

Appendix 3: Feedback from successful small grant applicants

How did you find the small grant application process?

- I found it very straightforward to complete
- I found the process to be clear and fairly easy to follow. Claire's help was gratefully received. My only thought here is that having applied for a £200 grant, I hadn't realised I'd then have to submit claims to receive the grant. however, I appreciate this is public money.
- The small grant application process was easy and accessible. East Herts Council were very helpful, when applying, with information evenings and advise over email. As an individual, I was able to use my project partners as a 'Banker'.
- I have used this grant application process a few times and find it easy to access and complete.
- Fairly straightforward, though applying for a new group meant finding a "proper" bank recipient.
- Very easy.
- More bureaucratic than before for such a low amount especially as it is linked to the East Herts lottery
- A fairly easy process.
- The process of applying for grant was quite straightforward.

How vital was the Council's grant in enabling your project to happen?

- Without it, this valuable info pack around Covid recovery through the winter and signposting to local vital services would not have been possible
- As the Folly Island Association relies wholly on support from local councils, we wouldn't have been able to purchase the salt bin with the generous grant from EHDC.
- The grant is essential for the Welldance - East Herts Dance and Wellbeing Libraries project to reach new and hard to reach audiences. Due to Covid-19, we have had to delay or recreate elements of our project and are unable to perform until Sept/Oct time however with this grant we are able to create marketing material and online trailer to engage and reach audience online during the spring.
- It is vital in enabling a project to happen and I do recommend it to people who are looking for financial support for projects. When planning
- projects people come up with a multitude of ideas and the question is always asked - do we have sufficient finance to cover this - and knowing this grant is available allows projects to be more diverse and interesting.

- This particular grant was part of a much bigger programme of works and was to assist in moving the project forward. The men's shed is keen that much can be achieved by the group.
- Essential to enable us to use the Hall safely and comply with Covid guidelines.
- It enabled new batteries and pads to be bought for two public facing defibrillators that would have been taken out of service if funding was not available.
- Very vital we were able to serve east herts residents better and safer.
- The grant enabled us to buy more croquet mallets so more people can join in and extend the project. The extra equipment provided means we can run 2 games concurrently...

Would you recommend the Small Grant Fund to eligible groups or colleagues?

- Without reservation. it is a really encouraging way to get started with grant applications for any lay people /volunteers not connected to a formal organisation . It spurs you on to do good local stuff without the burden of having to be connected in to existing charities or local volunteering organisations .
- Yes, I absolutely would.
- Yes - it is an easy application which supports communities, wellbeing and the arts.
- It is very difficult to find financial support and this scheme is extremely useful and sometimes people's small ideas turn into something larger over time and this is the seedbed for this happening.
- Yes – but it is more suitable for a one off project or event
- Definitely would recommend.
- Not to small groups as the link to the EH Lottery causes paperwork for a little return as they might not have enough members to generate enough tickets. In our case a plea to 16000 NHW members resulted in less than 30 tickets per month. They like the yellow sticker on the door but enthusiasm usually ends there with only a small number actively participating in fund raising etc.
- Yes.
- I would encourage other community groups to apply for this grant.

Do you think that a small scheme like this – which is open to unconstituted groups and individuals – should continue? Please explain your answer.

- Definitelywithout this start point, most people simply would not put their head above the parapet unless they are natural fundraisers .it is easier to do nothing as the personal cost of getting involved can be onerous if there are lots of limiting hoops to jump through . This is a simple way to encourage great mustard seeds to come forward and flourish.
- I certainly do. Small groups like ours have little experience in accessing public funds. Other organisations have more resource to access public funds. I really do hope that this scheme will continue as it has certainly enabled us to respond to a need identified by the local community.
- Yes - As an individual artist, I fall between the gaps for a lot of funding applications. Although I am an established dance artist, I am not set up as a constituted group because of the freelance nature of my work. This grant has enabled me to invest in my marketing and project reach.
- I think it is very important that this grant scheme is open to unconstituted groups and individuals because if someone has a good idea they need to have somewhere to find initial finance for this. It is not always easy for small groups to get themselves officers and a constitution together, especially if they are just starting out and if they have enthusiasm to start a project this should be supported. When they are awarded the grant perhaps you could give them advice as to how become constituted and point them to any courses you have available for this. They would obviously have to give a very good detailed description of their project and future for the group.
- Yes, because in this current situation funds are hard to find, particularly for these groups, especially when they may well be doing essential work to help other through this crises.
- The small grant scheme should continue in order to assist small groups to purchase equipment they might not have funds for or to assist in paying the rent at the present time when income is very limited but it should not be linked to the EH Lottery.
- Yes - it gives fair chance to small groups that may not have all the credentials.
- It gives inclusion

Any other comments?

- Tying the above into some kind of support network via a Facebook group might help spur more on to work collaboratively across local like-

minded projects and reduce the silo effect of people not realising there are so many wonderful similar projects going on where lots of dots could be joined up for the good of all

- All I would like to add is that we are very thankful to you and EHDC for their generous support of our application.
- Thank you for being flexible and understanding during this year.
- With individuals applying for grants they obviously need to have some sound project in mind and detailed description. I guess at the moment that people are not so motivated to try and plan new projects and there are only ones which were in the final stages of preparation that people may continue with and currently need finance for completing them. Hopefully when we can all meet personally to discuss and plan projects to look forward to organising, there will be an influx of applications. I would certainly encourage people to get their ideas into concrete happenings.
- Yes, though I would suggest £500 is more appropriate as a ceiling. For new groups with less experience, budgeting is quite difficult and with low funds unplanned costs can cause problems.
- Although we support this scheme we also feel that all reasonable steps need to be taken to ensure validity of any grant applications.
- Publicity for grants is well publicised and advice readily available.