

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	Grove Park Community Group (GPCG)
Date of meeting	08 September 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Chris Blake – Chair GPCG Sonja Aldengard – Treasurer Christine Ball – Community Development Officer (CDO) GPCG Petra Marshall – Community Resources Manager LBL Paul Gale – Local Assemblies Manager LBL

Group Name:	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total funding received 2015-16	£18,000	N/A	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Total funding to be received 2016-17	£24,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	

Outcomes	Support
	1. Bringing the community together
	2. Providing recreational activities to encourage social engagement, improve confidence in accessing services and reduce isolation and loneliness
	3. Increasing physical health and well-being through activities and promoting a healthier life style for all ages
	4. Aiding rehabilitation for those in need
	Special Conditions: 1. Further detail around the scope of the Community Engagement Officer role 2. Must work as part of the Community Development Consortium with other Neighbourhood funded Groups and other stakeholders.

Outputs:	2015-16 Target	2015-16 Q2	2015-16 Q3	2015-16 Q4	2015-16 Total	% Achieved	2016-17 Target	2016-17 Q1	2016-17 Q2	% Achieved TD
<p>1.1 With the completion of our two new Shed Heaven workshops and the patio, which includes an outdoor stage, there will be a range of social events organised for the whole community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor concert • Summer fairs and/or similar events • Weekly community café • Cultural food festival • Heritage and literary trail • The Big Lunch • Cultural film performance • Astronomy night • User display celebration <p>(number of attendees)</p>	1122	327	526	697	1550	138%	2170	489		22%
<p>1.2 Continue to facilitate a range of social activities on a regular basis. Increase community integration, including multicultural and cross- generational, through the Shed Heaven wood work and musical workshops, as well as the bicycle repair shop. This will give all ages the opportunity to socialise while sharing skills and learning new ones</p> <p>Continue to facilitate the Community Choir and Folk Music Workshop</p> <p>Continue to promote the once weekly “Take a Break” community café to include more themed events and international food days</p> <p>Provide three Stay & Play sessions and one Art & Craft session per week for children under 5 (under 8 in school holidays) and their parent cares. This will encourage children’s development and communication skills while</p>	2967	971	896	1189	3056	102%	3400	869		26%

their carers socialise and make new friends while sharing parenting skills (number of users)										
1.3 Continue to facilitate and increase the varied range of exercise classes to suit different ages and abilities – yoga, Pilates, special rehabilitation classes, walking, cycling and Indian dance classes Increase the number of Outdoor Adventure weeks / days for children, which involve literacy skills and applied mathematics while giving them a chance to experience all aspects of the outdoors from leaning about animals and insects, building shelters using shrubs and trees, to cooking on an open fire (number of attendees)	2488	900	987	902	2789	112%	2660	826		31%
1.4 Special rehabilitation exercises Potted History Reminiscence Outdoor Adventure weeks / days Nature Classrooms Community Garden / woodlands (number of attendees)	330	121	49	61	231	70%	590	250		42%
1.5 Develop a Community Neighbourhood post, employing a worker to work across the ward. Community engagement is the involvement of citizens, through locally based representative bodies, in influencing and shaping decisions which directly impact on their local environment and the quality of their daily life.	Employ a community development worker				Worker not employed	0%	Replaced by 1.6 for 16-17			
FROM Q1 16-17 1.6 Continue to build on the Community Engagement Role, Establish a community development consortium including • local residents, • Ward Assembly • Safer Neighbourhood team	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100 Introductory letters 25 Visits to	Community Development worker employed in April 16		0%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service providers, WG Grace, Grove Park Community Library, Marvels Lane Boys Club, Burnt Ash Methodist Church, etc. • Businesses, • Pre- Schools / Nurseries, Burnt Ash, Little Stars, Marvels Lane, Grove park, Valeswood & Little Pumpkins Nurseries. • Schools, Marvels Lane, Coopers lane, Baring Road (Primary). Knights Academy (Secondary). • Housing Associations, London & Quadrant, Phoenix Housing, • NHS, IAP, Bromley & Lewisham Mind • Faith, BME and other hard to reach groups. <p>Complete a mapping exercise to identity gaps. Holding quarterly focus groups to ensure it is kept up to date.</p> <p>Identify areas of need, look at funding opportunities to support new groups and community organisations.</p> <p>Through the Ward Profile identify how to engage with hard to reach groups ensuring ALL residents have an opportunity to have their say and access services. Cross ward engagement partnership working, Catford South, Downham & Whitefoot. Become a member of the ChART Committee to offer support.</p>							<p><i>service providers</i></p> <p><i>2 Bi-Monthly ward meetings</i></p> <p><i>1 Community Development consortium meeting</i></p> <p><i>1 Community Showcase event</i></p>	<p>No measurable monitoring data supplied for the rest of this output</p>		
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1. Remove funding from under-performing groups/those performing least well

