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**COMMITTEE:** SOUTH EAST                      **REF NO:** SEAC/17/23  
**DATE:** 14 MARCH 2018  
**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST: IPSWICH AND  
SUFFOLK INDIAN ASSOCIATION -  
HOLYWELLS HOLI FESTIVAL  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** SIMON LANNING  
**HEAD OF SERVICE:** IAN BLOFIELD

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report requests that the South East Area Committee consider allocating £1,000 to the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association toward the cost of the 2018 Holi Festival at Holywells Park. The Holi Festival is a spring celebration based in the Hindu faith. It is a high-spirited event, notable for the bright coloured pigment that is thrown, and it is celebrated internationally by both Hindus and non-Hindus.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

None

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

*Poli Mohan, Chair, Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

*Building a Better Ipswich 2017*

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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**OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

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## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 This report requests that the South East Area Committee consider allocating £1,000 to the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association toward the cost of the Holi Festival at Holywells Park on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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## 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Holi Festival is a spring celebration based in the Hindu faith. It is a high-spirited event, notable for the bright coloured pigment that is thrown, and it is celebrated internationally by both Hindus and non-Hindus.
- 2.2 Within Hinduism the Holi festival traditionally welcomes new life, the spring season and new beginnings through forgiveness. The social jollity is an integral part of the celebrations. On the eve of the event bonfires are burned in celebration of the legend of [Holika](#). On the festival day celebrants throw or smear brightly coloured pigments (powder or liquid) on one another in large gatherings. Afterwards food delicacies are shared in celebration.



*Figure 1 - Holi event image from 2018 flier, credit Lorraine Arthur*

- 2.3 The brightly coloured exuberance of the festival day has given the celebrations international appeal and it is now celebrated as cross-cultural event by communities across Europe and North America. The festival dates back to at least the 4<sup>th</sup> century and western interest has been recorded since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Hindu traditions have been observed by generations of Indian families and their descendants who have settled in Ipswich.

- 2.4 The Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association (ISIA) was formed as a community group in 1975 and over the last forty years it has provided support to the Suffolk Indian community and Indian cultural events for the wider community.
- 2.5 The Indian Summer Mela, has been held by the group in Christchurch Park since 2007 and is now a major event in the Ipswich public calendar. In 2013, the ISIA has held the first Holi celebrations in Holywells Park. This has been supported financially through the Heritage Lottery Fund, associated with the park.
- 2.6 The Holywells Holi Festival has grown year on year and in 2017 nearly 5,000 people are believed to have attended. This year's event is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> April and will include coloured powder throwing, Bollywood entertainment, Indian food stalls, traditional bonfire, Henna hand painting, music, singing & dancing.
- 2.7 The event is free for members of the public to participate in and each is provided with a hollow coconut shell that they can then fill with coloured pigment.
- 2.8 This event is now of a significant size and requires many elements to be funded; equipment hire, event planning, printing & promotion, waste services and essentially colour pigment purchase. A breakdown of costs is given in Section 9.
- 2.9 The funding available through the Heritage Lottery fund for this event is coming to an end and does not cover all of the costs of the 2018 celebrations. The ISIA will make up some of the shortfall is seeking funding from the South East Area Committee for the remainder. This has been identified for the purchase of the pigment and coconut shells.
- 2.10 The total amount requested from the South East Area Committee is £1,000.00.

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### **3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations**

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- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich 2017 underlying principles:
- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study

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### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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- 4.1 In deciding these options, the Committee is advised that Option 1 requires it to waive the Funding Protocol expectation of a business plan for the ISIA. This is a matter for the committee's discretion and the associated risks are outlined in Section 6.
- 4.2 **Option 1** – Approve the allocation of £1,000.00 to the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association towards the costs of the 2018 Holi Festival.

4.3 **Option 2** – Approve the allocation of a lesser amount than £1,000.00 to the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association towards the costs of the 2018 Holi Festival

4.4 **Option 3** - Do not fund

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## 5. Consultations

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5.1 The ISIA consults regularly with the Council’s Events & Festivals team on its plans and for guidance on hosting the event. The team also provide practical support in the event planning and promotion.

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## 6. Risk Management

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6.1 The risks associated with the running of the Holywells Holi Festival is owned by the ISIA. The risks outlined here relate to the Committee funding of the group.

