



Datchworth Parish Council Briefing Note

<p>Agenda item heading</p> <p>Future Funding for Strength and Balance Classes - Update</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>26 April 2024</p> <hr/> <p>Committee/ Working Group</p> <p>Recreation</p>
<p>Why</p> <p>The grant funding for the Strength and Balance class was used up by the beginning of February. At the January DPC meeting it was agreed that from 9 February 2024 we ask the attendees to make a voluntary contribution of between £3-£5. In addition DPC agreed to subsidise up to a max of £120 or until the £120 runs out, with a view to keeping the classes going until grant funding was received. The Village Hall made no charge for use of the hall in February and March.</p> <p>An application was made for a Community Grant of £2,900 from East Herts Council; however this was unsuccessful due to the fund being oversubscribed.</p> <p>An amount of £300 was generously donated by the Elderberries.</p> <p>From the beginning of February the class participants have been contributing £3 per person per week, and have increased this in the last two weeks to £5 per person per week.</p> <p>The cost of running the classes is £72 per week (£61.50 per session for the tutor, including travel costs, and £10.50 for the hall hire).</p> <p>With the current level of subscriptions I calculate that we can run the class until end June, with no contribution from DPC.</p> <p>We now have the opportunity, via the Hertfordshire Live Longer Better organisation, to apply for a grant from the National Lottery, with assistance of a professional bid writer, at no cost. This would apparently come from a dedicated pot for this type of activity and would not preclude DPC seeking further National Lottery funding for other projects. We have been advised that we would need to apply for a considerable sum, preferably £20k and to fund more than one activity under the 'aging better' umbrella. There are a number of issues to be considered, in particular whether DPC has the resources to support multiple activities. However, it may be possible to spread the load by partnering with another parish council, or using some of the grant for equipment (to be investigated).</p> <p>Although there are a number of questions to be answered, I believe it is worthwhile seeking this grant funding. The goal of 'aging better' is very worthwhile, encompassing both physical and mental wellbeing, through activities and socialisation.</p>	



Datchworth Parish Council Briefing Note

Once an application has been made, it could take up to 3 months to hear if we've been successful. Therefore if the classes are to continue, they would need to be subsidised for July, August and September). On the assumption that the subscriptions average £50 per week, a subsidy of £22 per week would be required.

How (including Time and Money)

It is proposed that:

- 1) DPC proceeds to seek National Lottery funding for 'aging better' activities
- 2) The Recreation Working Group investigate how best to allocate this funding.
- 3) DPC makes available £300 (including the £120 already provided) to subsidise the classes until the end of September.

When

Funding to be drawn from DPC accounts as and when needed to pay invoices for the Strength and Balance class, up to the end of September 2024