Have you achieved at least 90% of the agreed reporting outputs and outcomes in all quarters since the start of the programme?

Grove Park Community Group (GPCG) have delivered against the majority of their outputs, however, the key output (1.5 in 15-16 and 1.6 in 16-17) plus the special condition number 1 has not been delivered at all.

Output 1.5, Develop a Community Neighbourhood Post – This is an integral part of the grants award. There are clear issues with this output with no work taking place outside of the Ringway Centre and no progress in 15-16 against an agreed set of actions as evidenced below.

Output 1.4 - This is referral based and has not met its target figure. Numbers are lower than expected due to fewer referrals. It has been recommended that the organisation that provide these sessions link into Community Connections rather than just GP referrals. Regardless of the fact this service is not directly provided by GPCG it is still an output and needs to be addressed. GPCG are looking at other projects around rehabilitation. GPCG state that the refurbishment of some meeting rooms at the Ringway Centre has caused some issues, but the work is now complete.

Good performance on outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and exceeding target. However, the vast majority of these activities preceded the grant award.

Have you achieved all of the wider outcomes outlined in the initial grant application?

The wider outcomes and the essence of the grant theme have not been delivered. Bringing the Community Together - this is an integral part of grant and GPCG has been provided with the opportunity to create partnerships and share best practice with other groups from the local area. This has not happened and no evidence of work outside of the Ringway Centre has been provided.

A Community Development Officer to work in Grove Park ward formed part of the agreement, however this did not start until 1st April 2016. GPCG states that the Officer was already doing this work and felt that this was a continuation of work taking place at the Ringway Centre.

GPCG states that they have tried to develop the consortium as agreed, but they have been unable to do this due to a lack of responses from other stakeholders. It was pointed out that this has not been evidenced and that the Development Officer who also covers the Grove Park Assembly received no invitation. Therefore, GPCG were asked to send through evidence of the planned meeting, this has not been received.

There is very little evidence of work taking place outside of the Ringway Centre for 2015-16. GPCG Community Engagement Officer (CDO) stated that she does go out and has met with other wards such as Catford South, Downham and Whitefoot and has met local groups at the WG Grace Centre.

GPCG admits that it does not evidence work as well as it should.

The agreed outcome of bringing the community together has not been delivered.

If no to either of the above:

- what are the mitigating factors?
- what plans are in place for improving performance?
- what progress has been made against actions agreed with your Development Officer?

GPCG stated that initially they did not realise that part of the role was to deliver work outside of the centre and that they interpreted the agreement differently thinking that it was a continuation of work at the Centre. GPCG admit that this was their error.

In February 2016 the Monitoring Officer met with GPCG and suggested that they do the following as part of their neighbourhood development:

- Grove Park Steering Group / Consortium – See above, not taken place or evidenced
- Mapping exercise in Grove Park – Work started, but no apparent progress since Q3 15-16
- Identify new Groups & Community Orgs – No evidence of this in 2015-16
- More work outside of the Ringway Centre – No evidence supplied from 2015-16 or Q1 16-17
- Initiate a Development Plan for Grove Park – Not started
- Crowdfunding Project for Grove Park– GPCG says that it attended the workshop, however no Crowdfunding projects identified.

