

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Policy & Finance Committee – 8 February 2024
SUBJECT:	Arun Community Asset Fund – Consideration of Bids, Round 1
LEAD OFFICER:	Karl Roberts – Interim Joint Chief Executive and Director of Growth
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Stanley – Chair - Policy & Finance Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
The intention of the fund is that priority should be given to projects which assist in delivering the Councils vision 2022-2026.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
It is likely that most projects which are considered under this fund will be delivered by third parties or through the Councils Property & Estates team or Parks team if it involves Arun land.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
The financial implications outlined in this report have been included in the Council's approved 2023/24 Revenue Budget.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks Member agreement to the allocation of funds to specific projects in accordance with the terms of the fund as set out in Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agree the following requests for funding from the Arun Community Fund

- 1) Bognor Regis Youth & Community Club - £20,000
- 2) Slindon Parish Council - £20,000
- 3) Arundel Lido - £19,000
- 4) Bognor Fun Bus CIC Children and Youth Project - £18,000-£22,000

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Bids for funding have been received and this report is intended to facilitate a determination by the Committee of whether any individual bid should be supported.

3.2 This report seeks Member agreement to the above and how funding should be used.

4. **DETAIL**

4.1 Bognor Regis Youth & Community Club (BYCC)
Synopsis of bid provided by applicant.

BYCC has been taken over by a new Management team, project facilitator and board of trustees since the last manager sadly passed away in 2022. The building has served the community since 1938 when it was known as the Old Boys Club, the building was donated by a local businessman to be run with community engagement for the community.

The building then became a charity in the 1970s and throughout the years it has been used by many but this has now taken its toll and needs to be renovated to a better standard the flooring in the building is becoming well-worn and the Gym sprung flooring is starting to wear and is coming up and really needs renovating, the main entrance is not looking very welcoming very old flooring starting to wear away.

The Kitchen has not been updated in a long time and the cupboards are very old paint peeling off and looking very worn we do not have enough storage areas or a separate cleaning cupboard, so we are looking to replace all flooring and install a new kitchen and add lino to the flooring as it very hard to keep the tiles clean and in the winter, it is very cold.

The building is used every day, and we provide a youth drop in, weekly children's choir, Toddlers play group, Boxing and Martial Arts, Keep fit classes, English lessons for international residents, Food Larder once a month, Art lessons, school Holiday activities and also working collaboratively with other children young people families and older people groups services.

Indicative cost of £20000 for all the improvements outlined.

Recommendation: Approve

4.2 Slindon Parish Council – “Keep the Kids Playing”

Synopsis of bid provided by applicant.

There is a need to secure the immediate future of the play park in Slindon through a phased refurbishment allowing replacement of ageing equipment with new pieces.

The aim is to benefit children of different ages and abilities and reflect our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

An independent annual inspection earlier this year identified 35 defects across 9 of our 10 current play items. Several no longer meet current British Standard safety requirements due to age, including our slide which is 46 years old! We

have now had to remove the child's cradle swing when an ADC inspection identified the shackles rusting through where they attach to the frame.

Without grant funding it will not be possible to replace the play equipment and there is a risk of it being permanently lost to the community.

Unusually for such a small parish we also have responsibility for two recreation grounds and as the play equipment on the other field was previously removed when it became unsafe and too costly to replace, it makes this application especially important to the community.

We will not have the funds to undertake a complete refurbishment in one go but we will focus on replacement of items on a phased basis, supported by grants and other community fund-raising.

Arun District Council funding would secure the immediate future of our playground, and we will build reserves to safeguard the equipment for future generations.

The estimated cost of the first phase of improvements is **£20,000**, for supply and installation, net of VAT which we can reclaim.

This project carries the support of our local MP, Andrew Griffith.

Recommendation: Approve

4.3 Arundel Lido – New Insulated Pool Covers & Frame

Synopsis of bid provided by applicant.

Arundel Lido would like to be considered for support from this fund to replace the existing, well-used pool covers for the main pool. When the pool is heated, from May to September, fully functioning covers save a vast amount on energy costs, keeping the warmth in the water when the pool is not in use. The existing covers are over 12 years old. Due to the extensive use, they are now nearer 4mm in thickness rather than the original 8mm. New, modern and better insulated covers would further reduce energy costs, which have already nearly doubled in recent months.

