardening and aquaponics activities and access to free / low costs produce they produce.
91. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Introduction of a new way to grow food locally, which will help empower communities to grow large amounts of fresh, organic, nutritious vegetables, herbs, micro greens, edible flowers and fruits.
  - Inspire children, young people and families to 'grow their own'.
  - Contribution to less food mileage, less carbon emissions.
  - Reduce the impact on the environment by not using chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
  - Reduction in inequalities within deprived communities through learning about healthy food production.
  - Increased community engagement and cohesion.
92. The application of £4,870 is for 100% of the total project costs.
93. The Panel scored this application at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded.
94. The Panel recognises this is a unique opportunity to support the creation of a 'cutting edge' environmental enterprise in Charnwood. The organisation has demonstrated they have the technical ability required for the project and that they have community interest through consultation with Shelthorpe residents. The Panel recommend a partial award to support the start-up of the community garden and first phase of the aquaponics.

### **The Baldwin Trust**

95. The organisation aims to provide narrowboat cruises on Charnwood river and canal waterways, with accessible ramp and lift access for community, friends and family groups who may be experiencing mental health difficulties, social isolation, exclusion as well as mobility issues.
96. The application is funding towards a new canal cruise communication system which will allow safety messages and information about the Trust to be displayed, as well as providing the capability of sharing the outside view and sounds as the narrowboat cruise takes place for people with sight and hearing issues.
97. The project will benefit people of all ages living with sight and hearing issues wanting to take part in social activities through canal cruises.
98. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Increased opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in social activities.

- Improving mental wellbeing through providing access to beautiful tranquil waterways at the slower pace narrowboat cruising allows.
  - Reducing social isolation and building communities, both by providing trips to vulnerable community groups, and through the volunteer network the Baldwin Trust has built.
99. The application of £2,514 is for 71.5% of the total project costs £3,514.
100. The Panel scored this application at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,500 be awarded.
101. The Panel feel this organisation specialises in providing disabled access to Charnwood's canals and waterways and is well-placed to deliver this project. It is an innovative approach to enabling people with sight and hearing issues to take part in new social and educational activities. The Panel recommends a partial award.

### **Charnmac**

102. The organisation's aim is to provide free face to face debt solutions, increasing financial capability skills, looking at budgeting, increasing income, decreasing expenditure so people can not only get debt free but stay debt free.
103. The application is for funding towards the start-up and general running costs of a base in Charnwood.
104. The project will benefit anyone requiring support with debt advice and management solutions. Especially, those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
105. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Increasing mental and physical health by lowering money worries.
  - Impacting thriving economy with increased financial capability skills.
  - Reducing social isolation and connecting to services.
  - Lowering debt levels in the borough.
  - Increasing disposable income for the community.
  - Contributing to keeping families together by lowering stress levels with money worries.
  - Decreasing suicides locally / connection with debt and suicide levels
106. The application of £5,000 is for 21.5% of the total project cost £23,230.
107. The Panel scored this application at 26.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,600 be awarded.
108. The Panel recognises this organisation will provide an important type of debt advice support that is in addition to and 'dovetails' with existing providers in Charnwood. It is replicating a successful model that has operated for many years in Melton Mowbray in response to an increase in demand because of the ongoing cost of living crisis. The Panel recommends a partial award towards establishing the project.

## **Passion**

109. The organisation aims to provide a safe, non-judgemental, open-door service to vulnerable young people of Shepshed and surrounding areas. To empower young people to realise their potential, to gain the skills to obtain employment.
110. The application is for funding towards the general running costs of the organisation.
111. The project will benefit vulnerable young people at risk of exclusion from education, making poor life-choices and becoming involved with gangs and anti-social behaviour. It will assist with academic achievement, life skills and offer food to those that otherwise would go without.
112. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
  - Reducing social isolation for vulnerable people and rurally isolated communities.
  - Improving life opportunities for disadvantaged/disengaged young people.
  - Provide stable and consistent support to young people.
  - To offer a safe place to young people in the local area.
  - To offer support and guidance to young people.
  - To provide a safe, supported place to endorse intergenerational work in the community.
113. The application of £5,000 is for 5.7% of the total project cost £86,914.
114. The Panel scored this application at 26.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded.
115. The Panel feel it is important to continue supporting the valuable work of this organisation with disengaged and vulnerable young people in Shepshed and surrounding areas. Uniquely, it has a bespoke building that provides a safe space and opportunities for positive activities. It can demonstrate how the young people engage with local residents and how its work has reduced levels of anti-social behaviour. The Panel recommends a partial award towards the ongoing costs of the organisation.

