

London Borough of Bexley Small Grants Scheme for Voluntary Youth Groups

Bexley Small Grants Co-operative Minutes

Thursday 6th July 2010
8.00pm

Present:-

Ben Richardson	County Commissioner, Greater London South East Scout County Scout Council
Chris Rust	Crayford Arrows
Clive Chivers	Junior Reds
Daniel Gibbs	Bexley Moorings Project
Mark Evans	Noah's Ark Soft Play
Alison Bruce	Girlguiding GLK
Nigel Porter	Boys Brigade
Bill Gunn	GLSE Scouts
Paul Cosgrave	GLSE Scouts
Julie Grafton	Bexley Council
Caroline Cooke	Administrator

Apologies:-

Olwyn Sinclair	BVSC
Alison Baker	Carer's Support
Tanya Walsh	E Chon Academy

Welcome and Introductions

Ben opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking them for coming. Everyone then introduced themselves to the meeting.

Review of Year 1

103 groups received money.
57 Guide Units
17 Scout Groups
6 Uniformed Groups
9 Sports Groups
14 Others

10 applications were turned down for various reasons.
4 groups were asked to resubmit.

£300.00 has been carried over to the new financial year.

To start with take up was slow. Some groups did not know that the system had changed but we are here to help.

Information regarding the grant scheme has been widely circulated.

Clive – initially found it hard to get hold of the scheme. Thought it was just for Scouts. The criteria was not clear. The process also took too long and he was also asked to re-submit.



London Borough of Bexley Small Grants Scheme for Voluntary Youth Groups

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Hosted by GLSE CSC Registered Charity No. 1015476

Mark – there was a long delay in hearing back from the Board.

Ben – the administration needs to be tightened up.

All said they would like confirmation that their application had been received.

Forms are now available are now available in word document so they can be typed on and sent back.

Chris – asked if Ben felt that there was confusion because the scheme is being run by the Scouts. Ben replied possibly.

Nigel – there is a view that it is Scout money and not money from the Council. But people just need to read the information on the website.

Ben finished by saying that the scheme is being advertised by various people.

Year 2 Update – New Forms

The supplication form has been amended with a few extra important details on it.

Each group only needs to fill in the registration form once.

The website has been updated.

Any Other Business

Chris said that it was a learning curve sitting on the Board and understanding the process and the decision making that goes on.

Nigel said we need to be aware that there may be many more applications this year and the Board may run out of money before next March. What happens if this is the case. Daniel asked if the number of applications made by one group would be limited.

Alison replied that the Board prided themselves that every application is looked at individually and not at by what group sent it in.

Paul Cosgrave explained the process in Bromley. They have £90,000 a year and there is no ceiling. If there is any money left at the end of the year then they try and get more applications in so the money does not get lost. The year is split into quarters.

Ben asked if the process was fair.

Chris replied that there was no problem with the process but it needs more advertising.

Julie agreed that it was a fair and open process.

Can individuals apply for a grant?

Paul said that in Bromley individuals can apply.

Julie said that Olwyn had expressed concern over individual applications as there is no group bank account and that the Scheme could possibly be held responsible if something happened to the person.

Alison explained that in Guiding the individual has to open a separate account and report back within a month. If there is any money left over then it gets given back or gets put in an International account.

Ben said that the safeguarding issue was not a problem. The cheque would be paid to the group that the young person belongs to and the leader signs the application form.

The general consensus of the meeting was that individuals could apply for grants.