



Meeting: Finance and Administration Committee

Date: 25th February 2025

Author: Town Clerk

Item For Consideration: Community Grant Scheme

1.0 Purpose of the report and Background information

1.1 To provide background information to the applications at the February 2025 Community Grant Scheme meeting, to assist Councillors make decisions.

1.2 The purpose of the award scheme is to provide financial support to bring positive change to local organisations who can:

- Provide and develop facilities and services that are accessible, inclusive and promote health and wellbeing.
- Play an active role in the future development of the cultural or economic welfare of the town through collaboration with stakeholders.
- Help to create a future that is carbon neutral, environmentally sustainable and resilient to the impact of climate change.
- Maintain and create opportunities to enhance our green spaces and provide a clean and safe environment.

1.3 The scheme offers three awards

- Small Grants up to £500 (revenue only)
- Medium Grants up to £5,000 (revenue and capital)
- One Large Grant between £5,000 and £10,000 (capital only and over more than one financial year).

1.4 Applicants are asked to demonstrate how the project benefits the residents of Kingswood and how many people from Kingswood will benefit. It also asks applicants to describe their other grant and income streams, who they are collaborating with and to provide evidence that their scheme is needed. Each successful applicant is requested to invite councillors to see their project and to be subject to a small article in the Kingswood Voice. Each applicant is requested to provide a number of documents (Application Form, Memorandum & Articles of Association, Bank statement, Insurance policy, AGM minutes, Equality & Inclusion Policy, Safeguarding Policy) and the Town Clerk and Finance Officer has ensured that the applications meet the governance criteria. Applications need to be received by the publicized closing date.

1.5 The applicant must be one of the following:

- Registered Charitable Organisations
- Community Interest Groups
- Social Enterprises
- Sports Clubs and Arts Groups
- Schools
- Faith Groups
- Advice Organisations
- Start-up grants for new organisation who will become one of the above

2.0 Awards made to date

2.1 The Community Grant Scheme was launched in May 2024 with a budget of £50,000. 2.2 At its first meeting in July, it awarded £16,250. A summary of the grants awarded in July 2024 is below.

Name of Organisation	Amount Rewarded	Summary of Application
Kingswood Heritage Museum Trust	£10,000	Contribution towards solar panels and battery storage, to move museum to being more carbon neutral and reduce overheads
Whitfield Tabernacle	£5,000	Contribution towards two external signs, to identify the building Contribution towards some running costs as progress is slow, overheads high but huge community benefit and a very strong desire to support
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	£1,250	For contribution towards an outdoor sensory play area, including stage area, music storage and musical instruments

2.2 2.3 At the second meeting in November, it awarded £12,006.16. A summary of grants awarded in November 2024 is below.

Name of Organisation	Amount Rewarded	Summary of Application
We are BS15	£4,980	Contribution to support 3 interconnected projects addressing essential community needs in Kingswood to create a hub for residents to access diverse support programmes.
South Gloucestershire Youth Housing	£1,039	Contribution to buy replacement furniture for the hostel to ensure health and safety and comfort for residents.
Kingswood Rugby Club	£5,000	Contribution to lay a concrete path around the newly built changing and storage facility to assure safe accessibility for all users especially those with mobility issues.
Friends of Holy Trinity Church	£387.16	Contribution to purchase equipment to manage the graves and areas within the closed churchyard.
The Brightwell	£600	Contribution towards funding the cost of providing subsidised oxygen therapy for members in Kingswood who live with the effects of neurological conditions.

3.0 Applications to the February 2025 meeting

3.1 The following applications have been received for consideration at this meeting. The applications total £18,329 and there is £21,743 remaining in the fund.

Four other organisations made applications but are not submitted to this meeting for the following reasons: late application, incomplete application, did not comply with our criteria, already in receipt of a grant this financial year.

Name of Organisation	Amount Requested	Summary of Application
Nest Page Park Registered Charity	£5,000	Contribution to run a new community festival taking place on 15 th June in Kingswood Park, celebrating cultural diversity, to coincide with Refugee Week. The organisation has provided all the relevant information. An application form is provided for cllrs, that contains further details.
Kingswood History Society	£500	Contribution to increase awareness by improving the website and advertising to encourage future attendance at meetings. The organisation has provided all the relevant information. An application form is provided for cllrs, that contains further details.
Turtle Play Scheme Registered Charity	£4,000	Contribution to provide fun activities for local families and children during the Easter and Summer school holidays. All sessions will be free including lunch. The organisation has provided all the relevant information. An application form is provided for cllrs, that contains further details.
Our Lady of Lourdes Preschool Registered Charity	£4,400	Contribution to replace unsafe fencing around the preschool garden and replace the sandpit sand. The organisation has provided all the relevant information. An application form is provided for cllrs, that contains further details.
Date Palm Foundation Registered Charity	£4,429	Contribution to install fencing to secure the 60m garden space to ensure safeguarding for users. The organisation has provided all the relevant information. The application form is provided for cllrs, that contains further details.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 To consider the above applications and agree to delegate authority to the officers to make the awards from the Community Grant Scheme.