



# Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday, 02 December 2021.

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## **Subject:**

2021/22 CONNECTING PEOPLE FUND

## **Summary statement:**

This report details the Connecting People Fund, Stronger Communities Service (Bradford for Everyone Programme) awarded from applications received prior to Monday 4 January 2021 deadline.

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**Portfolio:**  
**Safer and Stronger Communities**  
**Abdul Jabar**  
**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Corporate**

## **1. SUMMARY**

This report details the Connecting People Fund awarded from applications received prior to the 04 January 2021 deadline.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Administration of the Grant on behalf of Stronger Communities. To administer the Bradford for Everyone programme by improving integration and cohesion in Bradford South; using new and innovative ideas to address the most entrenched issues.
- 2.2 Applications which meet the criteria outlined in Appendix I are considered from groups, organisations and individuals contributing across a broad spectrum of initiatives, to the wellbeing and development of communities within Bradford South.
- 2.3 A Ward Officer, within the Bradford South Area Co-ordinator's Office, assesses the received applications and prepares Officer Recommendations.
- 2.4 The applications from each Ward are sent to the individual Ward Councillors with a request for comments, which inform the decision making process.
- 2.5 The Area Co-ordinator, under delegated powers, is responsible for making decisions on the received applications. These decisions are made following guidance received from the Grants Advisory Group, whose membership is the Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Area Committee.
- 2.6 It is also possible, when decisions need to be taken outside the formal process, that the Area Co-ordinator can decide on an application having consulted individually the Members of the Grants Advisory Group.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The wide range of projects is outlined in Appendix 2 were awarded grants to a value of £10,000.
- 3.2 Stronger Communities, Bradford for Everyone Programme are the funders for Connecting People Fund. Bradford South Area Office and Bradford South Grant Advisory Group administered the fund.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

### **4.1 Financial**

Whilst the grants awarded at the Grants Advisory Group meeting held on 19 January 2021 were £10,000 (see Appendix 2).

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

There is no legal requirement for the Council to provide small grants for the benefit of local communities.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

In awarding Connecting People Fund, special consideration is given to particular disadvantaged groups including the elderly, people with disabilities, youth, ethnic minorities and people who are unemployed. In addition, special consideration is given to particular areas i.e. inner city areas and Social housing estates.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Connecting People Fund enabled local initiatives to be supported, thus encouraging groups and individuals to undertake activities that improve the social, economic and environmental well being of their communities.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts will be a consideration in assessing applications.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

A number of the projects supported are either directly or indirectly concerned with improving community safety within local communities.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no implications for Trade Unions.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Connecting People Fund grants were awarded to projects and activities that support communities within the Great Horton, Queensbury, Royds, Tong, Wibsey and Wyke Wards.

## **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

Connecting People Fund grants were awarded to projects and activities that support priorities within the Bradford South Ward Plans.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 That the report be noted.

9.2 There is only one option as the purpose of the report is to inform on the allocation of Connecting People Fund.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the wide range of applications from groups, organisations and individuals across Bradford South are noted and welcomed.

## **11. APPENDICES**

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| APPENDIX 1 | Current Criteria for applications                                |
| APPENDIX 2 | Summary of Grants awarded 19 January 2021 Grants Advisory Group. |

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

## CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS

## APPENDIX 1

1. Applications will only be considered from groups/organisations that either operate in, or benefit people who live in, the Bradford South Constituency area.
2. Applications will be considered to assist community-based activities that will be of benefit to the community, and where the activity could not go ahead without financial assistance.
3. Activities should aim to support the health of individuals and community by focussing on:
  - Connecting isolated and lonely people through e.g. befriending schemes
  - Community based bereavement support
  - Covid secure methods of improving wellbeing e.g. walking groups and other physical activity
  - Debt, benefit and housing advice
  - Sharing info and signposting to other sources of help.
  - Nutrition and physical health
4. Special consideration will be given to particular target groups including the elderly, disabled, youth, ethnic minorities, unemployed and to particular communities (eg inner city areas, estates, etc.) and to new starts and innovatory schemes.
5. Bids from new groups or previously unfunded groups will be positively encouraged.
6. Grants may be used to complement other sources of funding. Bradford South Area Co-ordinator's Office expects organisations to make every effort to be self-supporting and will favour grants where other money has been secured.
7. The maximum allocation from the Connecting People Fund would not exceed £1,000 for any individual project.
8. Projects should not contravene Equality Legislation (ie, no discrimination of membership on grounds of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, age or gender reassignment).
9. The organisation should be a non-profit making voluntary organisation where membership is open.
10. Grants cannot be awarded for events/purchases that have taken place before the application deadline dates. i.e. retrospective payments.
11. No group that has applied for and received funding in consecutive years should automatically assume that funding will continue. Each application will be treated on its merits.
12. Groups/organisations should normally expect only one grant per financial year.
13. The Fund cannot be used in support of religious or political activities, or capital expenditure exclusively connected with such activities.
14. The Fund is not normally used to enable fundraising for a secondary body, unless within the terms of a loss guarantee.
15. Groups/organisations must ensure that all statutory (and/or legal) Health and Safety requirements are complied with and, where appropriate, advice must be obtained and followed.

