

Schedule of Grants Panel recommended Community Revenue Grant awards for 2022/23

Grant Applicant	Requested	Proposed activity	Summary of Grants Panel review against the Community Revenue Grant criteria	
			Officer recommendation and notes	Recommended Grant Award (£)
Thomas Gifford Trust	5700	<p>Grant award in 2021/22: £5,300</p> <p>The trust owns and operates Charlbury community centre. Contribution towards running costs requested of £5,700 to bridge the funding gap. Majority funding for operational costs comes from centre fees and cafe.</p> <p>Charlbury community centre provides activities across a spectrum of ages. It is the only “leisure” centre providing such a range of services in the North of the District with other centres such as in Chipping Norton being often booked for school use during the day.</p> <p>Activities include a programme for under 5s and their parents; after school activity for primary school children, junior sports and youth club for teenagers; Various activities for older community members including coffee, scrabble, fitness for seniors.</p> <p>Indoor sports hall provides an indoor all weather space for sport clubs providing cricket, netball, volleyball, football, pickleball, badminton, table tennis and basketball.</p> <p>Contributes to WODC priorities as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate action. Reduced carbon footprint through activities being provided locally. Centre has a state of art air handling unit to save energy. Centre also works with Plastic Smart Charlbury and Refill Uk 	<p>5700</p> <p>Centre is a much valued community hub providing a range of activities and a social hub for all ages. Open 7 days a week</p>	5700

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Healthy Towns and Villages. Through facilities and activities a wide range of residents are encouraged into healthy exercise, and valuable social interaction 3. Strong local communities. The Centre aims to support and encourage strong community cohesion and inclusivity, bringing together people from different backgrounds to enjoy a central venue, and participate in social and leisure activities together 		

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Wild Oxfordshire	2000	Grant award in 2021/22: £2000 Coordinate and support activity to protect the natural environment across Oxfordshire. Work to deliver nature recovery in West Oxfordshire by providing bespoke advice, training and information. Working at both strategic levels on Oxfordshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and at a local level with an extensive network of volunteer community groups.	2000	2000
Community First Oxfordshire	12000	Grant award in 2021/22: £11,800 Working with WO communities to develop Climate Action Plans in addition to ongoing core development services including support for community shops, halls and community service with a view to improving ongoing community resilience and sustainability. Contributes to WODC Council Plan Priorities: 'Climate Action and Strong Local Communities': Local climate action and behaviour change is important to us all, as it is to WODC. There are great examples of local climate action in West Oxfordshire and CFO, with partners, will support communities and parish councils to formalise their climate action plans to take account of all community action groups in the community and build holistic yet doable climate action plans to help make real changes in these communities towards Zero Carbon Communities.	11800	12000

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		<p>At the same time, CFO will continue to support community infrastructure projects in West Oxfordshire communities and galvanise, where possible, the new mutual aid groups and other interested volunteers to help build more resilient and strong local communities.</p>		
Cotswolds Conservation Board	10300	<p>Grant award in 2021/22: £10,300</p> <p>Core funding to enable the Cotswolds Conservation Board to fulfil functions required for the Cotswolds AONB eg AONB Management Plan which otherwise would need to be fulfilled by WODC.</p> <p>The activity will contribute directly to the delivery of four of the WODC Council Plan priorities:</p> <p>CLIMATE ACTION: One of the funding streams for Farming in Protected Landscapes grant programme is for projects that can demonstrate a benefit for climate mitigation and adaptation. Recruitment of a Net Zero Landscape Officer will inform the organisation how to meet our recently adopted climate crisis commitment to get to net zero (or better) by 2050 (or sooner).</p> <p>HEALTHY TOWNS AND VILLAGES</p>	10300	10300

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The East District of the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens cover the WODC area. Within this District there are 69 active volunteers undertaking such tasks as:Regular work parties to improve access and trails (including stiles/ gates, etc.), e.g. along the River Windrush. ● Free guided walks for members of the public (local and visitors) – in the region of 50 walks in the year. <p>A VIBRANT DISTRICT COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivering the ‘Caring for the Cotswolds’ grant programme (funded by our Visitor Giving scheme) – open to individuals, communities, parish councils, charities and small business to apply for funding. Likely to be in the region of £20,000 of grant-aid. ● Working closely with farmers and land managers through the ‘Farming in Protected Landscapes’ funding programme (as part of the Agricultural Transition Plan). <p>STRONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Delivering the ‘Everyone’s Evenlode’ project, part of the Thames Water funded ‘Smarter Water Catchments’ programme in partnership with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. Three new team members operate in West</p>		