There is currently no cover for the small pool, as such it is proposed that the existing cover would be repurposed for the small pool and a new roller frame would be made.

By ensuring better insulation for the main pool and introducing a cover for the small pool, there would be a significant reduction in the site's carbon footprint as less energy would be needed for heating.

Arundel Lido is now much more than a seasonal swimming pool; it is an integral part of the Arundel community.

Amount requested: £19,000.

£14,000 to replace the main pool cover

£5,000 to repurpose the old cover for the small pool (including a roller)

Recommendation: Approve

4.4 Bognor Fun Bus CIC Children & Youth Project

Synopsis of bid provided by applicant.

To provide out-of-school activities for children and young people via a mobile converted space which will visit their home areas on a regular basis.

Sites have been surveyed for their suitability as to need, there has been consultation with Parish Councils, and a major factor is the degree of deprivation such as in Orchard which where the IMD is in the top 10% worst in the country. This ward has no youth or afterschool projects, and the need is considerable.

The Bognor Fun Bus CIC has been established to provide a flexible delivery of such services out-of-school where they are needed, in the neighbourhoods and localities where children/young people live. The vehicle would be a double decker bus converted, this is the purpose of this submission, to enable the purchase and conversion of the vehicle, and its equipment. Discussions have been opened with a bus company re eg MoT, maintenance, bus sourcing, and with a major funder re multi-year revenue.

The total capital cost of purchase, conversion and equipment will be in the range **£18-£22k** based on current second hand bus prices (we have a reliable contact in this regard), we are in touch with the Mobile Projects Association who facilitate conversions.

Recommendation: Approve

4.5 It is recommended that the committee agree these four requests for funding totalling £81,000. Any future requests will be considered at future meetings in respect of the remaining circa £19,000.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The details of the fund as agreed by Policy & Finance Committee have been brought to the attention of all Councillors. There are no other consultation matters directly arising from this report.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 To agree or reject the requests for funding.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

7.1 A provision of £100,000 has been included in the 2023/24 revenue budget to fund the Community Asset Fund. The proposals in this report would leave an unallocated balance of circa £19,000.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 As these are bids from third parties the main risk relating to delivery lies with the third party. The Council will clearly want to see evidence of delivery within a reasonable period of time.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a local authority may, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. Further Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence. These awards are therefore within the competence of the Council.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 None directly arising from this report as the delivery of each bid will be undertaken by a third party.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 None directly arising from this report as the delivery of each bid will be undertaken by a third party.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 None directly arising from this report as the delivery of each bid will be undertaken by a third party.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 None of the proposed requests for funding is considered to have a negative impact upon any protected group.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 The funding request from Arundel Lido will have a positive impact upon carbon emissions.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 None directly arising from this report.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 None directly arising from this report.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 None directly arising from this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Karl Roberts
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Appendix A: Resolution of Policy & Finance Committee 26 October 2023 – Please see Minutes from that meeting – using the link below:

[Minutes of Policy and Finance Committee \(arun.gov.uk\)](https://www.arun.gov.uk/minutes-of-policy-and-finance-committee)

Appendix A – Policy & Finance Committee 26 October 2023.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Committee agree to the Arun Community Fund having the following parameters:

(1) The fund can only be used to support the delivery of small one-off capital community focused projects and not revenue projects;

(2) In order to be a qualifying project, the project should meet at least one of the following objectives:

Will measurably improve the economic, social and/or environmental wellbeing of an area within the district of Arun;

Will make a positive contribution towards improving the economic wellbeing of the residents or business;

Will make a positive contribution towards delivering the right homes in the right place;

Will make a positive contribution towards addressing climate change;

Will make a positive contribution towards improving biodiversity

Will make a positive contribution towards the physical and wellbeing of the district of Arun

(3) The number of projects being developed at any one time should not exceed two, if these projects are to be developed by Arun District Council;

(4) The capital costs of an individual project should not exceed £20k; and

(5) Any project should have the support of 50 per cent of Ward Members.