

# Community Chest and Theatre Royal Grants 2022 to 2023

<b>Report number:</b>	<b>CAB/WS/22/009</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	8 February 2022
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**Decisions Plan:** The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.

**Wards impacted:** All wards

**Recommendations:**

**A. Recommendations of the Grant Working Party:  
Community Chest**

**It is recommended that:**

**1. the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2022 to 2023, be approved, namely:**

<b>a. Reach Community Projects, Newmarket</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>b. West Suffolk Citizens Advice, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£215,000</b>
<b>c. Abbeycroft Leisure, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£10,992</b>
<b>d. Mildenhall and District Sea Cadets, Mildenhall</b>	<b>£6,000</b>
<b>e. Moreton Hall Youth Action Group, Bury St Edmunds</b>	<b>£12,520</b>
<b>f. Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS), West Suffolk</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>g. West Suffolk Hive CIC, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£1,880</b>
<b>h. Alumah CIO, Brandon</b>	<b>£4,058</b>
<b>i. Bury Women's Aid, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£16,225</b>
<b>j. Hope After Suicide Loss, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£14,175</b>
<b>k. Relate, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£3,750</b>
<b>l. Room 4, Haverhill</b>	<b>£4,680</b>
<b>m. Suffolk Rape Crisis, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£7,000</b>
<b>n. The Befriending Scheme, Haverhill</b>	<b>£5,267</b>
<b>o. Homestart in Suffolk, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£5,700</b>
<b>p. Homestart Mid and West Suffolk, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>q. Sharing Parenting – Community Outreach, Newmarket</b>	<b>£5,400</b>

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<b>r. Sharing Parenting – SEN Parent Support, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£12,480</b>
<b>s. Still Good Food CIO, Bury St Edmunds</b>	<b>£7,400</b>
<b>t. Art Branches CIC, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£10,776</b>
<b>u. Memories are Golden CIO, Haverhill</b>	<b>£5,100</b>
<b>v. Millennium Farm Trust, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>w. St Nicholas Hospice Trust, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>x. Steel Bones, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£5,500</b>
<b>y. The Shed, West Row</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>z. Bury Drop In, Bury St Edmunds</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>aa. Gatehouse Caring, Bury St Edmunds</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>bb. Our Special Friends, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>cc. The Voluntary Network, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£14,430</b>
<b>dd. Wood Monkey CIC, West Suffolk</b>	<b>£8,400</b>

**2. No Community Chest funding be awarded for two years for the reasons outlined in paragraph 3.3 of Report number: CAB/WS/22/009**

**3. For the reasons set out in paragraph 3.5.2 of Report number: CAB/WS/22/009, no Community Chest funding for 2022 to 2023 be awarded to:**

- a. Abbey 1000, West Suffolk**
- b. All Saints Under Fives Pre-School, Newmarket**
- c. Brandon Creative Forum, Brandon**
- d. Bury Christian Youth, Bury St Edmunds**
- e. Cavendish Bowls Club, Cavendish**
- f. Clare Swimming Club, Clare**
- g. Dance East, West Suffolk**
- h. Mildenhall Girl Guides, Mildenhall**
- i. St Peter’s Church, Brandon**

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- j. Suffolk Young People’s Health Project, West Suffolk**
- k. Brandon in Bloom, Brandon**
- l. Greener Growth CIC, West Suffolk**
- m. Haverhill Community Trust – Volunteer Centre, Haverhill**
- n. SOS Bus CIO, Newmarket**
- o. The Tree Action Society of Clare (TASC), Clare**
- p. Beck Row Methodist Church, Beck Row**
- q. Honington and Sapiston Village Hall, Honington and Sapiston**
- r. Lidgate Village Hall, Lidgate**
- s. Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Limited, Pakenham**
- t. Freedom Bury St Edmunds CIC, Bury St Edmunds**
- u. Restitute CIC, West Suffolk**
- v. Suffolk Family Carers, West Suffolk**
- w. Suffolk Mind, West Suffolk**
- x. The Lightwave Community CIO, Red Lodge and Beck Row**
- y. St John’s Church, Beck Row**
- z. Newmarket Community Arts Centre Forum, Newmarket**

**B. Core Funding: Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds**

**It is recommended that a grant of £61,000 core funding be approved for the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds for 2022 to 2023, ahead of a wider review of funding in time for the 2023 to 2024 award, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report number: CAB/WS/22/009.**

## 1. Context to this report

### A. Recommendations of the Grant Working Party: Community Chest

- 1.1 Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups, who contribute towards improving the quality of life for residents across West Suffolk.
- 1.2 The Cabinet-appointed Grant Working Party met on three occasions in December 2021 and January 2022 where it thoroughly considered a number of applications submitted for Community Chest funding in the 2022 to 2023 financial year. In some cases, applicants applied for two years of funding (2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024).