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
Poor use or management of funds	Poor use of public funds	ISIA record keeping  Monitoring report  Events team support	2	2
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	<p>The ISIA is a long established group with the experience to manage the funds and the monitoring return to the Area Community will give a breakdown of the spending.</p> <p>The Council’s Events &amp; Festivals team provides guidance to the ISIA on the necessary expenses associated with the event and options for reliable local suppliers,</p>			
Lack of business plan	Threat to sustainability of ISIA  Failure to deliver event	ISIA annual Accounts  Established practice and proven sustainability  Limited cost and time exposure	2	2
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	<p>The ISIA group has been established for 43 years and has a proven record. It has provided accounts with this application showing it has the other funds necessary for this event. In addition, it has no liabilities for staff and premises; its costs being only concerned with future events.</p> <p>The risk to the committee is comparatively low at 6% of the annual budget and less than a month between decision and delivery.</p>			

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## 7. Environmental Impact Assessment

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- 7.1 There is only a negligible impact on the environment expected from the proposed activities. The colour pigment is primarily chalk based and of minor impact on the park. Waste services have been contracted to ensure that litter generated by the event is properly cleared and disposed of.
- 7.2 Public transport can be used to access the event however it is certain many people will choose to travel by car and those additional journeys will have a negative impact.

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## 8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

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- 8.1 The proposed activities are not anticipated to have a negative impact on any individual in respect of any of the protected characteristics as set out under the Equality Act 2010. The Holywells Holi Festival is open to all members of the public and is inclusive of all characteristics.
- 8.2 The ISIA is governed by equality aims and policy.

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## 9. Financial Considerations

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- 9.1 The Council's Events & Festival team are supporting the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association in the managing of the event. The team has planned and coordinated the event (Planning & Event Resource Cost) on behalf of the association. It has arranged the resources, staffing, waste clearance, stalls, promotion, and third party contractor services.

Item	
Equipment Hire - (includes PA, staging, radios, toilets, gazebos, barriers, generator and ancillary equipment)	£2,054.00
Colour powder & Coconut shells	£1,300.00
Planning & Event Resource Cost	£919.00
Other Fees & Professional Services	£490.00
Event day staff	£410.00
Waste services	£330.00
Sundries	£320.00
Security	£216.00
Design & Printing	£80.00
Generator Fuel	£15.00
Vehicle mileage	£9.00
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£6,143.00</b>

- 9.2 There is a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) associated with Holywells Park. It is sufficient to meet the majority of the event costs (approximately £5,000) and the Events & Festival team is able to arrange for this to settle most fees.

- 9.3 The ISIA is responsible for the funding and purchase of the colour powder and coconut shells. It is for this purchase that the ISIA is requesting subsidy from the Committee. The ISIA is seeking £1,000 from the Committee and will cover the difference required through other reserves.
- 9.4 The total amount requested of the South East Area Committee budget is £1,000.00.

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## **10. Legal Considerations**

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- 10.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 The Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association is a constituted group with named posts, named bank account, and year-end accounts. As such, it meets those requirements of the Area Committee Funding Protocol.
- 10.4 The Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association does not operate a business plan, as listed in the Funding Protocol. The Committee is asked to use its discretion in determining the associated risk in this case and in deciding the options in Section 4.

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## **11. Performance Monitoring**

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- 11.1 The ISIA committee will complete the Area Committee funding monitoring submission, reporting the spending of the allocation against the budget set out in Section 9. The monitoring will also report to the committee what activities have been provided at the event and the public attendance.

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## **12. Conclusions**

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- 12.1 With the Holywells Holi celebrations, the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association has created a new event in the public calendar for Ipswich. This has proven to have broad appeal with Ipswich residents of all heritages. As such the event both nourishes the cultural life of Hindu residents and community cohesion for the wider community. The committee is asked to supplement the existing external funding to provide for the cost of the 2018 event.

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## **13. Recommendations**

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- 13.1 That the South East Area Committee consider the options set out in Section 4 and determines the allocation of funding from the South East Area Committee budget towards the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association for the 2018 Holywells Holi Festival.**

Reason: Funding the Holi Festival would provide a public celebration for the benefit of Ipswich residents and nurture a diversity of cultures within Ipswich.