



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET – 1 NOVEMBER 2021
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 11
Subject	COMMUNITY FUNDING FOR THE 2022 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	CLlr Mike Evemy Email: mike.evemy@cotswold.gov.uk CLlr Jenny Forde Email: jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk
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Summary/Purpose	To consider the Motion “Community Funding for the 2022 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations” put to Council on 22 September 2021.
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	<i>That Cabinet agrees that it is appropriate to signpost community groups to either their local Town or Parish Council for small value contributions to the 2022 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations or to Crowdfund Cotswold for larger projects that require a financial contribution in excess of £500.</i>
Corporate priorities	Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	None



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Councillor Julia Judd, seconded by Councillor Stephen Hirst, put a Motion to Council at its meeting of 22 September 2021 as follows

Motion - Community Funding for the 2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Council notes that the May Bank Holiday Weekend 2022 will be moved to Thursday 2 June 2022 and an additional Bank Holiday will see a four – day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.

This will also mark the first truly large community gathering since 2019 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, so could arguably be considered a double celebration. There is likely to be a strong appetite from communities to celebrate this unique milestone.

There is no recent parallel for such an event, the closest being the Armistice commemorations and town and villages will benefit from a long lead time to plan, agree the format and issues such as road closures, refreshments and even catering.

This council therefore resolves to set aside specific community funding to support communities to run special events over the weekend, enabling them to kick-start their plans to organise a one off never to be forgotten event.

- 1.2 Cllr Judd was invited to introduce the Motion to Council and proposed a level of funding of £500 per Ward Member. The full financial implication of the motion was therefore £17,000.
- 1.3 In light of the financial implications, Council agreed that this Motion would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting in November 2021. Council did not debate the desirability of this Motion.
- 1.4 The Council does not have a budget allocated for this purpose. Without further investment, the £17,000 funding for implementation of the Motion would need to be found from within the existing community grant or other budgets.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 Buckingham Palace is encouraging Town and Parish Councils, and communities more widely, to plan communal celebrations of this Royal milestone. Much of the activity and material associated with such celebrations will be secured free of charge through the good graces of participating residents, and it reasonable to think that our Town and Parish Councils, as



Precepting Authorities, will be able to meet some of the cash costs arising. There will be an opportunity for them to increase their precepts for the 2022/23 financial year over the coming months.

- 2.2** Government guidance is clear that typically such communal celebrations can be run with little or minimal regulatory intervention, helping to keep costs and complexity down. That said, if in some instances such local events were of a scale to require road closures or Temporary Event Notices, the Council will be involved as a regulatory body. Currently the Council does not charge for those road closures that fall within its purview. Temporary Event Notices attract a low tariff of £21 and will only be required in specific circumstances. This is unlikely to affect many events. It is likely that regulations are more of a perceptual barrier than a real one, which could be addressed through positive communications.
- 2.3** The Motion proposes a small grant scheme to be allocated on a Ward Member basis. It should be noted that other funding avenues already exist, which may be able to support Jubilee activities. As mentioned, this type of activity will often be supported from Town or Parish Council funds. Gloucestershire County Council has launched a 'Build Back Better' Ward Councillor funding scheme which is a flexible funding mechanism that can support local activity around the District. At the time of writing, resources remain in this scheme and could support community events, particularly in recognition of the Jubilee being an opportunity for community activity post-Covid. Community groups may also be able to access funding from other local or indeed national Grant giving bodies, subject to criteria, for example, the National Lottery 'Awards for All' Grant Scheme has awarded Grants for such a purpose. As discussed further in the report below, the Council's own 'Crowdfund Cotswold' can also support community activity.
- 2.4** In 2020, the Council agreed that its community-facing Grants budgets would be managed through an on-line crowdfunding platform, operated by Spacehive. These budgets, while not committed to specific projects, are allocated to an existing process. The local branding for this approach is Crowdfund Cotswold. Ward-based grant schemes are contrary to this Policy and are not viewed as being as efficient in allocation of monies and allocations may sit unused.
- 2.5** To date, one complete round of project funding campaigns has been completed, which resulted in projects to the value of over £270,000 being supported, leveraging three times the direct Grant investment of the Council. A wide range of community projects were supported across the District. At the time of writing, the second round is in progress, project ideas have been submitted by community groups and are being verified by our partner Spacehive, before the groups launch their campaigns.
- 2.6** The Council has committed very publically to the investment of its community funds through the Crowdfund Cotswold process. Across the District, project creators are preparing complex and ambitious projects hoping for support from the 'pot'. Top-slicing



the Community Grants to fund a budget for a Platinum Jubilee scheme would reduce the scale of investment in Crowdfund Cotswold, and would run counter to the messaging used to promote Crowdfund Cotswold.

- 2.7 As a way forward, it is proposed that Cabinet considers signposting community groups to their local Town or Parish Council for small value contributions or to Crowdfund Cotswold for larger projects that require a financial contribution in excess of £500.
- 2.8 For events which would be appropriate for Crowdfund Cotswold, the next funding round will take place early in 2022. It will be announced and promoted in December this year, with workshops for applicants in January 2022 and a project deadline of March 2022. This means projects will campaign for financial support through the months of April and May leading through to the Jubilee celebration weekend. Funding is released immediately that the campaign target is hit. Where projects require confirmation of funding with a longer lead-in time, they will need to reach their target towards the start of the funding period. This can be achieved through ensuring that they submit all their project details on time, and encourage their current and prospective supporters to pledge on the platform as soon as the project goes 'live'. Preparatory costs incurred before events themselves will need to be met from other resources, but can be identified as part of the project to 'lever in' support.
- 2.9 Essentially the key action to incorporate support for Jubilee activities within the early 2022 round is a communications campaign, to ensure that communities are aware of this opportunity, and how it could assist in their plans.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The most appropriate bodies to support small scale events are local Town and Parish Councils.
- 3.2 For larger events, the Council has an existing approach to help finance community activity that can readily assist and welcome initiatives to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee through Crowdfund Cotswold.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As referenced in section 1.3, there is currently no budget available to fund this motion. If Cabinet agrees to implement the motion, funding of £17,000 would either need to be top sliced from the existing community grant fund budget (reducing the scale of investment in 'Crowdfund Cotswold'), would need to be found from other revenue budgets or transferred from the Council's Earmarked Reserves.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this Report.



7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1** There are unlikely to be any risks associated with this approach beyond those of using the crowdfunding approach already adopted by the Council. The key risks in crowdfunding are that projects fail to meet their targets, and thus do not draw down investment. Evidence from the first round is that this is a low risk, and can indeed be seen as a measure of popular support for proposals. Given that the Council's funding is finite, there is a risk that demand might outstrip the available budget, but the crowdfunding approach goes some way to mitigating this by managing the Council's grant through a process that enables other funding to be raised simultaneously.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1** None identified. Whilst using Crowdfund Cotswold does require some basic ICT literacy, the on-line approach can be backed up by 'off-line campaigning and fundraising.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** The approach advocated in this Report does not predict the variety of event and activities that our communities might seek to deliver. It is reasonable to pre-suppose that activities are unlikely to have significant implications and the Crowdfund Cotswold approach encourages project creators to consider how they might contribute positively to addressing these declared emergencies.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 10.1** The alternative options to the approach outlined would be either to rely on existing schemes to provide sufficient support to local communities, or to run a separate Grant scheme. The Report covers the disadvantages of this second approach.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1** None

(END)