

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Chipping Barnet Area Committee</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">13 January 2016</h3>
Title	Members' Item — Requests for Funding from Chipping Barnet Area Committee Budget Councillor - <u>Councillor Pauline Coakley</u>
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	Coppetts
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A – English Second Language Appendix B - Computer Skills Classes Appendix C - Children's Library Appendix D - Reducing Social Isolation in Coppetts Appendix E - Play Streets Appendix F - Area Committee Funding Application - Assessment Form
Officer Contact Details	Jan Natynczyk, Governance Officer Email: jan.natynczyk@barnet.gov.uk Tel: 020 8359 5129

Summary

The report informs the Chipping Barnet Area Committee of Requests for Funding submitted via Councillor Barry Rawlings in accordance with the revised Area Committee Budgets processes agreed in July 2015.

Recommendations

1. That the Chipping Barnet Area Committee consider the five requests for funding as detailed at Appendices A – E.
2. That the Chipping Barnet Area Committee decide whether it wishes support a full application being made to the next meeting of the Chipping Barnet Area Committee as found at appendix F.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In January 2015, the three Area Committees considered reports which detailed applications from community groups to the council's Area Committee Budgets funding stream (£100,000 per annum per Area Committee). In this process the various applications received were assessed by Officers against Area Committee Budgets Guidance and Conditions of Grant and then presented to the respective Area Committee for consideration. A number of funding awards were made and community groups have been utilising the funding for their various projects.
- 1.2 In July 2015, the three Area Committees considered reports which set out proposals for revised arrangements for Area Committee Budgets which included moving away from the open grants process which had been followed for the 2014/15 round of funding. Following consideration of the report, a revised system was adopted which gave the Area Committees an opportunity to plan and direct how they spend their funds in response to local issues which came forward from residents through a variety of routes. It was identified that potential projects might come forward via Members' Items brought to the relevant Area Committee.
- 1.3 Councillor Barry Rawlings has requested that the Chipping Barnet Area Committee consider the Requests for Funding, detailed in Appendices A - E.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are requested to consider the requests for funding detailed at Appendices A – E and determine whether the committee support the projects in principle and agree that detailed applications should come to the next meeting of the Committee.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable. The Area Committee agreed in July 2015 that applications to the Area Committee Budgets could come via Members' Items.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee. If the Committee indicate that they are in support of the funding proposals, a detailed application (made in accordance with the Area Committee Budgets application form) can be developed and submitted to the next committee for approval.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

- 5.1.1 If the Committee agrees in principle to the applications, the detailed applications will need to demonstrate how the projects link to the Council's Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The Committee are able to consider items which are in line with the remit of the Committee. The Committee have been set a budget which enables the Committee to determine how this is spent. The following table gives an outline of area budget fund and therefore the Committee as £151,204 at its disposal.

Available Area Committee budgets:

	<i>Base budget 2015/16</i>	<i>Unallocated funds from 2014/15</i>	<i>CIL income</i>	<i>Allocation through Corporate Grants programme</i>	<i>Total 2015/16 allocation through Committees</i>
<i>Chipping Barnet</i>	£100,000	£51,204	£150,000	-£17,000	£284,204

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Request for Area Committee budget funding provide an avenue for Members to give consideration to funding requests which may have added social value.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A t- details that the Policy & Resources Committee is responsible “To allocate a budget, as appropriate, for Area Committees and agree a framework for governing how that budget may be spent”
- 5.4.2 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A details that the Area Committees “Administer any local budget delegated from Policy and Resources Committee for these committees in accordance with the framework set by the Policy and Resources Committee”,

6 Risk Management

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. Equalities and Diversity

7.1 Requests for Funding allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 None in the context of this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Email to the Governance Service on 1 January 2015.

9.2 Chipping Barnet Area Committee, 15 January 2015, Agenda Item 7, Area Committee Budget Funding Allocations:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=711&MId=7982&Ver=4>

9.3 Chipping Barnet Area Committee, 2 July 2015, Agenda Item 8 , Review of Area Committee Operations and Delegated Budgets:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=711&MId=8313&Ver=4>

Appendix A

ESOL

Friern Barnet Community Library have run a successful ESOL group thanks to some funding received from the Chipping Barnet Area Committee in 2015. A professional tutor is used who also taught ESOL classes at Barnet & Southgate College. The class is full and has received good feedback. ESOL is an important element in allowing people, particularly those newly arrived, to fully participate as citizens. This includes the increasing necessity to access on-line forms, to be able to apply for jobs and assist children in achieving academically. FBCL would like to continue to run this course for a whole year – 48 weeks @ 1.5 hours. Depending on progress this would mean $\frac{3}{4}$ different groups being able to access this training. This has become even more important given the decision of the local college to cease ESOL provision.
72 hours @ £20 ph = £1440

Appendix B

Computer Skills Classes

FBCL also received some funding to run computer skills classes – below is an evaluation:

The Computer Class started at the library on Thursday 8th October 2015 and was advertised as a basic course aimed at older people with little or no previous experience of using computers. The classes are set to run for ten weeks concluding on 11th December.

