

Bromsgrove District Council Equality Small Grants 2020-21 Summary Report

Bromsgrove District Council Small Grants Scheme (BDCSGS) is now in its sixth year of providing grants to any community of voluntary sector group/project that benefitted the people of Bromsgrove and contributed to the strategic purposes of Bromsgrove District Council.

In 2019-20, as a trial, the grants were delivered in one round, with the grant being awarded in May 2019. The overall budget of £10,000 remained the same but the maximum grant request of £500 was increased to £1000. This trial enabled the Council to support some larger projects and meant organisations had more time to deliver their projects. Organisations/groups received their grant in May 2019 and the delivery deadline was the end of April 2020. Due to the success of the trial in delivering one round of grant funding, it has been continued for the 2020-21 grants.

For 2020-21, the grants required a stronger connection to equalities. To emphasise the importance equality has within these grants, the name of the scheme has been changed and is now known as the Bromsgrove District Council Equality Small Grants Scheme. As in previous years applicants are required to show which protected characteristic/s (as specified in the Equality Act 2010) the bid supported and in addition, the application form now asks which of the following equality objectives a proposed project will meet:

- **Challenging inequality:** Activities which aim to eliminate discrimination/advance equality by improving outcomes and access for people to services, information and/or employment, including raising awareness of equality issues.
- **Celebrating diversity:** Activities which celebrate or raise awareness of diverse cultures/communities/identities, bring people together, aim to build strong and cohesive communities and/or reduce prejudice or hate crimes and incidents.
- **Support for protected characteristic/minority/disadvantaged groups:** Activities which reduce isolation, build resilience and independence, help people stay safe, help people learn or prosper, or help people stay healthy

From when the grants were launched on the 28th February to the closing date on 27th March 2020, the world changed significantly. Throughout the four week period we monitored the responses and on the closing date, after receiving more grant

requests than the £10,000 available, a decision was made to continue with the agreed timetable.

The main change came with the involvement of Bromsgrove Engagement & Equalities Forum members with the scoring process. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and the need to be in lockdown, we were unable to hold a panel meeting of community members to help in the scoring process. Instead, three members of the Policy Team – the Policy Manger, the Engagement and Equalities Officer and the Policy Officer – met via video calls to score and agree which projects were funded. The decisions were then sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum for comment and agreement that they were happy with the decisions that were made.

Summary for BDC Equality Small Grants Scheme 2020-21

- A total of **17** grant applications were received
- A total of **14** organisations/groups received a grant
- A total of **6** were new organisations/groups applying for the first time
- The total budget of £10,000 was awarded

Overall summary of the BDC Small Grant Scheme 2015/16 to 2020/21

- There have been **9** rounds of grants since 2015/16
- A total of **£55,376.30** has been awarded over the 9 rounds
- A total of **64** voluntary and community groups have received a grant since 2015/16
- Projects have helped support older people, young people, men, women, people with a disability, members of the LGBT community and different race and religious groups

Appendix 1 - The table outlines the successful projects who have received a BDC Equality Small Grant in 2020-21

Appendix 1 - Successful Projects who have received a BDC Equality Small Grant 2020-21

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Grant Amount Awarded
Age UK BRWF	Developing Age UK BRWF's Trusted Traders Register	To consolidation of its current 'Trusted Traders' information into a single, more accessible 'Register' and to extend the 'Trades' listed to include additional services such as hairdressers. The Register needs to be in a format that is accessible and can be easily maintained.	£400 Full Grant Awarded
Alvechurch Historical Society	Local History Showcase and Scrapbooks	Set up a display case to be owned by AHS in Alvechurch Library to house Alvechurch specific and other historical items to be transferred from museum which has to close. Create scrapbooks of photographs of historic Alvechurch to add to local history resources at Alvechurch Library	£800 Full Grant Awarded
Bromsgrove Pride	Bromsgrove Pride 2020	To help put on the first ever Bromsgrove Pride. Working with the market to have a number of stalls for LGBTQ+ organisations, local community groups and other supporters. Leading up to the event there will be a series of community workshops to make banners and shopping trolley floats, and on the day there will be a celebratory parade to kick off the event. There will be social media advertising in addition to posters and fliers to engage a good cross section of the community. The original date of the event was to be on Saturday June 13th 2020, but because of the uncertainty around the coronavirus we are investigating dates in September instead.	£976 Full Grant Awarded