**APPENDIX 2**

| <b>Organisation</b>      | <b>Amount Funded</b> | <b>What do you plan to do with the money</b>  | <b>What Difference will this make to the local community</b>  |
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| Yorkshire Wildlife Trust | £800                 | <p>We would like to purchase some plants and compost for a gardening project that we are running. The project runs in partnership with the NHS, community health partnership 7 and their social prescribing team. We engage adults with health and well-being issues in an outdoor setting at Gt Horton Village Hall, Beldon Rd, BD7. We have just finished a successful 7-week pilot programme with great results and the participants have some ideas for restarting in the spring. We would like to run the project for a further 12 weeks during spring and early summer. Although we are able to cover the cost of staffing for the project and tools and ppe we do not have any money for plants and compost. We know that the well-being of the participants would be greatly increased by being able to take ownership of the planting plan and would be empowered by being able to actualise their ideas for the garden. There are also a lot of tyres on site that participants have suggested that we fill with compost and create a pretty border around the perimeter of the garden. We are unable to provide exact costs for the purchase of plants as we would like the participants to design the planting plan themselves, researching what plants would work best in shade and sun and what would</p> | <p>Our current participants have all been referred due to health and well-being issues and all participants have been considerably impacted on by COVID-19. Participants are all suffering from issues relating to loneliness, social isolation and lack of physical exercise. The area is very multicultural and so we aim to reach participants from a diverse ethnic background, our current age range of participants is from 60-84 but we welcome people of all ages and abilities. One of our participants uses a stick and so is unable to garden and so we have found a role for him: he looks after our fire pit so that we can warm up on cold days and this keeps him outdoors and sociable. The planting will help to make a beautiful community space in the</p> |

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|  |  | <p>bring colour and wildlife to the garden through the year. This means that people will have a purpose and a role outside of the session times, learning new skills and keeping busy through the week. We would like to give participants a planting budget that they have to work within and this will also enable them to practice skills that are useful for everyday life.</p> | <p>heart of a large residential area, where people have very little access to green spaces or their own gardens. Having a nice outdoor space will allow people from the wider community to meet up and spend time outdoors during a time when indoor activities are riskier. Our lottery funded project (the Bradford Urban Discovery Project) is specifically to engage people in 7 urban greenspaces and this community garden is not one of these greenspaces, however since it is at the centre of the community and close to three of our local greenspaces we hope that by engaging people in nature on their doorstep we will be able to spark more people's interest in these wild areas of council greenspace a short walk away from the community garden. This is why we are able to fund staff time, tools and ppe through our project but we</p> |
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|                             |       |   | <p>never anticipated working on the garden and so did not include the additional costs of plants, compost and room hire for this programme.</p>  |
| Russell Hall Primary School | £1000 | <p>In January the school is planning the opening of a foodbank with a difference called 'Russell's Pantry'. We would like to be able to provide meal boxes which would consist of a recipe card and the ingredients for our families to be able to make a nutritious family meal. In addition to this we would like to provide soup boxes with recipes and ingredients, lunch boxes and toiletry boxes.</p> <p>In addition to this we would also like to be able to provide goods that families may either run out of or need as an ingredient to add to their own recipes.</p> <p>We feel this service would provide much needed food our families may not be able to afford and help give our families the skills to make meals that are both cheap and nutritious.</p> <p>This service will not only be available to our Free School Meal families but to the whole of the Russell Hall Community.</p> <p>The grant would be spent on purchasing white goods such as refrigeration and</p> | <p>In Queensbury Russell Hall have the largest amount of families in receipt of FSM's. Also, some of our families although working, struggle with making ends meet and found that recently, due to Covid our working families have needed help due to job loses, reduced hours, reduced income or poor mental wellbeing. We feel it's important that our families are able to make a meal that is both nutritious and cheap and by providing this service we are giving the families he skills to do this on a low budget and feel this will help to improve mental wellbeing as a result.</p> |

