

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **Godalming Town Council Grant Aid Funds**

On Thursday 4 January, Members of Godalming Town Council considered how best to allocate funds to the wide range of community groups that seek financial support from the Council.

Godalming Town Council grants in the region of £55,000 annually to a variety of community groups and projects, with applications for support ranging from £30,000 to £150. Every quarter Councillors consider applications that include one-off projects ranging from a few hundred to several thousand pounds as well as applications from organisations that apply each year for funds to support annual events or for funding of the operational costs of a service.

In order to be able to support as many organisations as possible Members have decided to alter the structure of the Town Council's grants scheme. The first noticeable change will be to transfer support for Heritage Open Days, the Godalming Run and the Town Day from the Grants Budget to the Town Promotion Budget as, in their differing ways, each of these activities serve to promote Godalming. The second change to the grants scheme will see applications dealt within one of three categories; organisations which provide a benefit to the residents of Godalming and seek funding to support ongoing costs will be considered for a Service Level Agreement with funding being predicated upon the organisation meeting agreed objectives or targets, a General Grants Fund to which organisations who wish one off funding for a specific project can apply for support and a Council Community Fund for which local councillors can put forward their own ideas and/or work

alongside community groups and residents to identify small projects under £500 per application that will benefit the wider community. Council Community Grants will be considered at the next available meeting as opposed to the once per quarter for larger Grants.

Cllr Stefan Reynolds, Chairman of Godalming Town Council's Policy & Management Committee said " The new arrangements for the Town Council's grants scheme will not only free up a little extra money for grants in 2018/19 but also broaden out its scope. Some of our larger grants will now come under Service Level Agreements (SLA) where we will jointly agree objectives and targets with those organisation for the benefit of our residents. We will also be asking those in receipt of a SLA to present to the council on an annual basis so we can get a better idea on how that money is being spent. The addition of a Town Promotions Budget is a sensible move to help attract people to the town and the Godalming Run, Heritage Open Days and Town Day are obvious events that help us do that, and we hope for others. Finally, the new Council Community Fund will allow small but important projects to be put forward by local councillors directly, taking into account ideas and suggestions from residents and community groups.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

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