Initial advertising attracted six participants, but recent acquisition of additional computers by the library has enabled us to increase to eight. The classes have been running twice a week on Thursdays and Fridays for one hour. In order for the teacher to be able to give more individual attention, once acquainted with the students' differing capabilities, this was increased to one and a half hours with effect from the 12th November.

Attendance has been good although some participants notified me of holiday arrangements etc meaning they could not attend all classes. Nevertheless attendance has only once dipped below 75% and for the majority of classes has been 100% (taking into account absences notified in advance).

Participants have so far been introduced to the basics of Word, creating their own documents, the internet and using Google applications and searching. Those who had not previously used email have set up email accounts. The more advanced students have learnt to improve the organisation of their files and folders. Future topics include the use of social media and using the computer for photo storage and sharing.

The participants are nearly all retired people from the local area. Early feedback has been positive and it is intended to request a full feedback comment from each participant toward the end of the course. Individual records are being maintained for each student to record progress made and competencies covered, and these will be available for submission if required.

They wish to continue this skills training for 2016 as a way of reducing social isolation and assisting older residents to participate in a society increasingly reliant on technology.

72 hours [48 weeks at 1.5 hours] @ £20ph = £1440 + £160 towards maintenance, stationery and supplies = £1600.

Appendix C

Children's Library

When FBCL opened it relied on donations. This included furniture, toys and storage units for the children's library. This area is very well used, especially with parent and toddler groups on 2 days per week. It is now time to re-furnish the area to ensure it stays suitable for young children and families.

To start this process FBCL are seeking funding for child size table and chairs, new play rugs and a storage chest for toys, etc.

2 small tables @ £150 = £300

8 small chairs @ £25 = £200

Easy Access storage quad unit = £340

Play mats 2 @ £150 = £300

Total £1140

Appendix D

Reducing Social Isolation in Coppetts

This is an increasing problem in Coppetts with an aging population, as it is elsewhere in Barnet. There are some voluntary groups trying to overcome this – Hindu Cultural Society and Barnet Asian Women's Association and some work undertaken by churches – but there is no co-ordinated approach. In order to do something about this we have approached Friends in Need [East Barnet] to help undertake a feasibility study to the setting up of a local organisation focussed on supporting older people in their own homes. This will include meeting local organisations, analysing need and undertaking an impact assessment. We have already met with the minister at both Peter le Poer and St John's who are willing to be involved. Depending on the feasibility study an organisation can be set up and funding sought using their findings.

Feasibility study by FiN 50 hours @ £20 ph = £1000

Appendix E

Play Streets

There were 3 successful Play Streets in the ward in 2015 thanks to funding from London Play that is no longer available. The idea is that the street is closed for 4 hours and turned over to local children rather than cars. This has proved to help community cohesion bringing people together who are often strangers given the great increase in rented accommodation as well as providing the opportunity for children to make friends and play together. Qualified and experienced play workers encourage children to be involved and supervise the play. This has the added advantage of having DBS checked adults who have had both child protection and first aid training on hand. This is different from individual families going to a local park which does not strengthen the local community or street parties which are not focussed on the needs of the child.

Street Play: a local project, a national campaign

The Street Play project's vision is for every child to have the freedom to regularly play actively and independently in front of or near their own front door, contributing to a healthy lifestyle.

Play England is working with [Playing Out](#), [London Play](#) and the [University of Bristol](#) to directly support communities and local authorities across the country, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to reactivate a culture of children playing out in the streets near where they live and embed this in local policy.

The Friends of Hollickwood School are willing to be a partner and as a registered charity are willing to manage distribute and monitor any funding. So far there is a parent willing to organise the activity in MacDonald and Parkhurst Road in N11 and in Newton and Alexandra Road in N10. We will get a 5th session in either N20 or N12 part of the ward.

Costs

5 x 2 playworkers – 40 hours @ £15 ph = £600

Public Liability Insurand for each event = £250

Membership of scrap bank and play resources = £150

Total £1000