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|  |             | <p>cupboards to store the food. We would be using Fareshare who provide a wide range of food including fresh meat, fish and dairy so it's important we have the right equipment to store the food safely. We are also looking into the possibility of cooking meals on site and providing these to our families as ready meals. This would require us to purchase cooking facilities which the fund could also be used for.</p>  |   |
| <p>Bradford Organic Communities Service (BOCS)</p> | <p>£965</p> | <p>Bradford Organic Communities Service (BOCS) will create two Walking Groups based in Wibsey Community Gardens. Each group will run weekly and have a maximum of 10 participants. The money will be used to pay salary costs for a Walk Leader to establish, plan and run the groups. Each group will be led by two trained Walk Leaders, who will be Enhanced DBS checked. The Walk Leaders will create a plan for each walk and will be responsible for risk assessments. The second Walk Leader will be a volunteer from BOCS. BOCS will organise training for Walk Leaders. The Walk Leaders will be given time to plan the walks before the project begins and will refine and alter their plans as they get to know the groups. Both Walk Leaders will have First Aid Certification or Emergency First Aid at Work. BOCS will purchase waterproof clothing for use by participants in bad weather. This will ensure there are no barriers to participation caused by weather or lack of money. The coats will</p> | <p>This project aims to combat the problem of isolation caused by the current pandemic. Many people have been unable or unwilling to leave the house, and as a result have become withdrawn and anxious. By creating a safe, supportive opportunity for people to interact in a fun and sociable way, this project will give people an outlet to allow them to begin working on their anxiety and other mental health issues. The two groups will be small, with a maximum of 10 participants per group, which will help people feel safe and confident. One of the groups will be a child friendly group to accommodate parents struggling with childcare. The second group will not include children to ensure that people are given a choice of whichever makes them</p> |

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|  |  | <p>be stored at Wibsey Community Garden, where they will be quarantined between walks to ensure there is no risk of transmission. Walks will be planned to ensure that no specialist footwear is required to be part of the groups. For the final week, BOCS will pay for transport to facilitate a walk at a different location, for example Haworth. This project will run for eight weeks, with Walk Leader training being offered to participants to enable them to continue the groups beyond the eight weeks.</p> | <p>feel safer. Following each walk, people will be given the opportunity to socialise in a socially distant way, utilising the outdoor seating in Wibsey Community Gardens. A hot drink will be provided, and the setting will encourage participants to form a close group and develop social and interpersonal skills. The focus each week will be on growing people's confidence, increasing their mental and physical wellbeing, and showing them the possibilities of what they could do themselves beyond the project. As well as social isolation, the pandemic has caused a rise in obesity due to people lacking a place or the motivation to exercise safely. This project will give people a structured way to move back into being active and to work on their physical fitness. The walks will be accessible to people of all fitness levels and will build throughout the project as people's fitness increases. The Walk Leaders will assess the group's ability on a week by week basis and seek to challenge them each week, giving growth to participants</p> |
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|                               |       |   | <p>confidence and fitness. Towards the end of the project BOCS will provide help and guidance to the group to support them to continue the walking group for themselves. BOCS will ensure that the project meets all Covid-19 guidelines. These will be regularly reviewed, and any necessary alterations will be made as regulations change or develop. In the final week of the project BOCS will organise a walk at a different location. This will give participants new ideas on places they can walk and will create a sense of achievement from the project. This will contribute to the growth in confidence that everyone will experience.</p> |
| Bierley Community Association | £1000 | <p>We would like to relaunch our OPAL (Older People Active Lifestyles) exercise group, which has ceased to run due to COVID and lack of funding. We are requesting funds to cover the costs of delivering sessions over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Previously we ran indoor session consisting of both seated and standing gentle exercise, facilitated by a qualified fitness instructor using techniques to support breathing and flexibility. We hope to be able to continue</p> | <p>Our older people have been reluctant to engage with much in our community over the past year from fear of contracting the virus. However, we know from feedback that there is a great requirement for both physical activity and increased opportunity to see others in Covid safe environments. At the centre we are doing everything possible to keep ahead of the virus and maintain</p>  |

