



Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association
Date of application	30/01/2022
Name of project	Easter Event
Amount Requested	£304.25

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:
 We have engaged with residents through social media, the café on a Saturday, discussions, volunteers, and the meetings. It was agreed there is not enough at present available on Tinkers Bridge to build community spirit, engage with the children and residents of all ages. Christmas event was very positive with 187 children received selection boxes this is a massive increase compared to previous years. On engagement with residents, we have learnt there is a need for all ages not just the children. Therefore we made the decision to do activities through the café on a Saturday, the easter egg hunt on another day and then the meal and bingo , this way we reach a greater number of residents and residents of all ages.

Officers Comments:
 The event should encourage residents to engage and socialise with each other. Running the event concurrently with the existing larder/cage on Tinkers Bridge

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:
 Families will have enjoyable activities to break up the Easter holidays. Children get to have some fun and show off their skills decorating eggs. The bingo and meal are fun and hopefully something that will become a monthly event to engage with residents. It will provide a fun experience, especially in the current climate of Covid restrictions. If the event doesn't take place we would miss an opportunity to achieve the benefits of the project. Families are battling financially so some children may not get easter eggs and be able to have an experience to share with their friends when returning to school.

Officers Comments:

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:
 Tinkers Bridge RA has agreed to fund the cost of the bingo starter kit (£180). The event will be free of charge.

Officers Comments:
 N/A

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents
Applicants comments: Families will have enjoyable activities to break up the Easter holidays. Children get to have some fun and show off their skills decorating eggs. The bingo and meal are fun and hopefully something that will become a monthly event to engage with residents. It will provide a fun experience, especially in the current climate of Covid restrictions.
Officers Comments: The Easter event should encourage families to socialise, and the purchase of a bingo kit will add an extra activity to the planned monthly meal. This could help generate an income for the Residents Association.

Officer Assessment

- Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No
- Have we received all governance documents? Yes No
- Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes No

Officer Recommendation and overview
The application is recommended for approval as it should bring residents together for Easter, and provide equipment that can be used in the future to run other events and generate an income for the Residents Association. The cost of the Bingo kit is being paid for by the Residents Association.

Which fund would this application come from? Communities and Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £2,334

For completion after scoring

Scorer No	Scorer Name	Total Score	Any other comments
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

Agenda item: FC 50/22

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 16th February 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update all councillors of WCC's current Youth Service delivery: What is working well, areas for development / support and emerging priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the Council notes the report.**
- 2. That members have an opportunity to raise questions and gain greater insight into our services.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Following a significant period where the Youth Service has had to adapt and at times, be pressured and restricted, this paper is to enable this committee to see what changes have taken place, see what is happening and, following the Covid hiatus, how the team / service is emerging from these times of uncertainty.

The paper shared in November 2021 (attached) showed the depth and breadth of the service, seen by MKC as an example of what is achievable - extensive, wide reaching and of high quality.

A couple of projects have been on hold, due to the risk of sharing spaces with other organisations and the shutdowns of those partner organisations. One of the WCC strengths is in the network of partnerships developed over the years. However, when partners suffer, there is a risk that this impacts on WCC.

The biggest loss has been in terms of safeguarding and early intervention pathways that were not in place with school closures etc, but these are now being reinstated. However, the relationship with MK College has been completely closed down and is yet to be reinstated as infection rates remain very high.

The MKDONS SET Girls Football sessions that were due to commence in November 21 (originally started in October 20 and postponed) will begin from the EAC courts after the February half term.

A second Football project: an UEFA legacy piece for LGBTQ+ women and nonbinary young adults 16+ is hoped to start in April. There is also a potential opportunity to take a group of young people to a Women's Euro game as part of this legacy work from UEFA.

The partnership with Phoenix Arts has been successful and on average 25-30 children and young people attend every week to access quality arts sessions for

free. This is an offer that many of our families may not be able not afford to offer their children if it was 'full cost'. The Arts are proven to develop confidence, communication skills and improve self-esteem and wellbeing and we look

forward to seeing how this partnership can be developed and sustained over the coming months and years.

