



Town Council Offices,  
1 Park Road,  
Shepton Mallet  
BA4 5BS

t: 01749 343984

e: [info@sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk)

w: [www.sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk)

**Meeting:** Policy & Resources Meeting, Item 8.8  
**Date:** 6th April 2021  
**Author:** Liz Evans, Responsible Financial Officer  
**Subject:** Community Grants & Donations Feedback

## **1.0** Purpose of report

1.1 To Inform Councillors of feedback from organisations who received a Community Grant or Donation during the 20/21 financial year.

## **2.0** Background information

2.1 The council, during the 20/21 financial year, gave out a total of £6,648 in Community Donations and £43,800 in Community Grants.

## **3.0** Community Donations Feedback

### **3.1 Shepton Mallet Football Club - Awarded £100 - July 2020**

This donation has been used for the maintenance of our facility at West Shepton. This has been very helpful given the significant restrictions on the club in terms of being able to raise our own finance. We have also had to suffer the costs of making the facility Covid-19 compliant.

The council's donation has been extremely helpful during these difficult times for the club.

### **3.2 Rusty Road to Recovery CIC - Awarded £250 - September 2020**

This money was allocated in September before our 3rd lockdown, therefore we have not had as many clients in to use our therapies as we would have liked, due to lockdown and social distancing. However, we have put the money into supporting our Air Brush Art Group and they have managed to produce some amazing work. We have had other volunteers coming in when allowed to who have produced some of the metal work sculpturing and wooden planters.

### **3.3 Anglo Boxing Club - Awarded £1,000 - September 2020**

Your kind donations enabled us to re-floor the gym with 20mm Gym floor matting. We had previously laid cheaper matting, but this was continually coming up from the floor as people moved around on it.

3.4 **Shepton Mallet Lantern Festival - Awarded £250 - September 2020**

The Money was used to pay a local artist, Mandy MacKenna, to set up a beautiful window display of a large lantern Ram in front of the backdrop of the viaduct. It was displayed in Haskins window over the Christmas period as the highlight of a static lantern festival in town this year instead of the usual festival that we had to cancel as a result of Covid.

3.5 **Shepton Mallet Ukulele Group - Awarded £450 - September 2020**

Since the award of the donation we have investigated the purchase of the equipment. However, due to the various Covid - 19 Tier & Lockdown restrictions we have only been able to do this on-line. The group feels that for an expenditure of this amount we need to see and determine the quality of the product before we purchase. We have therefore yet to spend any of the donation and it currently remains in the group's bank account.

3.6 **Community Council for Somerset - Awarded £608 - September 2020**

We would like to thank Shepton Mallet Town Council for giving CCS this opportunity to provide English lessons for residents. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions and the lockdowns in November and January we haven't been able to deliver these sessions as we intended. We would therefore like to return the funding. The timing was unfortunately incredibly unlucky. We do know that there is a real need for these sessions for Shepton residents and would really like the opportunity to re-apply when the opportunity to deliver these sessions in person changes. Note - the Community Council for Somerset returned the Community Donation of £608 and will reapply again at a future date.

3.7 **Hearthstone Ways CIC - Awarded £1,500 (in principle) - January 2021**

Unfortunately, we were not successful in securing funding from ACE for the House of Belonging project. The Church has recently employed a minister for Arts and Culture so our next move is to work in collaboration with them to secure funding from alternative sources.

Note - as Hearthstone Ways did not receive their match funding from the Arts Council, no Community Donation was made.

3.8 **Windsor Hill Wood - Awarded £2,000 - January 2021**

This project is a partnership between Holly & Hawthorn Forest School and Windsor Hill Wood; together we are providing 16 outdoor mental health and wellbeing sessions at Windsor Hill Wood between 27th January and 31st March. We started with one afternoon session on a Wednesday but the 15 spaces available were soon were fully booked and we had a waiting list so we have added a morning session as well. We are currently midway through delivery of this project. Participants are adults who are struggling with increased social isolation and mental health challenge during the current winter lockdown. The donation has enabled us to provide these sessions at low cost (£3 per session) to those who can afford it and free to those who cannot afford it. Participants have been referred through the Community Mental Health team at The Bridge, local GPs, village agents and health connectors. Some people have self-referred having seen the publicity on social media.

22 adults are currently attending weekly over two sessions – either Wednesday morning or afternoon. We also have 4 volunteers and a support worker facilitating the sessions alongside the Forest School leader. Given the outdoor environment we have plenty of space to be able to maintain safe social distance and provide PPE and hand wash and sanitising stations at various places across the site.

We have used the money to buy additional woodworking tools to avoid tool sharing, an additional event shelter to allow social distancing, PPE and also to cover the staff costs of the Forest School Leader as well as the admin time involved in managing referrals and bookings. During the sessions participants have been practicing mindful activities in the woodland, learning basic whittling and green woodworking, making woodland crafts and using tools to repair woodland structures (photos of some activities provided at the end of this form). The feedback has been very positive with people saying that this group and the outdoor space is exactly what they have needed to boost their wellbeing and improve their mental health. These sessions have also provided a safe opportunity for people to connect with others. It has been heartening to see relationships develop and participants begin to support each other during the sessions.

One participant said "This is the most important part of my week."

We plan to run monthly weekend sessions later in the Spring which will be open to local people generally (without referrals). Through these weekend sessions we will reach a further 28 people to reach our target of at least 50 adults over the next few months.

