

REPORT TO A MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 1st MARCH 2021

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND 2020/21

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a detailed breakdown and overview of grant funding expenditure in the financial year 2020/21.

2. OVERALL COMMUNITY GRANTS EXPENDITURE

Total Allocated Budget 2020/21 = £55,000

Total Expenditure 2020/21 = £48,133.94

Total Unspent = £6866.06

No. of Applications 2020/21 = 41

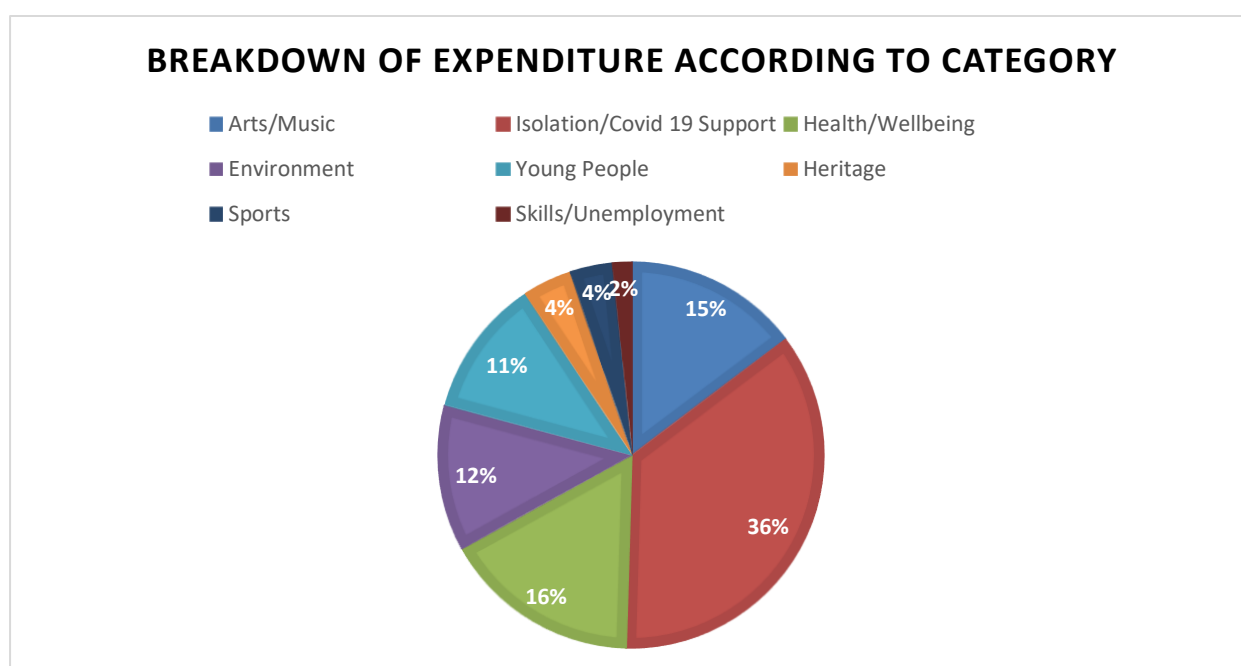
No. of Successful Applications = 32

No. of Unsuccessful Applications = 9

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS EXPENDITURE

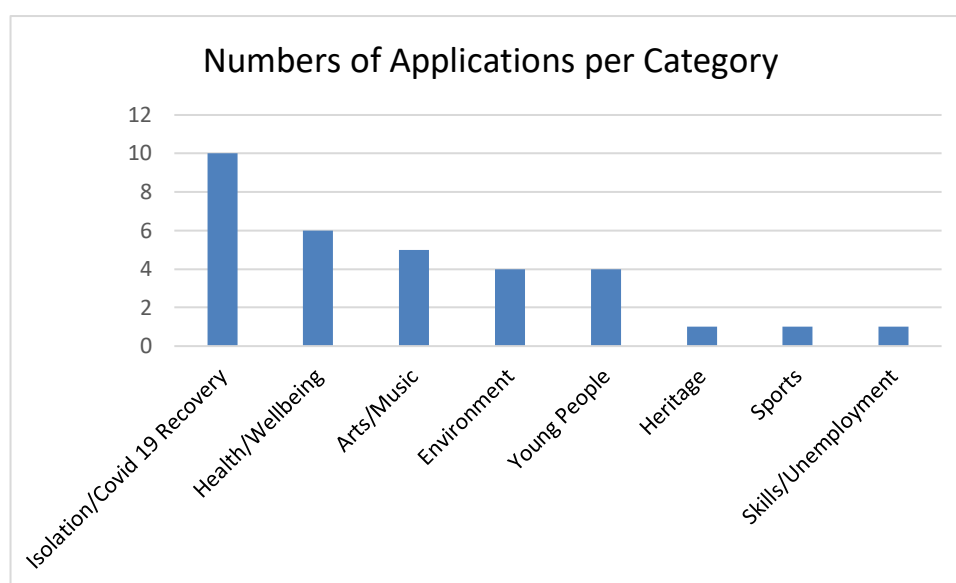
The table below shows how much grant funding was distributed according to the categories which match the application criteria:

<u>Arts/ Music</u>	<u>Isolation/ Covid 19 support</u>	<u>Health/ Wellbeing</u>	<u>Environment</u>	<u>Young People</u>	<u>Heritage</u>	<u>Sports</u>	<u>Skills/ Employment</u>
£7,100	£17,188.81	£7,948	£5,875	£5,5558.13	£2,000	£1,714	£750



It can be seen that the largest amount of funding aided projects aimed at reducing social isolation and supporting Covid-19 recovery in the town whilst the smallest amount went to projects to support skills and employment improvements. It must be noted that some projects cross categories – an effort has been made to put the projects into single specific categories depending on how strongly the project was shown to support a particular criteria in the funding application.

