

Bromsgrove District Council Equality Small Grants 2021-22 Summary Report

Bromsgrove District Council Equality Small Grants Scheme is in its 7th year of providing grants and it certainly has been a challenge since March 2020. To reflect this, the grants scheme has been amended to meet the changing landscape. Firstly, a decision was made to extend the delivery deadline for the 2020-21 grants from April 2021 to March 2022, allowing more time to deliver some projects safely and without certain restrictions. Secondly, the 2021-22 launch was delayed till May 2021 to ensure projects could be delivered as Covid restrictions started to be lifted.

The 2021-22 grant scheme was launched on 13 May 2021 and was open for 4 weeks till 9 June 2021 with projects to be delivered between 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022. The limit for grants was reduced from the £1000 to £750 per project application for smaller voluntary, charitable or community organisations/groups that operate in Bromsgrove District who would find it hard to meet the criteria of bigger grants. The maximum grant pot remained at £10,000.

For this year, in addition to the Equality Small Grant Scheme, there was another opportunity to apply for a larger grant. The Community Grants Scheme 2021/22 was aimed at larger voluntary, charitable or community organisation/group or if the project needed a bigger grant with up to £5,000 available per project. The Community Grants Scheme replaced the New Home Bonus Community Grants Scheme but followed the principles of the original scheme. There was £80,000 available under this scheme.

Unfortunately, once again due to the pandemic we were unable to hold a face-to-face panel meeting of community members to help in the scoring process. Instead, four members of Equality and Engagement Forum volunteered to score the applications and sent their feedback to the Policy Team. An online meeting took place, and the successful projects were approved.

Summary for BDC Equality Small Grants Scheme 2021-22

- A total of **7** grant applications qualified
- A total of **6** organisations/groups successfully received a grant
- A total of **2** were new organisations/groups applying for the first time
- A total budget of £3,760 was awarded.

Overall summary of the BDC Small Grant Scheme 2015/16 to 2021/22

- There have been **10** rounds of grants since 2015/16
- A total of **£59,795** has been awarded over the 10 rounds
- A total of **66** voluntary and community groups have received a grant since 2015/16
- Over the years 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 2021-22

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

| Organisation | Project Title | Project Description | Grant Amount Awarded | Protected Characteristics |
|--|---|--|----------------------|---|
| Blackwell Community Garden | Blackwell Community Garden | The garden space has kindly been donated by the church for use as a community garden/ allotment for growing vegetables, wildflower, and a space for outdoor classes to be run for the community. The grant will be used to purchase plants, compost, adult, and children's garden tools, shed, rain collection system and 2 benches. | £750 | All age groups, race, disability, Community cohesion |
| Bluwave | Bluwave Get Together | To have a meal out and get together to thank the drivers for their continued service throughout 2020 and to introduce new drivers. In addition, and subject to restrictions to get some of our isolated clients out, to perhaps their first social event. | £750 | Disability |
| Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees | Bromsgrove and its Poets Pt2 | Bromsgrove and its Poets is a two-part project seeking to celebrate Bromsgrove and its diverse communities through poetry. The filming of part 1 featured residents performing work by 4 celebrated local authors, A. E. Housman, Geoffrey Hill, Sally Purcell and Molly Holden. The second film in the project involves more local people of all ages and abilities writing their own poems from a wide variety of diverse background. | £750 | Race |
| Stoke Prior First School Association | Improving diversity in children's books to support an anti-racist curriculum. | A review of existing schoolbook collection and purchase of new books to improve diversity in the book collection to support an anti-racist curriculum. | £750 | Race, young people, disability |
| Stoke Road Allotment Society | All Weather Space Project | To enable Allotment Society to hold outdoor meetings and activities all year round with the purchase of an all-weather gazebo. | £260 | All age groups, race, disability, Community cohesion |
| The Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub | LGBTQ+ Support | To have a weekly budget to support the work undertaken through the LGBTQ+ group by giving a safe environment for young people to explore their identity and mental health and the effects the last 12months have had on their lives, allowing them to feel comfortable and grow as a person. | £500 | LGBT |