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|                                    |      | <p>with this programme shortly, but in the interim will provide alternate activities that the meet demand via in a more Covid safe manner.</p> <p>This may include delivering activities outside, walking groups, delivering inside but to a decreasing the number of beneficiaries per session, increasing the number for sessions we deliver.</p>  | <p>a safe space for staff and the local community.</p> <p>We suffered over the year though by not being able to deliver normal activities and from fewer opportunities to receive income from enterprise opportunities.</p> <p>This grant will provide a significant boost to our OPAL programme and ensuring the mental and physical health of our beneficiaries.</p>      |
| Queensbury Scout Band              | £500 | <p>We wish to run a number of music workshop recruitment events to get young people interest in music and have an out of school activity giving them a positive outlet for their energies.</p> <p>The workshops will be how to play an instrument from scratch. We will also run sessions for those who can already play.</p>  | <p>We hope to encourage children and young people to take up a musical hobby, giving them a positive outlet for their energies.</p> <p>From ages of 8+ years. We hope to involved as many as possible.</p>  |
| Lidget Green Healthy Living Centre | £890 | <p>We want to propose a project that is focused on health and wellbeing. We would like to organise community walks to encourage behaviour change in relation to the improving physical mental wellbeing of our community members. This year has been incredibly challenging for our community members, with Covid-19 and Lockdown. We want to organise 12 community walks led by a qualified walk leader, these walks will be about getting residents to talk about issues affecting them, we will encourage people to</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A chance for people to get together indoor or outdoor in a Covid-19 safe way.</li> <li>2) Get people to start talking to each other about issues affecting them</li> <li>3) Identify problems and find solutions</li> <li>4) Signpost people to relevant organisations / services</li> <li>5) Get hard to reach groups</li> </ol> |

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|                           |        | <p>talk about how Covid-19 has affected people in the neighbourhood. We will signpost people to relevant organisations for further support/advise.</p> <p>This project will also involve our existing and new volunteers who will plan and encourage local people to take part in. We will also have 7 sessions in our centre (if covid-19 council guidelines allow us to meet in indoors) these coffee sessions will be about talking about empowering local people to access health services, to take advantage of flu vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccination. These sessions will be trying to identify and understand barriers to why south Asian communities do not seek help/support for health issues. We will also look at mental health services and how people can access support. We will also talk about loneliness and how we can use strategies to help residents in the area who feel lonely – to take part in the walks and to knock on the door and say hi – have a conversation. We will also run zoom community sessions if there are restrictions for meeting indoors.</p> | <p>involved in the project.</p> <p>6) Get people to talk about sensitive issues such as loneliness and how to combat loneliness</p> <p>7) Get people to act on their health, inspire them to become healthy.</p> <p>8) Encourage people to walk to improve health, wellbeing and enjoy the local area</p> <p>9) Get new volunteers from the area to plan and run the project</p> <p>10) Encourage people to change behaviours in relation to their health.</p> |
| Queensbury Tunnel Society | £1,000 | <p>We will create a memorial for people of Queensbury and elsewhere to honour the ten men who died during the construction of Queensbury Tunnel (please see the simulation picture attached).</p> <p>Each sleeper will stand 6ft tall; with the iron chairs attached, they appear to be looking down. The money we have requested will</p>   | <p>We believe that community well-being is based on many factors and one that is essential is a strong sense of connection to our heritage. Queensbury Tunnel is a magnificent Victorian structure, part of the rich history of the textile industry and the railways</p>  |

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|  |  | <p>pay for concrete, the hire of a mechanical digger and part-payment for 10 metal plates each engraved with one name of the ten men. We also plan to attach a QR Code to each sleeper linked to our website which has details of each man and his family.</p> | <p>that shaped our landscape. The memorial will be an impressive addition to our landscape, reminding us of the sacrifice and extreme hardship endured by men and their families in the 1870s. We believe that people will be drawn to see the memorial and that it will encourage older people to explain to younger people how significant an achievement the tunnel was. During Covid-19 restrictions we have seen a big increase in the number of people walking on the Great Northern Railway Trail, enjoying the views and the reading the information boards along the way. The memorial will provide extra incentive and a focal point for people to walk and cycle to, adding sense of belonging with our heritage to the physical and mental health benefits of exercise. We believe this simple but elegant memorial will be greatly appreciated as a reminder that ordinary working people are the bedrock of our way of life, as has been vividly brought home to us during the</p> |
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|                        |       |   | <p>pandemic. The ten men will not be forgotten and Queensbury will be proud to have a striking tribute to them that will last long after the difficult times we are going through.</p>  |
| Friends of Harold Park | £1000 | <p>Work with JUMP to install an app to facilitate interactive activities in the park for use by families and all our visitors across the whole year.</p> <p>Look at starting a monthly walking group for elderly people.</p> <p>Look to run a drop-in for tea and biscuits and a chat in a covid safe manner.</p> | <p>The JUMP app will provide a range of interactive activities to keep families and visitors active in the park throughout the course of the year. Would be something available to access for free 24/7 and provides a technology based alternative activity for people to partake in – never more important than under the Covid crisis – good for mental health and physical activity.</p> <p>The gazebo and fold up tables and chairs will help us to start a drop in session for tea and biscuits if necessary outdoors in the park under a covid safe manner. We would advertise these sessions with the idea being to focus on the elderly – providing them somewhere to chat – to combat loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We also have a volunteer who</p> |

