



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(Epsom and Ewell)**

LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING

24 SEPTEMBER 2012

KEY ISSUE

To give consideration to the funding requests received, that have been sponsored by at least one County councillor.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive funding to spend on locally determined purposes that help to promote social, economic or environmental well-being. This funding is known as Member Allocations.

For the financial year 2012/13, the County Council has allocated £12,615 revenue funding to each county councillor and £35,000 capital funding to each local committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to:

- (i) Agree the items recommended for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 Member Allocation funding, as set out in section 2 of this report and summarised below:

Organisation	Project Title	Amount
Lower Mole Countryside Management Project	Lower Mole Project Land Rover	£4,520
Generation Church	Epsom and Ewell Food Bank	£3,300
Surrey Police, Epsom and Ewell Safer Neighbourhood Team	Neighbourhood Watch signs	£2,140

Second Hand Dance	Dad Dancing	£650
Ewell Chamber of Commerce	Stoneleigh Xmas Lights	£3,500

- (ii) Note the expenditure previously approved by either the Community Partnerships Manager or the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated powers, as set out in section 3.
- (iii) Note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report and at Appendix 1.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its 25 June 2012 Local Committee (Epsom and Ewell) meeting, councillors agreed that each member should have an equal share of the £35,000 capital budget (£7,000) alongside their individual £12,615 revenue allocations.
- 1.2 Member Allocation funding is generally made to organisations on a one-off basis, so that there should be no expectation of future funding for the same or similar purpose.
- 1.3 Member Allocation funding will not usually be granted for purposes that benefit one individual, nor to fund schools for the direct delivery of the National Curriculum, nor to support political parties.
- 1.4 When considering bids, organisations applying are advised against assuming that the Local Committee will meet the total cost of their project.

2. BIDS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL – REVENUE/CAPITAL FUNDING

- 2.1 The proposals for revenue and capital funding for consideration and decision at this Committee are set out below.

Lower Mole Project Land Rover

Colin Taylor	£1,520 capital
Chris Frost	£1,000 capital
Jan Mason	£1,000 capital
David Wood	£1,000 capital

The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project has submitted an application for a funding contribution towards the purchase of a Land Rover vehicle. Epsom and Ewell County Councillors have indicated their willingness to contribute £4,520 to the Project.

The Countryside Management Project organises a volunteer programme that enables individuals from the local community to help with practical conservation and access works across the Project area, which includes

the borough of Epsom and Ewell. Each year around 13,000 volunteer hours are achieved, making the Project one of the largest generators of voluntary activity in the region.

The Land Rover is an essential vehicle for the running of the Lower Mole Project. It will be the only four wheel drive vehicle that the Project will have able to access places that its minibus cannot. It will be the main towing vehicle for a trailer that the Project recently purchased with a grant.

The total cost of the vehicle is approximately £28,000 of which £15,400 has already been raised. £5,000 is also being requested from the Elmbridge Local Committee and £2,520 from the Mole Valley Local Committee.

Epsom and Ewell Food Bank

Colin Taylor	£1,000 revenue
Chris Frost	£300 capital
Jan Mason	£1,000 revenue
Eber Kington	£1,000 revenue

Generation Church has submitted an application for a funding contribution towards the establishment of a food bank in Epsom & Ewell. Generation Church intends to set up a food bank to address the hidden hunger that is predominantly caused by low pay, unemployment and benefit delays. Accepted referrals from approved agencies (such as frontline care professionals) would be issued with vouchers that they would then exchange for food at the Food Bank.

The Bank's supply of food is expected to come from individuals, churches, schools and supermarkets and Generation Church will ensure that it is nutritionally balanced. The Food Bank is not intended to be a replacement service but will be for families and individuals experiencing genuine crisis. The Food Bank will give three vouchers to people/families (representing nine days worth of emergency food). Residents using the Epsom and Ewell Food Bank will also be provided with relevant information signposting them to other services able to help them to address their longer term problems.

The total cost of the project is approximately £14,040 of which Generation Church have received £2,500 so far and have offers of further funding. Generation Church will apply for grants to meet the remaining funding requirements. Please note that Generation Church have requested £4,000 from Epsom and Ewell Local Committee.

Neighbourhood Watch signs

Colin Taylor	£428 revenue
Chris Frost	£428 revenue
David Wood	£428 revenue

Eber Kington
Jan Mason

£428 revenue
£428 revenue

Surrey Police's Epsom and Ewell Safer Neighbourhood Team has submitted an application to provide signs for newly established Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Epsom and Ewell. The aim of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is to create a partnership between the local community, the police and the local authority. Neighbourhood Watch schemes develop positive community relations by working together to reduce crime, the fear of crime and improving the quality of life in Epsom and Ewell. NW is the largest known voluntary crime prevention group. The use of window stickers and street signs are a proven deterrent for burglars. They send out clear messages that roads will not be a soft target for opportunist thieves. NW schemes have been shown to increase community cohesion and engagement in other community safety initiatives and also to encourage volunteering in the wider context. The total cost of the project is £2,139.