We are working closely with Stephenson Academy Trust to share resources to deliver a programme for parents experiencing loss of control and violence at the hands of their children. The service is also bringing YIS mental health workers into the weekly senior Healthy Living Project (one session per month) and launching our own mental health hub weekly, starting this month.

We continue to have excellent relationships with Foodbank, Baby Basics, Hygiene Bank, Storehouse, THT, Healthwatch, Young carers, our family Centres, CFP and Children's Social Care.

We continue to Host Q Alliance and have a positive relationship and the respect of the Milton Keynes Pride Festival team.

Finally, the service has recently secured commitment from MKC to continue the secondment of a youth support worker for 10hrs per week to deliver on Woughton. This will enable us to keep the invaluable service of MK Young Parents on parish.

Play Rangers has continued throughout, with the only exception being the spring 2020 major lockdown preventing us from delivering anything face to face. In the last few months, we have sustained the Beanhill session weekly, the Netherfield one until the last few weeks due to staff shortages and the Eaglestone session whilst the light allowed. All will be reinstated to full capacity as staff and seasons allow.

Youth clubs have taken the biggest hit, except for Netherfield, which did, but has since been built back up. The team have done a lot of outreach across the parish and it is reported that young people have learnt new habits during Covid: many preferring to return home and stay in after school, they are more connected electronically than ever so the need to be outside is less. The Youth team remain convinced it is a safer and healthier model to get youngsters out, socialising in safe places, engaged and accessing services so remain dedicated to that end.

There is excitement about the relaunch of the two junior clubs and once back to a full complement of staff, alongside a little sunshine, we anticipate they will return to great things again. Our Senior Healthy Living Project starts up fully again this month and has potential for positive change for older youths.

The community garden and development of our Forest school and training opportunities are elements to look forward to. Consultation has begun ready for 22/23 and the development of a WCC Youth Council, raising awareness of the democratic process amongst our young residents and building better engagement amongst younger residents.

The last two years have also been a time of growth in terms of professional development and the subsequent development of the team. Multiple staff have trained to deliver sexual health services, three have gained specialist qualifications in Autism awareness and special needs. One Play Therapy Diploma. We have four new, entry level football coaches on team and team currently training in forestry schooling and British Sign Language as and when time allows.

Looking forwards, we need to remain committed to encouraging the children and young people to use our services. The services are needed more than ever as mental health, domestic and peer abuse,

family breakdown are all significant issues that appear to have increased. And the impact of poverty remains clear. We feel there is a continued vigilance that we need to keep up in order to best meet the needs, whilst working to the strengths of our young residents and their families, but we genuinely feel equipped and in a good position to continue to succeed.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

The current Staffing budget and structure enables a good level of delivery that meets the needs of the current and proposed operational / service plans. It is worth noting that there has not yet been an opportunity to fully test the structure of model, but the Youth Manager is confident in the project planning and can adapt if necessary.

The team is small and there are times where staffing is very difficult due to leave and absences. This is mitigated by the relationship between the different teams and managers - this is well established now based on collaborative working, as has often been the case within the council. At times of additional need, both community team and the Environment Projects officer have worked well together to prevent any extended lapses in delivery when possible.

The collaborative working across teams has also enabled a greater richness in offer across all our directorates.

Ultimately, we deliver an awful lot with a tight team and to a high standard. We do it well but there is little 'wiggle' room so it is necessary to be aware that there will be times when staff take leave entitlement or emerging priorities require a quick and usually short-term change to delivery.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

The team continue to try to re-engage with the number of children and young people that we did pre- Covid and manage the emerging needs and difficulties the last 2 years is manifesting for them.