<p>Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub</p>	<p>Love Myself, Love My Community</p>	<p>To continue to give a safe environment for young people to explore their sexuality and gender identity, and allow them to feel comfortable with whom they are, maximising support, minimising dysphoria through the LGBYQ+ Support Group. To support the wider needs of the young people of Bromsgrove, by allowing them to have a voice through the Youth Council, supporting their emotional and mental health needs, enabling them to be successful within adolescences. Also get young people involved in community objectives and events.</p>	<p>£1,000 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Bromsgrove Blaze Basketball Club</p>	<p>Walking Basketball</p>	<p>Provide an opportunity for those who can no longer play the running game & those who have never played basketball to engage in a sport. This will include all ages, genders, abilities & cultures. Those with prosthetic limbs will be encouraged to participate.</p>	<p>£720 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Catshill Juniors Football</p>	<p>Catshill Juniors Coach Development</p>	<p>Catshill Juniors is a new football team for the under 11s, and is formed to enable players who would not normally get the chance to play for a team to participate in a team sport and develop confidence.</p>	<p>£400 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Fairfield Village Community Association</p>	<p>Barrier Free Flicks</p>	<p>Using the Village Hall's HD projector, sound system and screen to put on accessible film screenings for people that experience hearing loss and sensory issues to enjoy the cinema experience.</p>	<p>£299 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Headway</p>	<p>Technology Smart</p>	<p>The project is to install an ECHO PLUS into our three Wellbeing Centres to educate, help and support our clients to understand the technology and the uses they have in their own homes. Sessions will be introduced into the rota to incorporate training and understanding of the technology. Then 11 smaller ECHO DOTS will be given to individuals who will get the most benefit and usability at home supporting their independent living. Helping them with medication prompts, things they have to remember such as appointments at the hospital or doctors. The 11 individuals will trial the overall introduction of this additional support in their own homes, so will be monitored closely.</p>	<p>£470 Awarded The request was for £969.86 however it has been agreed the criteria for the grant is to cover one Echo Plus for the Bromsgrove Wellbeing Centre and 11 Echo Dots for residents in the Bromsgrove District area only. The amount has been reduced to also reflect the current price</p>

<p>Mentor Link</p>	<p>Telephone Mentoring Service during Coronavirus Outbreak</p>	<p>To support those children whose parents are seeking one-to-one support during the coronavirus outbreak, and whose issues may be exacerbated by the recent lockdown as well as the impact on their mental health. This project would mean that we are still able to provide a much-needed service to distressed children during these unprecedented times. As per our normal service, this support will be provided at critical, and in this case unique, point in their lives. Our mentors will provide confidential listening support for up to an hour per week. As the demand for support continues during the suspension of our normal service, we want to set up this new telephone service in order to continue to support anxious and vulnerable children</p>	<p>£990 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>New Salsa Dance</p>	<p>'Dancing with Dementia' Salsa Classes</p>	<p>To Deliver fun dance classes to the elderly to help to prevent dementia, and to deliver fun dance classes in schools to encourage etiquette, healthy lifestyle and education. I want to provide free dance class vouchers for vulnerable people and people on low incomes to encourage them to leave their home, meet new people, keep fit while having fun and learn to dance.</p>	<p>£1,000 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Primrose Hospice</p>	<p>Care, Compassion and Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>The grant would be spent on providing 2500 miles of free assisted transport for those attending Primrose who would not be able to attend under their own steam. It will help the infirm access the clinics, it will provide free transport to those who are facing financial hardship due to not working and or carers responsibilities. It will provide a lifeline to whose illness has resulted in social isolation.</p>	<p>£1,000 Full Grant Awarded</p>
<p>Round Midnight</p>	<p>Creative Cohesion</p>	<p>Creative Cohesion is a brand new project that brings young people together to create a combined performance using drama and music. To work with two groups of pupils from two different schools with each group having approximately 20 pupils. The project will run for 5 days and the pupils will take part in a variety of creative art forms, introducing them to and engaging them with the arts. The young people will learn how to research their area/community and learn about their peers, understanding backgrounds, cultures and experiences that are different to their own. Performance being delivered on the final day to an audience made up of both school communities.</p>	<p>£1,000 Full Grant Awarded</p>

<p>Rubery Old Folks Entertainment Fund</p>	<p>Monthly outings for the old folk and free Christmas meal</p>	<p>To provide monthly outings to nearby seaside resorts and other places of local interest for the elderly and disabled residents in Rubery.</p>	<p>£645 The request was for £800 however, due to being oversubscribed and still wanting to support the project the grant was reduced</p>
<p>Worcestershire Carers Association</p>	<p>Carer Translated Resources</p>	<p>To support a more diverse carer base and offer support to carers regardless of language. We aim to be able to join more diverse groups and offer support resources so that more carers can be supported in their caring roles. We want to expand our resource base to produce literature and videos to help carers access our services that do not speak English.</p>	<p>£300.00 The request was for £840 however working together with the council, the project can be delivered for less. The Council used its own contractor and in-house print room for the translation and printing. The organisation was given £80 for the video creation and £120 for marketing and engagement work.</p>