Breakdown of costs to end Feb 2021:

Additional PPE purchased: £25

Sanitising equipment: £12.95

Admin time (referrals and bookings): 10 hours @ £20 per hour = £200

Tutor costs: £720 (6 sessions @ £120 per session or £40 per hour)

Coleman event shelter: £199

Extra tools (to minimise sharing): £765.30

(Fire steels x 6 @ £15.99 each

Secateurs x 6 @ £29.99 each

Silky F180 Professional Folding Saw x 6 @ £32.39

Woodcarving knives x 6 @ £19.19

Japanese Pull Saw - 300mm x 6 @ £29.99)

Total expenditure to end Feb 21 = £1922.25

### 3.9 **Make the Sunshine CIC - Awarded £1,990 - January 2021**

These events are planned for later this year.

#### **Window Wanderland Shepton Mallet**

Window Wanderland Fee £100

Material Packs £200

Marketing and photography £200

Tech £250

Artists Fees £240

#### **Collett Park Performances (x2)**

Performers £800

Marketing and photography £200

H&S and tech support

**Total £1,990**

#### **4.0 Community Grant Feedback**

##### **4.1 Shepton Mallet Coronavirus Volunteer Group - Awarded £2,000 - April 2020**

As reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd June 2020, the group had spent £612 on foodstuffs, website, PPE and telecoms and have now spent £1,375.75 and have provided an update at Appendix A.

##### **4.2 Shepton Mallet Salvation Army - Awarded £2,000 - April 2020**

As reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd June 2020, the group had spent the whole grant of £2,000 in providing food parcels to individuals, couples and families.

##### **4.3 Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre - Awarded £20,000 - June 2020**

The money was spent as outlined in the application to meet costs of renting equipment, energy costs, database costs.

Electricity	£4,329.51
Gas	£2,124.67
Water	£703.02
Equipment rentals	£10,501.93
Database rentals	£3,509.17
PPE and extra cleaning equipment	£511.15
Total	£21,679.45

We had applied for match funding from Sport England but they denied us any as their view was we had generated our income from mainly one source i.e. SMTC whereas crowd funding implied it had to be generated from multiple sources.

We generated a further £2066.82 from crowdfunding.

##### **4.4 7 Starlings Book Roost - Awarded £500 - July 2020**

7 Starlings CIC is a social enterprise that exists (amongst other things) to support and promote Shepton Mallet Public Library. During the national lockdown that started in March 20, the Library was of course closed. By April, we realised that many children were running out of things to read. We decided to call it a Book Roost, partly because roosting is what starlings do and partly because a key part of the thinking (to reduce the risk of spreading covid-19) was that books needed to 'rest' in quarantine for a couple of days before being able to go out again.

The Book Roost was open throughout the school holiday in the summer for two hours every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Within two minutes of opening for the first time we had our first customer, ten years old. Next time she came, she brought her friends with her. Altogether, roughly 50 children were able to benefit, through having access to maybe 800 books in total. This went some way to plug the gap left by the restricted service available from the Library.

We were not just for children, but for anybody who likes and needs children's books, including the disabled and those with learning difficulties.

We were particularly proud of our foreign language basket, with Polish, German and French books – all of them appreciated.

The Book Roost is like King Arthur, asleep under the Isle of Avalon, ready to be revived, when the call comes.

Insurance for book roost and associated activities for one year £357.53

Banners and signage for book roost, these are reusable £127.20

Stationary items (pens, blue tac, string etc) £15.27

4.5 **Citizens Advice Mendip - Awarded £10,000 - April 2020**

Core funding to continue delivering advice and assistance to the residents of Shepton Mallet and environs.

Specifically, this grant has been used to cover some premises costs (Highfield House), IT and telephony (now our main channels for advice delivery), and paid supervisor time to effectively manage our team or volunteer advisers and monitor quality standards.

Further report attached as Appendix B

4.6 **Shepton Mallet Youth Club - Awarded £6,500 - April 2020**

Total Cost of Shepton Mallet Youth Club £11690 April 20 -March 21

Grant from Shepton Mallet Town Council £6,500

Salaries	£6,669
----------	--------

Overheads	£80
-----------	-----

Management & Admin	£4,944
--------------------	--------

Deficit	-£5,193
---------	---------

Projected Total Cost of Project: £11690

Total Town Council £6500

YMCA Brunel deficit to run Shepton Mallet youth club £5193

Full report attached as Appendix C

4.7 **Mendip Community Transport - Awarded £1,500 - April 2020**

The grant funding has contributed to the ongoing running costs the charity has incurred during the current financial year.

Despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Mendip Community Transport has continued to operate providing a range of services for members of the community who do not have access to conventional public transport due to location or accessibility. This includes the Slinky Bus service and our Hospital Car service which have enabled people to undertake essential journeys and attend medical appointments - and more lately to receive COVID vaccinations.

4.8 **Shepton Mallet Carnival Club - Awarded £1,300 - April 2020**

As we have not been able to do any fundraising ourselves during the past 12 months, the Town Council grant has enabled us to pay some ongoing bills that continue regardless of the Carnival evening having to be cancelled. These are:

1. Rent: we have a storage facility where essential ongoing Carnival equipment is stored such as signs and the carnival queen's coach and banners: £750 per annum

2. Insurance: £308.00 per annum

3. Auditing of accounts (by Burton Sweet) £423.00

We are as ever, very grateful for the support offered by our Town Council.

**5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 For Councillors to note the report.