<u>Funding Round</u>	<u>Arts/Music</u>	<u>Isolation/Covid 19 support</u>	<u>Health/Wellbeing</u>	<u>Environment</u>	<u>Young People</u>	<u>Heritage</u>	<u>Sports</u>	<u>Skills/Employment</u>
May 2020	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0
Sept 2020	1	6	3	3	1	1	0	0
Jan 2021	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	1
TOTAL	5	10	6	4	4	1	1	1



The highest number of applications for projects which aimed to reduce isolation and support Covid-19 recovery were submitted for the September round – the effects of the pandemic had been felt for six months by then and organisations had regrouped to determine new projects which they felt could best help. These projects were mostly community support and wellbeing based. The number of projects reduced from sports, heritage and environment groups as these activities could not be delivered during lockdowns or Tier 2 restrictions, nor could they be done virtually.

The number of Arts/Music projects supported dropped as groups could not guarantee events would happen or groups were unable to deliver the events virtually.

3. LOCATIONS OF APPLICANTS 2020/21

- Applications from groups located within Leamington Spa = 23
- Applications from groups located outside Leamington Spa = 18

All projects took place within Leamington Spa or nearby ie Warwick, with the exception of the respite holidays provided by Revitalise (which were later repurposed as hardship funding this year). If projects occurred outside the town then they included Leamington Spa residents. All applicants are asked to provide numbers of Leamington Spa residents they intend to include or are asked to confirm that they will restrict any funding they may receive from the Town Council to the Leamington Spa area.

4. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

There were nine funding applications which were unsuccessful in 2020/21 and the reasons for this are varied:

- Proposed events could not be guaranteed and could not be done virtually
- Equipment requested was not in keeping with the climate emergency declared by the Town Council
- Project had already been launched and the request for any financial support was therefore deemed null
- Request for funding was for what was considered to be ongoing running costs of a company
- Lack of any long-term legacy/benefit for Leamington Spa
- Project had no specific link to or meaning for Leamington Spa
- Lack of information about how potential participants would be recruited or referred
- No other funding partners for the proposed project – financial or in-kind
- Lacked information about how people could participate in the project given ongoing Covid-19 restrictions
- Did not respond in time with requested supporting information
- Lack of required detail in application

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Democratic Support Officer with their project idea before submission for appropriate advice and guidance on the suitability of those projects for the Community Grant Fund, based on the grants criteria and now on the Covid-19 restrictions. The application form lists the criteria and contains a pro-forma version which demonstrates the information applicants should provide.

5. REPEAT APPLICANTS

Groups/organisations which have submitted four or more successful applications within the last five years (2015-2020):

- Age UK Warwickshire
- ARC CIC
- Art in the Park
- Entrust Care Partnership
- Leamington Music Festival
- Myton Hospice

- New Hope Counselling
- Revitalise
- Saturday Friendship Group (St Peter's RC Church)
- Warwickshire & Northampton Air Ambulance
- Warwickshire Vision Support

6. CONCLUSIONS

Applications to support Covid-19 recovery/social isolation reduction/health and wellbeing projects are to be expected in greater numbers in 2021/22 than other applications as the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt in many different ways across the community.

The conditions for permitting in person events in 2021 are unknown now and are likely to remain so for several more months. Any application for such events therefore must be able to show flexibility in terms of being able to be held online, or to demonstrate the adoption of robust Covid-19 safety measures including an appropriate risk assessment.

The number of sports/heritage/environment applications will remain low as lockdown continues into 2021 and the implementation of tight restrictions following lockdown is inevitable. 2021/22 would be a positive opportunity for sports clubs and other groups which would benefit from new equipment or other capital improvements to apply for funding for those items to ensure they are in the best position to restart their activities and have the best possible offer for participants, post Covid-19. This could be promoted to relevant clubs and groups across the town and any which operate outside town but include Leamington residents.

Areas which would also benefit from greater improved promotion of the community grants fund to relevant organisations are those of improving skills/addressing unemployment and young people. The effects of the recent significant downturn in the national economy have inevitably impacted on Leamington's local economy and high street, and the pandemic has caused education and training opportunities to be curtailed or cancelled. Organisations to be targeted could include Leamington Chamber of Trade, Young People First, LAMP, Lillington Youth Centre, Brunswick Hub, SYDNI Centre, secondary schools and the College (outreach).

Over the last five years, the Town Council has been asked to fund and has funded an increasing number of health/wellbeing/care projects. Nine of the eleven successful repeat applicant organisations deliver aid projects year on year across Leamington Spa. Clearly, the need continues to exist and to grow for such projects and often the sole or main funder is the Town Council.