It is difficult to plan investment in no95, which the Youth Manager sees as an integral element of our success, when the lease is (at this time) limited in longevity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Youth Budget is sitting positively at this time, with less expenditure than budgeted. This is due to the adaptive, reduced face to face delivery periods. The 22/23 operational and service budget has been well planned and will be adequate for successful delivery.

We have had an incredibly successful year in securing grants to enable additional offers and continue to look ahead to other grant funded projects to enrich our service further.

The Youth Centre (No95) is well managed and continues to offer a renowned Arts Awards offer, generating enough income to sustain the building.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Youth Service Overview 15/10/2021.

AUTHOR

Tash Darling – Youth Manager & DSL

Agenda item: SC 51/22

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 16th February 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the Services & Communities Committee on the years' Service Plan and projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Community Fridge -

Continues to deliver in excess of 600kg of surplus food every week to local residents. We recently carried out an analysis of the community fridge activities between January and December 2021:

- 114 total fridge sessions
- 8,045 total visits (not unique visitors)
- 40 tonnes of food distributed:
 - 19 tonnes fruit & veg
 - 8 tonnes bread
 - 7 tonnes store cupboard & other items
 - 4 tonnes meat, dairy & eggs
 - 2 tonnes cakes & pastries
- Based on average prices of food, it is estimated that over £77,000 of surplus food was saved and redistributed to residents during 2021.
- Fridge users took away food with an average retail value of over £9 every time they visited.
- A person accessing the fridge twice a week, every week, could get food worth nearly £1,100 in a year.

While these figures can be seen as a sign of success, it must be remembered that the community fridge is a food waste project, and supplies will dwindle if supermarkets continue to resolve food waste themselves. It is important that we continue to reinforce this message with fridge users so that they don't become reliant on being able to access free food through the fridge.

Community Larder –

The Community Larder has been running at Coffee Hall Meeting Place since July 2021. There are around 50 members at present. The actual number of members dropped slightly when Moorlands opened their larder, and more recently when Tinker Bridge RA opened theirs. We will continue to promote the larder amongst our residents as it provides an effective way to get good quality food while accessing the services that WCC can offer. Importantly, when compared to the community fridge, it is a far more sustainable project.

Although the larder isn't free to use, the weekly membership cost of £3.50 compares well with the value of food (on average around £20) that members can access. We also offer 12 week discretionary (free) memberships to residents if they are struggling to access food. This can offer a welcome bit of support for residents while we work with them to resolve their issues.

Community Café -

The café reopened indoors during August 2021, and is run by our Café and Fridge Co-ordinator. The café is staffed by volunteers from the local community and students from MK College. There have been regular sessions in the café, including:

- Craft group
- Cats Protection League
- Housing advice
- Councillor drop-ins
- Loan shark advice
- MK Dons SET

We are looking at ways in which we can expand the café offer – a young person's café and a dementia café have both been suggested, and a weekly lunch session for older residents is also being explored.

Woughton Advice Service –

Lauren, our new Advice Officer, started with us in November 202 and has settled into the role well. She has restarted the weekly outreach advice sessions at Moorlands and Hedgerows family centres, and we are assessing the need to run sessions at other locations on the parish. Meanwhile, Sue continues to support residents on a wide range of issues, and is currently helping a number of residents get access to local services. As we return to post-lockdown life, we will start to use the wellbeing room for drop-ins and face to face sessions. These will be timed to coincide with the fridge, café and larder where possible.

The WAS team also utilises the services of two volunteers to help our residents. They have particular skills and experience in benefits and housing, and they are proving to be a valuable asset.