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		Oxfordshire with a focus on community engagement/ outreach and education.		
Volunteer Link Up	12000	Grant award in 2021/22: £12000 VLU undertakes 4 main strands of work - a transport service/volunteer car service, befriending, practical task volunteers and development of Good Neighbour schemes. Based in Witney covering the whole of West Oxfordshire providing the main volunteer hub for the district. They serve 906 clients and oversee 187 volunteers.	12000	12000
Homestart Oxford	5000	Grant award in 2021/22: £5,000 Homestart Oxford covers Witney and the central and south parts of West Oxfordshire In 2022/23 funding will support a range of activities as follows: PEEP GROUPS (BY-INVITATION) reaching the most vulnerable children and their families. 3x6 week groups will run either at Methodist Church or Ceewood Hall for up to 3x8 struggling families needing support to engage. Singing, stories, free play ideas and useful discussion topics.	5000 Range of activities supporting children and families in Witney area in a range of ways using paid staff and volunteers. Supporting families in their mental well being highlighted as a key need area and activities link into this	5000

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •LITTLE SPLASHERS weekly open access group for Under 1s group providing friendly space for play, stories, singing and sharing experiences/tips. Some 1:1 support given to parents experiencing challenges. Currently capped at 15 families, When restrictions lift will open to 25 families. •PUDDLE JUMPERS popular weekly stay and play group aimed at children over 1 (babies also attend with older siblings). Capacity at the Church is 50 but again, until restrictions lift we are limiting capacity. Often full or oversubscribed. •BUGGY WALKS improve mental health and offer an unintimidating entry point to parents who don't yet have (cont) the confidence to join structured groups. Walks will be run once a month from the Methodist Church and every week on Smiths Estate. •ONLINE monthly Q&As are a continuation of our successful lockdown session and tackle topics like Weaning, Dental Health. An online offer allows us to reach new families including those without transport or for whom disability or anxiety make in-person attendance difficult. 		

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		<p>•DIGITAL SUPPORT to a wider community through Facebook, social media platforms and regular email newsletters.</p> <p>Funding supports District Council priorities as follows:</p> <p>HEALTHY TOWN AND VILLAGES Participation in groups will improve well-being. Children's early years' development has a profound, long-term impact on life-long well-being and mental health. By providing parents with a safe, supportive, happy space to build friendships and provide children with positive experiences this facilitates parental and child well-being in young West Oxfordshire families.</p> <p>STRONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Since October 2018 Home-Start has been building a strong community of parents, children and volunteers in West Oxfordshire. Invitation-only groups ensure that their popular open-access groups are ultimately accessed by the whole community, including the most vulnerable and socially isolated.</p>		

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The Dot Collective	2500	New applicant requesting funding to match ACE funding to enable touring of 2 productions of dementia friendly theatre to 3 settings (2 not for profit care homes and 1 dementia cafe). One is an aerial and circus adaptation of Alice in Wonderland and the other is an interpretation of the Brothers Grimm the Elves and the Shoemaker.	Not approve Panel did not recommend on the basis that it is for activity of 6 performances in 3 settings (2 in each) and there is no explicit relationship building with the care centres or providers to build on the touring opportunity. The reach of the performances is limited to those in 2 care homes (and families) and in one dementia cafe.	0
My Life, My Choice	4543	Grant award in 2021/22: £3356 MLMC is an advocacy organisation supporting people with learning disabilities. They plan to create and deliver a range of 'easy read' accessible mail outs to all members. They currently offer this monthly. Over lockdown a series of four wellness packs were distributed to members, the packs were themed and included items related to wellness, taking care of yourself, festivals, and trying something new. We have received positive feedback from members. Their expertise in the development and distribution of 'easy read' materials is being picked up by other services wanting to reach this audience.	£4251 Strong application - offering more than in previous years plus costs of printing etc has increased	4251

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Chipping Norton Theatre	25900	<p>Grant award in 2021/22: £25900</p> <p>Request for grant to enable theatre to provide ongoing programme of arts, entertainment and wellbeing activities, working in partnership with local community focused organisations. The funding requested supports the organisation as a whole, but enables the theatre to develop the non-commercial, community focussed strands of their programme. The grant from WODC also represents a seal of approval for other funders.</p> <p>The Theatre will continue to produce their own theatre work, tour live and screen events. They have a particular focus on improvements to disabled access (improved hearing loop system, better disabled access for backstage toilets) and resumption of their theatre group for young people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The Council's Healthy Towns and Villages priority is reflected in the theatre's work. The theatre works closely with local social prescribing services to help meet local need. Participatory activities for older people include Dance 50, Creative writing, Chippy Singer and provide important connectivity for residents. The theatre is extending the relaxed performances for local care homes and those living with dementia and trialling a filmed version of the Panto for screening in care homes. They are developing last year's Memory Lanes project which</p>	25900	25900

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		<p>featured an outdoor photographic exhibition of local historical photographs with recorded memories to become an intergenerational project, with care home residents and local school children connecting to share stories and to record local memories which will be developed into a script for community performance.</p> <p>There is an open air programme in local villages.</p> <p>Strong Local Communities: the theatre is working with the Town Council delivering a mini festival in harder to reach area of CN. The theatre facilitates Chipping Norton Creatives - a partnership group with schools, housing associations, creative partners, Chippy Larder, the Branch and others to ensure the theatre's offer both in house and in other settings can support the needs of local people.</p> <p>The theatre is working closely with local partners (Cottsway Housing, the Branch, Chippy Larder, local schools) to continue the Ladder of Engagement to broaden the reach of offer to young people who may not otherwise engage with provision. This includes subsidised workshops, drumming workshops, music technology workshops with a local youth group. The Community ticket scheme makes theatre provision more accessible.</p> <p>The theatre has an Environment Working Party to ensure action and awareness of environmental issues - they are auditing their carbon footprint, installing low energy house</p>		