GPCG state that the CDO is now working on occasion outside of the Ringway Centre and meeting local groups, they stated that they are:

- In contact with 55 plus Group at Library
- Working with Chinbrook Dog Show
- Working with SCALE Projects on a 16-24 Employment Programme
- Working in partnership with a new group delivering healthy walks

GPCG was asked about its relationship with ChART (Chinbrook Action Residents Team), they responded that this is more difficult and they have recently planned two meetings but both had been cancelled. GPCG state that not a great deal has happened with ChART until now. However, there have been developments at ChART including the employment of staff to deliver their priorities and a Launch Day on 27 August 2016.

It appears that no new work has taken place outside of what they were already delivering and GPCG cannot provide detail as to how the grant is being spent. GPCG were asked what the added value is as the outputs were already being delivered prior to the grant. GPCG were unable to provide any detail regarding the spend.

A key element of this grant is to work in partnership with the Local Assembly, ChART, the Community Library and other local organisations to bring the community together. This can be done in a variety of ways, such as: sharing resources, identifying good practice, joined events, local Steering Groups and signposting. Little or no evidence has been observed of this taking place in Grove Park ward with no leadership provided by GPCG.

What local support/evidence of need can you identify for the work you are undertaking?

GPCG was unable to evidence a need for community development work to take place and all the evidence provided related to the need for a community centre. A mapping exercise would have enabled GPCG to identify need within the ward.

GPCG state that they are working in partnership with other groups / services and providing free accommodation for them at the Centre including the IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapy). HTC (Horndean Technology College) have been providing teacher training for unemployed people and have been charged a 50% rate for this. HTC have delivered three of these sessions.

GPCG works with Warmer Homes and is now referring people. Potted History and Wide Horizons use the Centre as does Bromley College who use the Music Studio, they will be doing a Robotic Session on Saturday. GPCG stated that they did invite all the local colleges, but only Bromley College expressed an interest.

Hyde Housing are carrying out an employment initiative and this was relayed to ChART via the Employment, Training and Skills Coordinator at ChART. Lewisham Cyclists, Dark Skies and Men in Sheds also use the centre. GPCG is working with a new Muslim Women's Group and a Muslim Girls Group, these are not formal Groups as yet.

The Centre also attracts quite a few people with learning difficulties who attend events including Open Mic Night, Folk Group and the Friday Café, people often visit with their Carers.

GPCG works with Community Connections who refer people. GPCG state that evidence is from other Groups and Service users and from physically meeting people.

2. Negotiate reductions and seek alternative funding streams

Are there any proposals that you can put forward that will deliver significant saving against current expenditure? This can include capital investment to change your delivery/business model.

GPCG are financially stable and their reserves are increasing.

GPCG stated that the Ringway Centre is experiencing increased demand for room hire, in addition to this they are seeing more demand for use of the garden. This has resulted in increased income. Rates have been the same for four years so there is an opportunity to increase the hire charge and increase revenue as a result of this.

GPCG has volunteer led workshops in all the musical activities, all attendees pay £2 and this now adding up. There is an opportunity with the Music Studio to become more professional as at present it is just local / smaller groups that use it, but they are reluctant to do this due to the VAT threshold.

GPCG stated that the Ringway Centre is used as a polling station with revenue received from this.

There are no opportunities for significant savings against expenditure.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

GPCG stated that over the past year the main effort has been towards making the best use of the Centre and its facilities / equipment that it received funding for, with the aim being to maximise potential.

GPCG has funding from L&Q for Community Events, this is now £3,000 having been reduced from £5,000, GPCG is meeting them to discuss a new grant.

GPCG has been running the under 5's stay and play sessions at the building next to the library and spent a large amount of money repairing the building. This has now moved to the Ringway and is linked to the £2 a family scheme. This is now a 5 day pre-school due to demand for local childcare.