## 2. Proposals within this report

2.1	Community Chest has £466,733 available for allocation for 2022 to 2023. No project monies have been previously committed and carried forward from 2021 to 2022.
2.2	Community Chest applications closed on 29 October 2021 and we received 57 applications from a wide variety of organisations, totalling <b>£1,193,398.80</b> . The scheme is oversubscribed by 256 percent. An application was withdrawn from the process, due to receiving a duplicate application. 56 applications were subsequently considered.
2.3	Each application had been summarised within the appropriate category listed above as shown in Appendix 1 attached to this report, with the full applications attached as appendices to the Grant Working Party report. Each application was required to be evaluated in accordance with the eligibility and selection criteria provided to the Grant Working Party and was considered in turn.

## 3. Consideration of grants and recommendations: summary

### 3.1 One year funding

The Working Party considered the following applications fully met the eligibility and selection criteria and felt that each demonstrated excellent, worthwhile projects that could be satisfactorily delivered to support those in need. Members supported the allocation of the full amount for each project in 2022 to 2023, as applied for; however, where applications had been made for two years, these were limited to one year funding only (see 3.3 below).

1.	Moreton Hall Youth Action Group, Bury St Edmunds	£12,520
2.	Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS), West Suffolk	£10,000
3.	Bury Women’s Aid, West Suffolk	£16,225
4.	Hope After Suicide Loss, West Suffolk	£14,175
5.	Suffolk Rape Crisis, West Suffolk	£7,000
6.	Homestart Mid and West Suffolk, West Suffolk	£15,000
7.	Art Branches CIC, West Suffolk	£10,766
8.	St Nicholas Hospice Trust, West Suffolk	£20,000
9.	Steel Bones, West Suffolk	£5,500

3.2 The Working Party considered the following applications met the eligibility and selection criteria and supported an allocation of funding; however, it felt the amount it applied for could not be granted in full in 2022 to 2023. This was largely due to the limited funds available and maintaining a fair and equitable approach to all, basing their rationale on the quality of the application and the amount of funding requested. Members also considered that the proposed reduction would not impact on the organisation’s ability to deliver the project, having also acknowledged that many could be signposted to alternative sources of funding to potentially bridge the shortfall should it be required.

The majority of the proposed allocations were derived from examining the breakdown of costs of the project contained in the application and proposing that funding be granted to cover that specific element. In addition, where applications had been made for two years, these were limited to one year funding only (see 3.3 below).

10.	Reach Community Projects, Newmarket	£5,000
11.	Abbeycroft Leisure, West Suffolk	£10,992
12.	Mildenhall and District Sea Cadets, Mildenhall	£6,000
13.	West Suffolk Hive CIC, West Suffolk	£1,880
14.	Alumah CIO, Brandon	£4,058
15.	Relate, West Suffolk	£3,750
16.	Room 4, Haverhill	£4,680
17.	The Befriending Scheme, Haverhill	£5,267
18.	Homestart in Suffolk, West Suffolk	£5,700
19.	Sharing Parenting – Community Outreach, Newmarket	£5,400
20.	Sharing Parenting – SEN Parent Support, West Suffolk	£12,480

21. Still Good Food CIO, Bury St Edmunds	£7,400
22. Memories are Golden CIO, Haverhill	£5,100
23. Millennium Farm Trust, West Suffolk	£5,000
24. The Shed, West Row	£5,000
25. Bury Drop In, Bury St Edmunds	£10,000
26. Gatehouse Caring, Bury St Edmunds	£10,000
27. Our Special Friends, West Suffolk	£10,000
28. The Voluntary Network, West Suffolk	£14,430
29. Wood Monkey CIC, West Suffolk	£8,400

Whilst generally falling within this category, a specific discussion was held on Citizens Advice West Suffolk, as detailed in paragraph 3.4 below.

### 3.3 **Two year funding agreements**

3.3.1 Many uncertainties continue to arise from the pandemic in both the short term and long term for the whole community. Whilst many organisations have been able to access specialist COVID-19 support funding, we have seen many organisations needing to change their approach, delivery style or indeed pause activities. For this reason, the Grant Working Party made the decision not to grant any two year funding agreements in this round.

### 3.4 **Citizens Advice West Suffolk – across West Suffolk**

3.4.1 The Working Party acknowledged the value of Citizens Advice West Suffolk (CAWS) to the community, Council and other services in West Suffolk, recognising the importance of the work they do to support residents in need and the delivery of their preventative services. Due to the level of expertise and our longstanding positive relationship the Working Party was keen for the Council to support CAWS as best it could within the limited parameters of the Community Chest scheme and budget.

3.4.2 In making its recommendation, the Working Party sought further clarification and information on a number of issues, to which the officers provided comprehensive responses.