It is expected that the WAS team will become busier over the next few months, when the impact of rising utility bills, food costs and increased NI contributions becomes fully known.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Service plan budget.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Woughton Community Council Officers and volunteers.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Sean Perry
Community Services Manager

Agenda item: SC 52/22

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 16th February 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update and consult on preparations for events over the coming year, specifically Blue Light Walk, Jubilee weekend, Remembrance, and possible festival.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes this report.**
- 2. That the committee decides whether to include the MK Hospital Charity within the Blue Light Walk event.**
- 3. That the committee confirms their wishes regarding Jubilee weekend activities.**
- 4. That the committee considers delivery of Festival this year.**
- 5. That committee agreed to underwrite hospitality costs for the Children's Remembrance Parade.**
- 6. That the committee offers any other views regarding events over the coming year.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

There has been some discussion around events this year and, having had two years where plans were ruined by restrictions and pandemic impacts, the council hopes that this year will see delivery of several events – this paper explains plans to this point and asks for clarification from the committee regarding future plans and events.

Blue Light Walk

This event, taking place on 25th March, celebrates the work that front line workers do, the support over the course of the pandemic and the continuing support for the NHS and blue light workers.

There have been positive responses from people to the postings about this and a press release has been written (awaiting agreement at time of writing), with an expectation that this will become a significant event.

We have been contacted by the MK Hospital Charity (<https://www.mkhcharity.org.uk/what-we-do/>) who have requested involvement in the event. There are positives to this (publicity, additional focus, support to the NHS), but equally the potential for this to change into a different type of event – rather than being a 'thank you', it becomes a fundraiser. There are also political aspects – should charities be funding the NHS? We have worked hard to avoid any political implications relating to the event, so this needs to be agreed by the committee.

Does the committee feel that involving the Hospital Charity in this event is suitable, or will this change the focus to something else?

Jubilee Weekend

This committee has previously stated that a carnival for the Jubilee would be good. To this end, investigations have been taking place and discussions happened at both Residents Association Forum and then at Jubilee Planning meetings. Concerns have been expressed that there is insufficient 'buy in' from local groups and so the 'carnival' element is unlikely to happen.

Questions remain for this committee to consider in terms of an alternative approach. Ideas include offering funding to residents to enable them to do their own thing (street parties, events, etc.), fitting in with the national activities (lighting a beacon on the Thursday evening, the 'big picnic' on the Sunday) or continuing with the idea of doing something on the Saturday – a 'festival' of some sort.

Questions for committee to consider:

- What, if any, activities should we, the council, offer?
 - o Funding for groups? Smaller pots for non-constituted groups? *(for example, £500 for each estate association, with £50 for individual roads, crofts or groups).*
 - o A beacon lighting event (this could include music, food, etc if wanted) on the Thursday evening, in line with other national events.
 - o Any event on the Sunday, to fit in with the 'big picnic' idea – communities sharing food over the course of the lunchtime.
 - o A largish event on the Saturday or a festival later in the year or neither? Worth noting that any event on the Saturday is unlikely to be supported by many and there may be an issue in terms of staffing, due to the long weekend.
 - o Any other considerations or ideas.

Does the committee have a view on what could or should be done over the Jubilee weekend, following the recent meetings with resident representatives?

Festival

This links to the discussion above. We had focused on the Jubilee weekend but haven't considered the usual summer event – Festival. This could take place over the summer, as previously agreed, with the usual festival approach – music, stalls, food, etc.

Does the committee feel that this is something that we should work towards, given the other events in place and the continuing uncertainty around pandemic (previous cancellations at late notice)?

Remembrance Parade (Children's)

Having had a hiatus for the last two years, planning has started for the parade and wider event for November 2022. This event has previously been managed by the RBL and WCC have supported them – this has now changed and the event will fall under WCC to lead, manage and ensure safe, suitable delivery.

The proposal is that this takes place on Armistice Day, 11th November (a Friday) and includes all the elements that have made this event such a success previously: bugler, doves, vehicles, etc. alongside invites to all relevant schools over the next month or so.

Alongside these discussions are the bits either side – road closures, traffic management, etc and then after the event activities and hospitality. There are several officers that will be undertaking Traffic Management training prior to the event and road closures will be applied for.