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		<p>lighting (this reflects the Council's Climate Change priority).</p> <p>Vibrant District Economy: significant impact on the local economy (25,000 visitors from outside WODC area); local employer and important volunteer team. Recently available as a wedding venue and will promote other local businesses with this new venture.</p> <p>Sustainable Finance - strengthening financial sustainability with new ventures including operating as a wedding venue.</p> <p>The theatre is working with local partners, creative and community, to strengthen its presence both in the theatre and in the wider town to provide a cohesive and inclusive creative, cultural and social programme in the town and beyond.</p>		
Lower Windrush Valley Project	5000	<p>Grant award in 2021/22: £5,000</p> <p>Coordinates environmental conservation, recreation and community development activity in the Lower Windrush Valley, south of the A40 to the River Thames. Focuses on areas affected by historic and current mineral extraction operations.</p>	5000	5000
Homestart Banbury	2900	<p>New applicant</p> <p>Homestart Banbury serves Chipping Norton and the rural north of West Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>2900</p> <p>Organisation works in partnership with other support providers to Children and young families but</p>	2900

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		<p>Application is for 1:1 work with families in Chipping Norton and surrounding villages.</p> <p>Families, who have at least one child under 5 years of age, are referred to Home Start by a professional e.g. Health Visitor, School, GP, Social Services team, or they can self-refer. Families are referred for a range of reasons from simply finding family life overwhelming to much more complex needs.</p> <p>Home start will recruit and train volunteers, who are then linked to a family in need of support. The volunteer will then proceed to visit the family home weekly – for 2-3 hours at a time – and offer the family confidential, non-judgemental emotional support, friendship and practical help.</p> <p>Volunteers provide interventions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to the family’s worries • Providing friendship and encouragement • Help getting to appointments • Signposting to external services e.g. benefit advice, mental health support • Encouraging the family to get involved with the local community • Modelling positive play and interaction with their children 	<p>are the only one providing 1;1 support in the home, rather than support through a group.</p>	

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		<p>Volunteers provide support for as long as a family needs it – this can vary from months to years depending on the family’s individual needs, and support continues for as long as it is needed.</p> <p>This project will support at least 5 families living in Chipping Norton or the surrounding villages.</p> <p>Funding supports the District Councils priorities as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy Towns and Villages priority. Volunteers work closely with the family they support to encourage improved wellbeing for every member of the family. This may be through providing friendship and emotional support to tackle loneliness and poor mental health, but could also include encouraging families to get outside and exercise more through accompanying them on walks. Volunteers can also go along with families to medical appointments and in some cases this means families attend an appointment that they would have otherwise missed. Volunteers also support families who are experiencing rural isolation as volunteers will visit the family in their own home. The majority of the families supported are experiencing poor mental health. Support is 		

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		<p>provided which is tailored to the family's individual needs.</p> <p>2. Strong local communities. Support provided to families to give them the skills and confidence to grow resilience and empower them to overcome their difficulties. Some of the families supported do not feel part of their local community. Home Start can help them to grow in confidence and provide the scaffolding for them to take small steps to attend local community groups by researching where these are and Home Start volunteers taking them to them. Some of the families supported go on to become Home Start volunteers later on.</p>		
Wychwood Forest Trust	30000	<p>Grant award in 2021/22: £30,000</p> <p>Work with local communities to protect and restore the spaces once part of the historic Wychwood Forest -120 square miles and 41 parishes of today's West Oxfordshire. Run projects promoting the Wychwood's unique cultural identity and help people learn traditional rural skills and crafts. Restore habitats and manage acquired land as nature reserves. Offer a wide range of events from rural skills courses to tree-planting sessions with school children, regular volunteering opportunities and the annual Forest Fair.</p>	30000	30000

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Age UK	10000	Grant award in 2021/22: £10,000 Funding the cost of a Community Development Worker, to help reduce loneliness and isolation especially in rural communities. Support men at risk of loneliness. Increasing walk and talk sessions and supporting older people using IT, with training and buddy support.	10000 Part funding of a West Ox Community Development worker recommend funding in full, the work Age UK do in West rural communities is really needed	10000
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire	62800	Grant award in 2021/22: £62,800. The organisation supports all the council's aims and objectives whilst giving a full holistic advice and support service to all residents in the district.	62800 The CAB are the only providers within West Oxfordshire who give a full holistic advice service to all residents within the district. Their aims/objectives are linked very closely to those of the Council.	62800

Overall Community Revenue Grant Applications Financial Summary	Total of recommended grants	£187,851
	Comparison - total Community Revenue Grants Budget	£188,260
	Grants budget remaining if all recommended grants approved	£409.00