The pre-school has received funding from the Ward Assembly to run under 5 activities on a Saturday for families that have a child or children with a special educational need. GPCG cannot formalise an agreement with pre-school until the lease extension is sorted, the lease is until the end of March 2017, but GPCG want to extend for a further three years, GPCG is currently in negotiations regarding this.

GPCG is still working on London Marathon Project, the money was for a multi-use games area.

GPCG did state that they continue to look at fundraising opportunities to provide funding for a community toilet / disabled toilet which will be separate from the two buildings and their meeting rooms. GPCG is looking at crowdfunding for this with the cost being around £16,000.

Other than the L&Q application no other funding bids are in place.

Are there any other funding streams that you can identify that the council can support you to access?

No requirement for support was identified.

3. Work with groups to consider mergers or asset sharing

Are there any organisations doing similar work to you in the borough who you may consider sharing resources or merging with? Who have you considered/approached?

Potential partner organisations would be ChART and Grove Park Community Library and it is clear that GPCG is not working as closely with these organisations as it should.

GPCG stated that the best that they can hope for is cooperation with other Groups. There are almost two parts to Grove Park these are Chinbrook and the area around the Ringway Centre including the town centre.

GPCG does share information and has lent equipment to other Groups such as a gazebo and a projector.

Potted History are applying to the Lottery and GPCG is part of this, if successful Potted History will have a space at the Ringway Centre and go out into the community to do gardening activities. They have office space in the north of the borough but want an office in the south.

GPCG are concerned about duplication of projects within the ward with other Groups seeming to replicate activities at the Ringway Centre. GPCG state that people from the WG Grace Centre will not come to the Ringway Centre and this is an historical issue that they need to address. Officers pointed out that the mapping exercise would help to negate the issue of duplication of activities and understand need across the ward.

GPCG want to work with the other groups to unite together for a Grove Park Festival.

GPCG are concerned about lack of youth provision within the ward.

Are there other groups in the local area that you could share resources with even if they are delivering a different type of service? Again, who have you considered/approached?

The only other local groups with potential for this are Grove Park Library and ChART, discussions have not taken place over sharing of resources and at present the relationships are not in place for this to happen.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

N/A

4. Pro-rata reductions across all groups

What would a 25% cut in your grants look like in service delivery terms? What are the wider impacts?

It was quite evident that GPCG have failed to achieve the key outputs 1.5 and 1.6. Therefore a 25% cut was not discussed and GPCG were advised that the recommendation would be to stop funding GPCG under the main grants programme. Whilst officers acknowledge that there has been some improvement this year, it is felt that this would have little impact as GPCG has been unable to demonstrate the added value of this funding award.

In response to this GPCG stated that they wanted to carry on and do their best and that they would need to re-invent themselves. They expressed concerns about the future of the Ringway Centre site. Officers told GPCG that it is a core community facility and at present there is considered a need for this site to maintain a community provision role. The officers advised GPCG that there is a need to formalise their tenure arrangement.

Have you modelled this cut and developed an action plan for its implementation?

This was not discussed, as above.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed

GPCG were advised about the decision process and the Mayor and Cabinet decision on 7 December.

Conclusion and recommendation

It is evident that GPCG have failed to grasp the community development side of the grant with little work taking place until Q1 of 2016-17. This has been despite meetings with the monitoring officer and an agreed set of actions put in place. Outcome 1.5 was an integral part of GPCG's application and the failure to make any progress across the four quarters is not acceptable.

GPCG continues to perform well on other agreed outputs, however, these were being delivered prior to the grant and will continue to be delivered if the grant were to be removed.

The recommendation is that Grove Park Community Group no longer receive Main Grants Funding.

Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations

Ethnicity:		Pregnancy / Maternity:	
Gender:		Marriage & Civil Partnerships:	
Age:		Sexual orientation:	
Disability:		Gender reassignment:	
Religion / Belief:			

Commentary and potential mitigations:

As the main grant funding awarded to Grove Park Community Group is to benefit the wider community in the ward, no particular equalities groups will be disproportionately impacted by the proposed removal of funding.