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|                                |       |   | would like to start a walking group so would look to combine the activities – dependent of availability of volunteers to facilitate sessions. This will combat loneliness, improve mental health and improve physical fitness.   |
| BHT Early Education & Training | £1000 | <p>We are planning to run the following groups on a term time weekly basis at our base in Holme Wood:</p> <p><b>Music, Movers &amp; Shakers</b><br/>This will be delivered to parents and children on Thursday afternoons by one of our Music Leaders to build confidence in music and movement, which cross cuts through all areas and stages of development in young children.</p> <p><b>Baby Club</b><br/>A weekly group on Wednesday mornings aimed at parents with children aged 6 weeks to 6 months, incorporating Baby Massage, Baby Sign and Rhyme Time.</p> <p><b>Owlets</b><br/>This will be run by our Language Development Team every Monday morning. It is a small parent and child group focusing on learning language through play with practical ideas to try at home. The group is for children from around 18months old and their parents and carers that would like to</p> | <p>We are hoping to reduce isolation for parents/carers and their children in the local community. Music and movement is proven to have significant benefits for physical and mental health and our Owlets and Baby Clubs seek to promote positive parent-child interaction and equip parents with the skills and knowledge they need to stimulate good language development and improve their children's communication skills. Tong Ward, which is amongst the 10% most deprived wards in England, is an area with high levels of deprivation, low levels of educational attainment, low rates of economic activity, and high levels of crime. All factors that link to poor language and communication skills. In 2019 only 66.4% of children reached a 'Good Level of Development</p> |

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|                              |       | learn about language through play.   | (GLD)' by the end of the reception year, we anticipate that this may reduce further due to the developmental impact that Covid-19 has had.   |
| Royds Community Association  | £1000 | <p>Extend the services currently offered by the befriending team in conjunction with the social prescribers in the following ways:</p> <p>Project 1: Art project over 12 months; creative activity for local residents to get involved in to represent their experiences during and after COVID</p> <p>Project 2: A collection of visits to sites within the locality to enable this group to come together and enjoy: Types of visits: e.g. Cartwright Hall, City Hall (dungeons), Piece Hall, Liverpool(Tate), Studio 1881 (Halifax) and Peace Museum – estimate 1 trip per month over 6 months for 10 people. Aim to get a group together of elderly group, to interact socially and create meaningful contact.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaningful social interaction during and after Covid.</li> <li>• Working in a team.</li> <li>• Build self-esteem and confidence.</li> <li>• Reduce social isolation and vulnerability.</li> <li>• Using art as a mechanism to initiate conversation, debate and discussion.</li> <li>• Access to art materials to undertake lesson in art form i.e sketching, paint.</li> </ul> |
| Low Moor Local History Group | £845  | <p>Publish two books about Low Moor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Low Down on Low Moor” which was originally research for a series of Information Boards for Low Moor Station, but the funding disappeared when the franchise was withdrawn.</li> <li>• “Edward Leedes a life in documents” a biography of the Lord of Manor of Royds Hall (1715 to 1785)</li> </ul>  | <p>Hopefully the books will be sold to local people and they will provide a bit of escapism into the past during this unnerving time. We intend to donate copies of the Low Down on Low Moor book to local schools and groups for the elderly such as the Memory Tree which normally meets at Aldersgate Methodist</p>   |

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|  |  |  | Church. Many readers will be elderly, but we have recently been working with Hill Top Primary School and teachers are introducing children to the history of the local area and the "Low Down on Low Moor" book will be very useful for their lesson preparation. |
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