

## Hampshire County Council

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Request for funding for Wecock Farm Community Association
<b>Reference:</b>	3913
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation for a grant of £10,000 to Wecock Farm Community Association towards the cost of employing a part time Community Project Worker for two years.

#### 2. Background – the Organisation and its work

- 2.1 Wecock Community Association works to support the inhabitants of Hart Plain Ward and specifically the residents of the Wecock Farm estate in Havant. It provides for the social, educational and recreational needs of these residents and also runs the community building which is in the centre of the estate and the hub of local activity.
- 2.2 This organisation and the building is primarily managed by volunteers and is an active and busy organisation whose work is only restricted by the limitations of the volunteer time. There are a number of residents who are providing daily support to this organisation and its projects on a voluntary basis and who are working at full capacity.
- 2.3 The Association has made a number of important links with local organisations including The Links Children’s Centre, the Youth Service and Rachel Maddocks School. The catering in the Association’s building is

provided by people with learning difficulties and provides a way by which this specific group of people can be involved in main stream life on the estate.

- 2.4 The Association has a number of projects that are outside the environs of the building itself, including the restoration of the environmental area known locally as 'Billy's Lake'.
- 2.5 The Association is currently working towards a quality mark for community associations.
- 2.6 A number of County Council representatives visited this organisation on 2 December 2011 including Karen Murray, the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (CCBS) and Councillor Mans, Executive Member for Communities and International Relations. They were very impressed by the enthusiasm shown by this organisation, its volunteers and their continued to desire to improve the well being and quality of life of the people this organisation serves.
- 2.7 During the visit a brief discussion was held about the need to employ a part time Community Project Worker who will be able to support and expand the work of the volunteers and who will assist the organisation to further increase participation by the local residents in all aspects of community life and enable them to provide the best activities for every-one involved. The Association have now requested financial assistance in order to support this activity.

### **3. Contextual information - The scope of the project.**

- 3.1 The vision of Wecock Farm Community Association is 'that every-one in the community from the youngest to the oldest should be able to participate in activities at the community centre and on the estate'. The Association is already aware that there are a number of isolated older people in the area. It is also important to the organisation that those with learning difficulties continue to have a safe and friendly place to meet. Furthermore there is a desire to provide further support to those in the 16+ teen groups, some of whom are already volunteers.
- 3.2 The Project Worker will work with the volunteers to consult with the community about their service and activity needs and help to set up projects to support these needs.

### **4. Finance**

- 4.1 The total cost of this project is £20,000. This will cover the cost 2 years activity, both staffing and project costs. It is intended that the post will

continue after 2 years by actively seeking other funding and through additional income generated by an increase in activities. The Association is requesting 50% of the project costs - £10,000. This funding is available from the new CCBS Organisational Change Fund which has been set up to support specific time-limited projects. The proposal meets the fund's criteria.

## **5. Meeting Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 This project meets Priority 2 of the 'Open for Business' Plan -: Enhance community engagement and partnership working.
- 5.2 This project meets the CCBS aim -: Helping to develop safe and strong communities.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide support to recreational facilities and to contribute by way of a grant or loan towards expenses incurred by voluntary bodies providing such facilities and activities.

## **7. Recommendation**

- 7.1 That a grant of £10,000 be given to Wecock Farm Community Association towards employing a part time Community Project Worker for two years.
- 7.2 This funding is conditional on an appropriate recruitment process being in place and that a representative of Hampshire County Council is able to participate in the recruitment process.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

**Document**

**Location**

Applications for financial assistance

Community Support Service  
 Department for Culture, Communities  
 and Business Services  
 Castle Avenue Winchester