



Charity number:1163336

Funding Request to Ryde Town Council from Aspire Ryde

Meeting	Ryde Town Council Finance committee
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 22 nd January 2019
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Version No.	1 - 18/01/19

1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek a decision from Ryde Town council finance committee & full town council meeting. Aspire Ryde is asking for financial support for the continued effective operation of Aspire Ryde an organisation that is award winning and that is well embedded into the Ryde community as a very successful community hub & offering essential services to the whole community.</p>
1.1	
2	<p>Summary</p> <p>2.1 Aspire Ryde is a dynamic & innovative organisation that has seen exceptional growth over the last 5 years. Operated by a relatively small team of professionals, developing from a new charity into the credible robust organisation that it is today, it has been no easy task, working with over 120 active volunteers ensuring that there is support and assistance for any member of the Ryde community that requires it. It is a place that offers help & hope to our community. A place where people feel they are welcome and they belong.</p> <p>2.2 We are at the forefront of dealing with people in crisis that are particularly effected by austerity measures, that compound poverty, homelessness, food & child poverty, mental health & isolation. This has taken much more of our time than we ever envisaged. The local area co-ordinator was able to take a huge proportion of this work but now with that post gone we are bearing the brunt of this great need in our community.</p> <p>2.3 Aspire Ryde are pleased to have received financial support from Ryde Town council community grants programme over the last few years, successfully bidding to develop a range of new services. This funding has been vital and used to seed new innovative projects & we are very thankful for that, however the continued operation of these has an on-going burden to our core operational costs. We ask that the town council consider offering a greater annual sum instead of the several smaller applications. This will allow Aspire Ryde to develop a more robust yearly budget, plan for the future better and be able to use the funding to attract further match funding from other sources.</p>
3	<p>Background</p> <p>3.1 The Aspire Ryde team started upon a bold idea to transform the redundant heritage church building 5 years ago, some people commented that it was too big & bold and it would fail</p>

	<p>quickly. We are pleased to say that we are 5 years old in February and have grown year on year, starting with an investment of just £1,000 the turnover has grown considerably to nearly £150,000 but more impressive that the impact in our community has grown and is identified as having in excess of £1.5million pounds of community impact, that's more than 1000% return each year on investment!</p>
3.2	<p>The Aspire Ryde project has been the recipient of many major awards and seen locally as part of the local community. It seems we are in the right place at the right time & that continues to be the case, harnessing support from our local community we are well placed to address simple solutions to address local needs. It is this approach that is attractive and we regularly welcome visitors from other charity's, churches and communities from across the UK to look at our simple and innovative model with a view to duplicating it in their own communities.</p>
3.3	<p>Ideally located between the wards of major deprivation we are inundated with residents that are suffering hardship, poverty, mental health crisis and isolation. The services and support from Aspire have literally become a lifeline to many 100's of people each week! We have seen a considerable increase in demand for our services and are struggling to cope with some areas of demand, homelessness particularly has increased substantially and we record that even though there is some limited night shelter provision in Newport that there are at least 6 people sleeping rough in Ryde and more than 30 that are currently homeless & sofa surfing that we are currently supporting with post box, sleeping bag, tent, warm place to stay (daytimes), food, meals and support to seek housing & benefits.</p>
3.4	<p>Our Men-In-Sheds group is thriving and has also developed Women-In-Sheds & for people with additional needs – a range of sessions that teach, pass on skills, reuse/recycle old wood and most importantly reduce isolation by forging new friendships there are now 7 sessions every week. Sewing, Music, Gardening, Crafts & other mental health groups not only help to reduce isolation, teach new skills but positively impact mental health and the island first social prescribing pilot a partnership where GP's at Tower House surgery are referring or righting a social prescription that patients attend our existing sessions at Aspire to help them will show how our facilities are impacting wellbeing in our community.</p>
3.5	<p>Community fridge & Food for free stand is visited by more than 150 people each day, whilst it has a huge positive environmental effect stopping food waste going to landfill it also has a massive impact and conversations have confirmed that dozens of people who are suffering food poverty every day in Ryde, not able to afford to eat they rely upon this project for basic sustenance. We also launched our community lunch and extended it to 5 days each week where we feed between 30 – 50 people each day a good hot lunch, some without this might not have a hot meal at all. We have felt the increased costs of providing these services in our utility bills more than doubling to in excess of £1000 each month!</p>
3.6	<p>The staff team is still very small & we rely upon a huge team of volunteers to operate the facility where over 45 other groups or organisations operate from, ensuring that the Ryde community have a base to get help & support and as a hub of whole community activities.</p>
3.7	<p>Whilst 2018 was challenging and for the first time we made a small loss due to lack of income through grants, room hire we also over spent regarding the upkeep of the building, demand for our services meant much larger utilities bills that we had budgeted for.</p>
3.8	<p>2019 will be more settled financially but some services will need either restrictions to numbers</p>