3.4.3 Whilst minded to support the application with a significant level of grant, the Working Party felt that due to limited funds available and to be fair and equitable to other applicants, it needed to reduce the amount applied for. Members therefore considered it appropriate to fund £215,000 of the requested £260,000 (17.3 percent less) as this would not significantly adversely impact the CAWS's ability to operate, albeit recognising that it would need to be supported by alternative funding sources.

3.4.4 In 2021 to 2022, CAWS had been awarded a Community Chest grant of £204,000, therefore, whilst recommending a 17.3 percent reduction to

that applied for in 2022 to 2023, it would still receive a £11,000 increase on last year's grant.

### 3.5 **Recommendations for no funding in 2022 to 2023**

3.5.1 The following applications were not supported on this occasion and have therefore not been recommended for funding from Community Chest:

31. Abbey 1000, West Suffolk
32. All Saints Under Fives Pre-School, Newmarket
33. Brandon Creative Forum, Brandon
34. Bury Christian Youth, Bury St Edmunds
35. Cavendish Bowls Club, Cavendish
36. Clare Swimming Club, Clare
37. Dance East, West Suffolk
38. Mildenhall Girl Guides, Mildenhall
39. St Peter's Church, Brandon
40. Suffolk Young People's Health Project, West Suffolk
41. Brandon in Bloom, Brandon
42. Greener Growth CIC, West Suffolk
43. Haverhill Community Trust – Volunteer Centre, Haverhill
44. SOS Bus CIO, Newmarket
45. The Tree Action Society of Clare (TASC), Clare
46. Beck Row Methodist Church, Beck Row
47. Honington and Sapiston Village Hall, Honington and Sapiston
48. Lidgate Village Hall, Lidgate
49. Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Limited, Pakenham
50. Freedom Bury St Edmunds CIC, Bury St Edmunds
51. Restitute CIC, West Suffolk
52. Suffolk Family Carers, West Suffolk
53. Suffolk Mind, West Suffolk
54. The Lightwave Community CIO, Red Lodge and Beck Row
55. St John's Church, Beck Row
56. Newmarket Community Arts Centre Forum, Newmarket

3.5.2 Reasons for this included:

- not meeting the eligibility and selection criteria;
- the quality of the application;



- lack of justification for the amount of funding requested and how it would be utilised;
- similar projects already existed in West Suffolk, therefore some projects could be consolidated with other existing organisations through effective collaborative working;
- whether the objectives of the project would benefit sufficient numbers of the community; and
- projects could be funded by alternative funding sources, signposting for which would be provided by officers where possible.

If the Working Party's recommendations are approved by the Cabinet, the officers will provide individual feedback to those applicants that have been unsuccessful and to those where funding has been reduced.

To further assist with organisational support, officers are engaged with external agencies to expand the profile of grant making platforms and have provided and hope to continue to provide training opportunities to assist West Suffolk organisations with subsidised training courses delivered by Community Action Suffolk.

#### **4. B. Core funding: Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds**

- 4.1 Together with grants to Community Chest 2022 to 2023, the Cabinet is also asked to consider awarding a grant to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds in 2022 to 2023. Details of this can be found at Appendix 2.

#### **5. Alternative options that have been considered**

- 5.1 The Council could choose not to provide any grant funding; however, it is recognised that some support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) is required. The Community Chest also enables the Council to commission services to support the delivery of its priorities.

#### **6. Consultation and engagement undertaken**

- 6.1 The Grant Working Party had prior sight of the applications via email and spent several hours considering each application in turn. The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities has attended meetings and his views and comments have been sought throughout the process.
- 6.2 Officers provided the Grant Working Party with research of local and national funders and information of internal West Suffolk Council departmental grants to provide rationale for each application.

#### **7. Risks associated with the proposals**

- 7.1 Organisations are not aware of our approach to grants, which equates to a medium risk. Control – to implement a wide-ranging communication plan.

- 7.2 Requests for funding exceed the amount of money available, equates to a medium risk. Control – eligibility criteria and evaluation scoring matrix to be used to identify best fit and value for money.

## **8. Implications arising from the proposals**

- 8.1 Financial - Funding for grants are contained within existing budgets.
- 8.2 Personal Data Processing - As a non-decision making body, the meetings of the Grant Working Party were not held in public. Personal contact details of applicants have been held by the Council for internal use only.
- 8.3 Equalities - The Council's approach to grants has been subject of an Equality Impact Assessment and no negative consequences have been identified.
- 8.4 External organisations – regular engagement has been held with relevant VCSE organisations during the Community Chest funding process.

## **9. Appendices referenced in this report**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of applications and amounts of funding requested.  
Appendix 2 – B. Core funding grant to Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

## **10. Background documents associated with this report**

- 10.1 None