

Report to Cabinet

Report reference: C/028/2007-08.

Date of meeting: 16 July 2007.



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Community Wellbeing.

Subject: Grant Aid 2007/08 - High Beach Village Hall Management Committee and Waltham Abbey Youth 2000.

Officer Contact for Further Information: Chris Overend (01992 - 564247)

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 - 564470).

Recommendation:

- (1) That funding from the Grant Aid Scheme for 2007/08 totalling £2,000 be awarded to High Beach Village Hall Management Committee; and**
- (2) That £4,311 be agreed as the payment in respect of 2007/08, being the first year of a three-year funding agreement, to Waltham Abbey Youth 2000.**

Background:

1. Applications for grant aid funding are normally considered and determined by the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing but in this instance the Portfolio Holder, being a Waltham Abbey Town Councillor, and, in addition, an acquaintance of some of the officers working for the applicant groups and a resident of the locality, has referred the applications on to Cabinet, for determination. Accordingly, the Leader and not the Portfolio Holder will report on this item.

Statement in Support of Recommended Action:

2. The application from High Beach Village Hall Management Committee for funding, as set out in Appendix 1, was deemed worthy under the terms of the Grant Aid Scheme in the amount stated in Column 3 for the reasons set out in Column 4.

3. An application from Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 for grant aid was approved by the Cabinet on 12 March 2007 with a view to determining a three year funding agreement for the years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10. That agreement has now been determined and the amount of £4,311 is recommended as appropriate for grant aid assistance in the first year of the agreement being last year's funding plus inflation and similar to that awarded to other groups of this size and nature, under other long term agreements.

Other Options for Action:

4. Options considered in terms of the grant aid application were for the approval (if so the amount concerned), deferral or refusal of the application. There were no other options for consideration within the Community Wellbeing Portfolio as the only transfer of funds, which is possible, is from the various Voluntary Sector Assistance Budgets.

Consultation Undertaken:

5. Discussions with applicant group and with Officers.

Resource Implications:

Budget Provision: £94,756 set aside for long term, village hall and major grants in 2006/07. Consideration to be given to transfers between different elements at a later stage if necessary.

Personnel: From existing resources.

Land: Nil.

Council Plan/BVPP Ref: reference to Sections within the 'Community Wellbeing and Leisure' themes and reference to further development of Social Inclusion initiatives in the 2006/07 Best Value Plan.

Relevant Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 1972 Section 137; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision Act) 1976 Section 19.

Background Papers: Application for grants together with supporting information from group concerned.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act: Approval will be of benefit environmentally as works will make the hall more energy efficient.

Key Decision Reference (if required): N/A.

APPENDIX 1**GRANT AID APPROVALS - 2006/07**

Column 1 Group	Column 2 Nature of Application	Column 3 Amount Approved £	Column 4 Comments
High Beech Village Hall Management Committee	Internal refurbishment	2,000	Assists BV Plan in terms of social inclusion; needs of all age groups residing in the locality of High Beech, Waltham Abbey. Group also assists BV Plan in terms of providing community/leisure provision. Well-established facility providing much needed service in the community.
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	Commencement of a three year funding agreement for the years 2007 - 2010.	4,311	Meets Best value Plan in terms of the needs of the young people in the Waltham Abbey area.

APPENDIX 2

GRANT AID SCHEME 2007/08

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS as at 9 July 2007

Long Term	£	£
Alzheimer's Society	1,211	
Crossroads	4,311	
Epping Forest District Swimming Club	3,582	
Loughton Voluntary Care Association	2,371	
Home-Start Epping Forest	2,895	
North Weald Airfield Museum	2,156	
Ongar Voluntary Care	1,211	
Rural Community Council for Essex	1,211	
Samaritans	2,156	
Theatre Resource	4,311	
Victim Support	3,790	
WAYPIC	4,311	39,680
One-off Major Grants		
Epping Bowls Club	1,000	
Epping Foresters Cricket Club	3,500	
Old Person's Advisory Group (OPAG)	5,000	
Royal British Legion – Loughton Branch	1,000	
Sheering Village Hall	800	9,300
Total Expenditure as at 10 07 2007		48,980
Amount Remaining at Present		45,776
Amount Remaining if Applications Approved as per Appendix 1		39,465