## **Age Concern Syston**

116. The organisation's aim is to provide a variety of services to support the health and wellbeing of the elderly community in Syston in surrounding villages.
117. The application is for funding towards 6-months general running costs.
118. The project will benefit those supported through:
  - Face to face and telephone advice and befriending.
  - Coffee mornings.
  - Art and craft sessions.

- Armchair exercises.
  - Singing groups.
  - Outings and assisted support.
119. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Improved independence, live independently for as long as possible.
  - Improved mentally and physically well-being.
  - Increase opportunities to reduce social isolation.
120. The application of £5,000 is for 34.4% of the total project £14,510.
121. The Panel scored this application at 25.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
122. The Panel feel that this organisation is providing important social and information support to elderly people in and around Syston. It provides an impressive calendar and variety of support which is only possible with their dedicated and large team of volunteers. The Panel would like to support the continuation of this organisation and so recommend a partial award.

### **PACE (ProActive Community Endeavors)**

123. The organisation aims to help build a healthy community by providing services that address the physical, mental, emotional and social needs of those within our community. We aim to reach out to the vulnerable, those who are excluded, disadvantaged, the hurting and the general public.
124. The application is for funding towards the general running costs of PACE's Counselling Service.
125. The project will benefit those experiencing challenges with their mental health and emotional well-being, those who are elderly, lonely, parents and grandparents, those experiencing financial hardships, families and young people, adults with learning difficulties and their careers and people who are out of work for a variety of reasons.
126. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
- Improving emotional wellbeing through accessible professional counselling.
  - Reducing further isolation caused by mental health and poor emotional wellbeing due to not being able to access services.
  - Increasing opportunities for those on a low income to access professional counselling.
  - Supporting someone holistically due to PACE counselling only being one element of the service provided, enabling referrals in-house for other services.
  - Reducing isolation by being able to support a client to access other groups and activities within the charity that will support them in connecting with others.

127. The application of £5,000 is for 55.8% of the total project £8,950.
128. The Panel scored this application at 25 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
129. The Panel recognises this organisation's diverse and holistic approach in support of communities across Loughborough and other areas of Charnwood. There has been a massive post-pandemic increase in demand for counselling from people struggling with mental ill-health and compounded by the ongoing cost of living crisis. The Panel recommend a partial award towards counselling support.

### **Shepshed Toy Library**

130. The organisation aims to support child development through play by offering a range of quality toys to children of all socioeconomic backgrounds and abilities for recreation, therapy and education advancing their intellectual, motor, personal and social development.
131. The application is for funding towards general running and new project costs for arts and crafts sessions and educational activities centred on the importance of recycling and healthy eating.
132. The project will benefit under 5's and their families affected by poverty, low incomes, cost of living crisis and geodemographic disadvantage.
  - Increase awareness of the benefits of healthy eating and recycling.
  - Reduce social isolation and improve community cohesion by offering a consistent programme of activities for children and families.
  - Increased access to arts and crafts activities to relieve stress, promote calmness, encourage self-expression and self-regulation.
133. The application of £5,000 is for 74.1% of the total project £6,740.
134. The Panel scored this application at 25 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
135. The Panel recognises the long-standing and highly valued contribution the toy library has made to children and families in and around Shepshed. Parents are under increasing economic pressure to provide ideal toys and play activities during the ongoing cost of living crises. The Panel would like to support the continuation of this work and so recommend a partial award.
136. The following ten applications were unsuccessful as they didn't score high enough and are recommended for decline
  - The Rectory Wildlife Gardeners scored 24.8
  - Upstarts Gymnastics Club scored 24.6
  - Charnwood Arts scored 24.6

- Loughborough Rugby Football Club scored 24.2
- Ulverscroft Camera Club scored 24.2
- Falcon Support Services scored 23.8
- Spectrum Sensory Sports scored 22.5
- Arthritis Support Leicestershire scored 21.2
- Charnwood Eco Hub scored 20.2
- St John Ambulance scored 18

137. The following applications were ineligible and did not meet the grants criteria:

- Act One Theatre Group did not meet our criteria for wider-community benefit.
- Bradgate Rotary Club did not meet our criteria for financial need for a grant.
- Generation Youth did not meet our criteria for wider-community benefit.
- Girlguiding Birstall's request was for capital funding.
- Hind Leys Preschool did not meet our criteria for wider-community benefit.
- Leisure Outdoors Pursuit Centre did not meet our criteria for the benefit of Charnwood residents.
- Mountfields Lodge PSA did not meet our criteria for wider-community benefit.
- Sunrise Wellbeing Partnership did not meet our criteria for wider-community benefit.
- The Generator Project could not demonstrate who would benefit during the lifetime of the grant.
- Zamazama Unlimited did not provide the relevant supporting documents to meet our eligibility criteria.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 Grants Summary Table

Appendix 2 Grants EIA