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Report To: Full Council Date: 30 September 2024

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Community Grants

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council allocated £10,000 as its annual budget for community grants.
- 1.2 The Council awards grants, at its discretion, to local groups and organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit the parish by:
- providing a service to West Swindon residents
  - enhancing the quality of life of West Swindon residents
  - improving the environment within the Parish
  - promoting West Swindon Parish in a positive way.
- 1.3 The Council has set deadlines to accept and award grants in April and September. Grants received for the September round are as follows
- Swindon Hardship Fund £1,000
  - West Swindon Youth Club and Family Hub Project £4,321
  - Freshbrook Church £18,145
  - Swindon ATB £720
  - Friends of Lydiard Park £2,000
  - Swindon Storybook £526.08

## 2. Considerations

### Swindon Hardship Fund £1,000

Funded £1,000 in 23-24, £799.30 spent.

The Council must be satisfied that there is a direct benefit to the area or part of the area, or to some or all of the inhabitants. The use of the word “some” in relation to the inhabitants means that the council cannot use the power to benefit a single individual. An award to an organisation that supports individuals with financial assistance may be considered permissible.

### West Swindon Youth Club and Family Hub Project £4,321

Funded £4371 in 23-24. Summary return attached to this report.

Range of activities taking place for the benefit of West Swindon families.

Freshbrook Church £18,145

Part funding contribution. Necessity of grant award is not clear. Access potentially restricted to users of the building rather than the wider public. Amount requested is in excess of total amount available. Could offer support to apply to other sources of external funding.

Swindon ATB £720

Initial application to hold school holiday activity sessions at Rivermead. Recently supported the anniversary event and provided engaging, fun activity.  
Could be considered the start of a wider conversation for activity at Rivermead.

Friends of Lydiard Park £2,000

Part funding of a broader proposal to run the Battle of Ellendun project.  
Could be ringfenced to subsidise West Swindon schools/children only.. Clarification on how the Parish Council funding will be promoted required. No indication of whether this project might be repeated or whether one off. Council may be keen to support a long running event within Lydiard Park such as this.

Swindon Story Shed £526.08

Proposal to run four 4 hour sessions in November providing literacy workshops from Freshbrook Community Centre. Clarification recommended for what the demand would be, how it would be ringfenced to West Swindon children/families and numbers eligible for each session.

### **3. Recommendations**

That Council notes the considerations above and considers the grant applications accordingly.

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