Following the event, the proposal is that Chambers is used as a 'green room' for the special invites (dignitaries, special guests, the vicar, bugler, etc.) and that the Café in CHMP is used for the children to collect snack / drink. With around 1100 children in 2019 and an expectation that we will be at a similar level this year, agreement is requested that WCC 'underwrite' the costs of hospitality – if sponsorship, donations or other routes don't bear fruit, that the council will buy suitable supplies to a maximum of £1000.

Does the committee agree to this guarantee if it is needed?

National Play Day / Beach Party

These two events are the usual events that our Youth service provide / are involved in. National Play Day didn't happen in 2020 and last year, the two were combined – Beach Party on National Play Day. During 2022, National Play Day is scheduled to return on 3rd August and will take place in Campbell Park – our team will take the inflatable rings, as usual. There will also be investigations into whether there is any funding available to support residents getting to Play Day, be that via provision of transport, walking buses (utilising the canal 'boardwalk') or even via boats.

Beach Party will take place on another day over the summer holidays, somewhere on parish.

Other events

We will be at MK Pride, as we have been in previous years – we have previously used WCC resources to support the event but may wish to consider a broader approach this time. This can be explored at a later date.

We will also be supporting the other events that will take place over the coming year, be those offered by Resident Associations or other groups locally, as well as larger events that WCC may benefit from.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

All these events have implications on staffing, to greater or lesser extents. Jubilee weekend is especially challenging as officers may wish to make the most of the extended break, rather than being at work throughout.

Blue Light Walk is relatively minimal in staffing needs – purely hi-viz marshals to ensure safety. Depending on the outcome of discussions with the hospital in March, there *may* be the option of a gathering at the end of the walk, with refreshments, etc (currently not possible, due to NHS rules) which will have an impact, but again, relatively minimal.

Festival has previously been managed by officers and would be again, preferably with a view to the creation of a longer-term group to take this on, passing ownership to local residents, rather than only WCC.

Remembrance is a workday and will be provided as always.

Play Day and Beach Party are primarily Youth team with support from others – this will be the case again this year, with level of support based on whether the current vacancies can be filled.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 53/22

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Wednesday 16th February 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform the committee of a MK Youth Cabinet event and see if anyone would like to attend on behalf of WCC.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the committee notes this report.**
2. **That the committee considers attendance at this event.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The following email message has been received:

Dear all

First of all thank you for your ongoing support with YCAB and the work we do on behalf of young people in MK. As you are hopefully aware, we have continued to work hard during the pandemic on our campaigns. These last 10 months we have focused on the issues that were voted in by 7000 young people in the UK wide Make Your Mark vote. And this year we have launched another By-Election to fill vacancies to the youth cabinet.

We, at YCAB, are excited to announce that we are planning a function on the 11th of March to showcase all that we have been up to in the COVID-19 years, and we would like to invite you to come! It will be at Church of Christ the Cornerstone; arrivals from 4:45pm, starting at 5:15pm and finishing by 6:30pm. This is an exciting opportunity for you to learn about all the amazing stuff we do at YCAB, and what we have done in response to the Make your Mark Campaign. We will have presentations for all of our action groups of the current term: domestic abuse, stop plastic pollution and mental health, and the homelessness action groups detailing all that we have done and all that we plan to do in the future! We will also be announcing those joining YCAB and our new campaigns from the Make Your Mark 2022 vote.

Tea, coffee and juice will be available on arrival. If you have any special needs please let us know. Unfortunately places will be limited and will be offered on a first come basis. If you would like to attend please email roz.mascarenhas@milton-keynes.gov.uk your name and everyone in your party by the 9th of March. Any questions please feel free to email Roz.

Thank you
Veer Shah

Chair
On behalf of MKYCAB

This fits in with the proposal that WCC develops a Youth Council locally and may be useful for contacts, networking and knowledge gaps.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

At least one officer from WCC will attend this event (either Youth or Community or Council Manager) as part of the development of the Youth Council. However, having an elected member there too would be excellent.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager