

YOUR CANDIDATES FOR 2018



Steve Dorsett welcomes Samber funding

SAMBER IS A WINNER THIS YEAR

■ Samber (Riding for the Disabled) is a small charity which gives free riding lessons to more than 50 local children with special educational needs between the ages of three and 11, the majority attending two Woking schools, Freemantles in Mayford and the Orchard Centre at the Hermitage School in St John's.

Run by 25 volunteers, Samber offers children safe riding lessons, improving muscle strength and communication skills as well as letting them have fun with the ponies. St John's and Heathlands activists and campaigners, **Steve Dorsett** and **Simon Ashall**, support this award from the Council's Community Fund, which will contribute towards the installation of a permanent safety barrier at the riding school.



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MORE FUNDS FOR ST MARY'S, BYFLEET

■ The historic St. Mary's Church, Byfleet, is widening its services in the community to people of all faiths and none with particular concern for those young and old who are in need.

Through a tripartite agreement with Surrey County Council and the Church itself, the Borough Council agreed grants towards the Community Centre refurbishment plus a grant towards the Living Churchyard Project to create an environment for people and wildlife.

Conservative candidate **Gary Elson**, said: "I supported the Church's previous grant and am delighted to see St Mary's supported in this way and look forward to these projects being completed."



Gary Elson also supported a previous grant while a Councillor

Promoted by Simon Ashall on behalf of Woking Conservatives, both of Churchill House, Chobham Road, Woking GU21 4AA. Printed by <insert name, full address and postcode>.

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Woking Messenger Winter 2017/18

Serving the people of Woking, Knaphill, Goldsworth Park, Horsell, Canalside, Byfleet and West Byfleet, Pyrford, Mount Hermon, Hoe Valley, St John's and Heathlands

CONSERVATIVES SHOW THEY CARE

Local Conservatives are always supporting our voluntary and community groups across Woking in ways that make a difference

■ Every year, Woking Borough Council considers dozens of applications for grant funding for the next financial year.

The Conservative Administration takes this responsibility very seriously as without the significant amount of financial support that the Council provides, many of the voluntary and community organisations across the borough would be forced to stop providing the excellent services they deliver.

For 2017/18, grant applications were approved from groups as wide ranging and diverse as Citizens Advice Woking, Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust, Relate West Surrey, The Lighthouse, shopMobility, Woking Community Transport, Old Woking District Community Association, Riding for the Disabled, and Woking Scouts.

A number of groups benefit from reduced levels of rent for Council owned premises and subsidised parking arrangements.

Council Leader, **David Bittleston**

said: 'I am proud that Conservative Woking Borough Council has, year on year, maintained one of the highest levels of grant funding in Surrey to our charitable and voluntary groups which do so much to help and sustain our communities.'

"In spite of the financial constraints within which we have to deliver our core services, I am delighted that we are still able to maintain more than £1.6 million of support to these organisations which are so important to Woking.'



Conservatives have provided more than £1.6million to support voluntary groups

And more to come in 2018/9

■ The next batch of community grants were decided by the Council in December. Portfolio Holder **Cllr Ayesha Azad** said: "I'm very pleased to say that each financial year we've been able to provide a significant level of support for our voluntary sector, who play an invaluable role in aiding those most in need.

And next year has been no exception. Despite huge financial challenges we

will continue to support our voluntarily organisations. The total funding proposed for local community projects and organisations in the coming year is £935,354.

In addition to this we will also continue to provide our support through peppercorn rents, car parking, as well as officer and Councillor assistance. The value of this assistance is estimated to be over £700,000.



Ayesha Azad has responsibility for grants

JUST SOME OF THE MANY ORGANISATIONS YOUR COUNCIL IS FUNDING



■ **WOKING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT** - The Town Centre Buggy is an essential service for those with mobility difficulties, with some 4,500 individual passenger journeys annually, many linked to the valued Dial-a-Ride services bringing residents who need transport into the town centre.

Bustler services also cover transport to St. Peter's Hospital, Royal Surrey and other healthcare facilities with flexibility for the buses to be used by other community groups.

Conservative Councillor **Mark Pengelly** said: "I am really pleased to see this important service across the Borough continuing to be well supported financially by the Council, as it is a critical lifeline for residents who need it."

■ **CITIZENS ADVICE WOKING** - gives crucial support to more than 11,000 clients annually who seek advice on complex matters including Housing and Family Support.

Knaphill Councillor and Council nominated Observer **Melanie Whitehand** said: "Citizens Advice Woking provides help and advice through services such as Healthwatch, the Court help desk, social policies, as well as outreach provision. It has seen increasing demand recently and, with the Council's support, will continue providing an outstanding service to Woking residents."

SCOUTS ANNUAL HANDICAMP GET SUPPORT IT NEEDS

■ Scouting groups across the Borough including Horsell, Pyrford, Brookwood, Goldsworth Park, Knaphill, Old Woking, Byfleet and West Byfleet, Sheerwater and St. John's together support the fantastic annual Handicamp Activity Weekend.

Pupils from the Borough's special needs schools are encouraged to take part in outdoor activities including climbing, kayaking and raft building. The children are 'buddied' with able-bodied Explorer Scouts who all have a great time at Woodlarks Farm, Farnham, a purpose built centre for the disabled.

Handicamp is mostly self-funded but the Council approved funding from the Community Grant Budget for the current financial year. Pyrford Councillor **Rashid Mohammed** and Horsell campaigner **Nancy Martin** are both delighted that the Council is continuing to support Handicamp.



PROJECT GIVEN LIFT IT DESERVES BY COUNCIL

"Mental health is now the subject of national campaigns after being ignored for too long. It is good that Woking Borough Council is continuing to support this important initiative."

■ Goldsworth Park residents continue to be well-supported by Woking's Conservative Administration with funding for the Lakeview Community Action Group agreed for this unique and highly valued local initiative.

Lift Up Together was established in 2005 under the Lakeview Community Action Group umbrella offering group meetings for people over the age of 16 who have mental health issues or who are alone

socially to meet, relax, learn and participate in a safe environment.

Goldsworth Park Councillor **Chitra Rana** said: "Mental health is now the subject of national campaigns after being ignored for too long.

"It's good that Woking Borough Council is continuing to support this important initiative and I look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength in the future."



KINGFIELD CLUB SCORES MORE FUNDS FOR UPGRADE

■ At Loop Road Playing Fields, Kingfield, Meadow Sports Football Club aims to provide physical education facilities for young people up to the age of 25 and boasts around 30 teams.

Having funded and installed a new 3G pitch, the Council has supported the Club with a Community Fund grant to improve lighting around the 3G training area.

Former Borough Councillor and local campaigner **John Lawrence** said: "To ensure their safety, children need a well-lit surface at the training area in Loop Road and I am pleased that the Council approved financial support for this purpose."



More grants news



TRUST GETS RESULTS FOR COMMUNITY

■ Established in 2011, Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust aims to address the causes of deprivation and social exclusion and encourages joint working between local community organisations. Local activist and campaigner,

Robina Shaheen, said: "At this time of financial pressure on the Council, I fully support the Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust which works hard to deliver projects in the community which benefit and improve the lives of so many local residents."



TALKING IN KNAPHILL

■ The TALK support group in Knaphill provides an invaluable service to Aphasia recoverers following a stroke, helping them to regain communication and reasoning skills.

In support of the Borough Council's health and wellbeing agenda, further money from the Community

Grant Budget was made available this year.

Knaphill Councillor **Debbie Harlow** said: "It's great to see the Council continuing to support TALK, which provides regular sessions for people needing help regaining their communication skills and improving their quality of life."