	attending and possibly a reduction entirely in some services that we deliver. We hope to avoid this. Furthermore we have secured £17k from lottery & AHF to undertake a full feasibility, design, surveys & costing's for a major project to get the building repaired and fit for purpose and attract other funding to deliver some projects such as our bikes project.
4	Request
4.1	We understand that whilst there is a clear structure for community grant giving, we request that Ryde Town council might consider offering £15,000 each year for the next three years that will help Aspire to plan for the future better and have the possibility of attracting match funding, helping us to future plan more effectively and ensure a long term future for Aspire Ryde to serve the Ryde community.
4.2	1. This funding will help to pay for the huge increase in utilities due to the huge increase in demand for our services from the hardest hit in our community from austerity measures.
4.3	2. It will also help us to focus upon designing the building to become more energy effective and install efficient heaters and other energy efficient measures such as installation in some parts of the building – this will also increase the buildings potential use raising more room hire income & the community's access to the building.
4.4	3. We have purchased a children's soft play system to install during 2019 as a social enterprise to create new employment, increase play space access and develop an income stream that will be ring-fenced wholly for community use for the long term future to pay for the upkeep of the building, costs and potentially pay for future community posts (youth workers, debt workers, community workers, Etc)
4.5	Costs can be broke down as follows: £15,000 in 2019 we aim to further match fund this amount to create £30,000 of budget to: £8,000 contribution for utilities (2017 costs £5,277 / 2018 costs £13,565) £2,000 professional building energy use assessment report & recomendations £4,000 to spend on energy reduction measures (<u>lower ground floor</u>) £16,000 to spend on installing capital equipment as part of a social enterprise play/leisure that will create 5 full time (equivalent) paid jobs.
4.6	£15,000 in 2020 we aim to further match fund this amount to create £30,000 of budget to: £6,000 contribution for utilities £10,000 to spend on energy reduction measures (<u>upper ground floor</u>) £14,000 to spend on installing additional capital equipment as part of a social enterprise play/leisure that will create 3 additional full time (equivalent) paid jobs.
4.7	£15,000 in 2021 we aim to further match fund this amount to create £30,000 of budget to: £4,000 contribution for utilities £26,000 to spend on energy production capacity measures (<u>further solar panels</u>)
4.8	2022 no further funding required – indeed we hope to be able to offer community funding from the developed income from the play social enterprise to possibly pay towards youth or community workers.

7	To consider	Yes / No / na	Comment
7.1	Legal implications	Yes	Whilst a precedent is already set through the regular funding arrangements to the Waterside Pool Trust a clear definition of what the funding is for and an agreement would be required.
7.2	Financial	Yes	£15,000 over 3 years is a significant drain on budget, but could be built into the precept, budget or indeed used from the town councils reserves.
7.3	Resource	Yes	Will mean less resource need as Aspire would not be applying through the normal community grants scheme over the 3 year period.
7.4	Impact on overall vision/reputation	Yes	Aspire is seen as a very credible organisation, the positive press and public appreciation that town council is financially supporting will be significant and logo / plaque displayed prominently at Aspire and on aspires web site & annual report each year for 3 years.
7.5	Other considerations?	No	
8	Recommendations		
8.1	<p>It is hoped that you can look upon this request favourably as it will considerably support the Ryde community to grow, develop & indeed thrive through the great work of Aspire Ryde. This support to Aspire Ryde is clear in tune with the town councils vision, through the development of our heritage building into a thriving community asset that has such a positive impact upon health, wellbeing and the economy.</p> <p><i>“To support and enhance the health, well-being and economy of Ryde to the benefit of residents, local businesses and visitors within a culture that makes best use of our heritage and the beauty of Ryde”.</i></p>		