Dad Dancing

Colin Taylor
Chris Frost

£400 revenue
£250 revenue

Second Hand Dance, a private company, has submitted an application to provide six creative dance and craft workshops for fathers and their children at Sure Start Centres, care homes and community centres in the borough of Epsom and Ewell. The workshops will be part of a wider project called 'Dad Dancing' that aims to engage fathers and their children in physical and creative activity that will culminate in a public performance involving both professional and non-professional dancers.

Second Hand Dance wants to encourage men to take part in physical activity, since men aged between 50 and 65 years are less likely to regularly take part in sport or other physical activity. In 2009 it was recorded that a higher percentage of men than women (44 per cent compared with 33 per cent) in England were classified as overweight. Further, NHS reports state that a higher percentage of men have high blood pressure. (<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/opad11>) The total cost of the project is £650.

The County Council does not generally make payments to private companies unless they are providing it with goods or services. However, there are no rules that explicitly prohibit members from making payments to a private company from their member allocations. The County seeks to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all of its residents and its Corporate Strategy 2010-14 identifies the health of the population as a key area that the Council wishes to address and support. Dad Dancing seeks to improve the health of a particular section of the community that has been difficult to reach through traditional, mainstream

public service interventions. Second Hand Dance’s workshops will be provided for free or at a low cost to maximise their accessibility to people on lower incomes. Financial assistance from the Local Committee will enable the workshops to be part-subsidised and for the company’s entry fees to be kept at an affordable level to encourage participation while also helping to avoid potential stigma. For these reasons, payment to a private company is considered both reasonable and appropriate in this instance.

Stoneleigh Xmas Lights

Eber Kington	£1,500 revenue
David Wood	£500 revenue
Chris Frost	£1,500 capital

Ewell Chamber of Commerce has submitted an application for the purchase and installation of Xmas Lights on Stoneleigh Broadway. This involves installing lights on street light columns the complete length of Stoneleigh Broadway to provide street scene Xmas Cheer for the residents of Stoneleigh. Ewell Chamber of Commerce are having a grand opening and lights will be up for at least one month over the Xmas period. This project will be ongoing each Christmas and Epsom & Ewell council have agreed to meet future costs and support. The total cost of the project is £7,270.40. £5,500 has been requested from Epsom and Ewell Local Committee. £1,000 has already been received from David Wood’s 2011/12 Members Allocation allowance leaving a request for £4,500 from Members 2012/13 allowances. Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents Association have promised funding of £1,727.40.

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVED BIDS

3.1 The Community Partnership Manager or Community Partnership Team Leader (East Surrey) has already approved the following bids under delegated authority since the last committee meeting:

COUNCILLOR	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Jan Mason	Ark & Community Activities	£750
Jan Mason	Parkviews Summer Party	£200
Colin Taylor	Community Church Equipment Need	£985
Chris Frost, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Colin Taylor, David Wood	Nonsuch Awareness Day 2012	£1,000

- 3.2 Members are requested to note that funding previously awarded to Highways to fund the project Chalk Lane Bollard has been withdrawn and returned to Chris Frost's allocation.

Members are requested to note that, in respect of the funding previously awarded to Court Community Partnership to fund the project Bakersfield Picnic in the Park, the project cost decreased from £500 to £298. Therefore an amount of £202 has been returned to Chris Frost's allocation.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, part or none of the funding proposals under discussion in this report.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 In relation to new bids, consultation, where appropriate, may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving the funding, the local Member of the Community Partnerships Team as required.
- 5.2 The appropriate Surrey County Council services and partner agencies are consulted when bids are submitted, as required.

6. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Each project detailed in this report has completed a standard application form giving details of timescales, purpose and other funding applications made. The County Councillor proposing each project has assessed its merits prior to the project's inclusion as a proposal for decision by the Committee. All bids are also scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Council's Financial Framework and represent value for money.
- 6.2 There are sufficient monies to fund all of the proposals contained within this report. If the above recommendations are approved the remaining are set out in the Chart in the Local Committee's financial position statement attached at Appendix 1.
- 6.3 Please note these figures will not include any applications submitted for approval after the deadline for this report or that are currently pending approval under delegated authority. They also do not include any funding that is currently in the process of being returned to the Local Committee.

7. EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The allocation of the Committee's budgets is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, the area. The success of the bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the agreed criteria.

7.2 Local Committee funding can be allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money within the agreed Financial Framework and the locally agreed criteria, which are available from the Community Partnerships Team.

8.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2012/13 Local Committee delegated budgets, as detailed in the report.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Committee is being asked to decide on these bids so that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bids in line with the wishes of the Committee.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.

10.2 Any changes to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Members and the Chairman and if the changes are considered to be significant, an amended bid will be brought back to the Committee for approval. In all other circumstances, the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.

10.3 All successful applicants will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.

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Background Papers:

- SCC Constitution: Financial Framework
- Local Committee Protocol
- Criteria and Guidance for Members Allocations
- Local Committee Funding Bids