

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA **REF NO:** CAC/23/15

DATE: 3 JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: BOWS AND ARROWS

REPORT AUTHOR: BETH ROBINSON

SENIOR OFFICER: ROBIN PAYNE

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £500.00 to Bows and Arrows to contribute towards funding 190 'Forest School' sessions for 450 disadvantaged children in Ipswich across 12 months, encouraging outdoor learning and play with positive consequences for children. This application is part of a multi-area bid, with Bows and Arrows requesting proportionate funding from the Central, North West, South West, and South East Area Committees, and the Ravenswood Community Fund.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

This report has been prepared by Beth Robinson

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

The following policies form a context to this report:

Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town

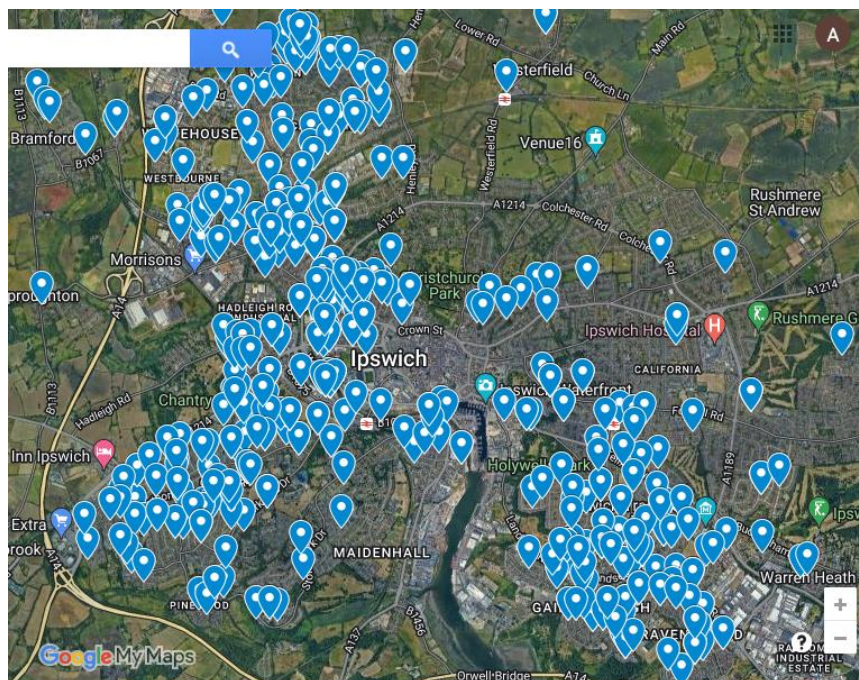
1.	Item of business and issues for consideration
1.1	<p>To consider the application of Bows and Arrows and decide whether to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Option 1 - Fund the total amount requested. ii) Option 2 - Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested. iii) Option 3 - Not fund.
1.2	<p>The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.</p>
1.3	<p>Bows and Arrows operate 7 day care nurseries for children aged 0-5 years, with the aim of advancing the education and development of young children. 82% of participants registered live in a most deprived LSOA; an active choice to reach those most in need.</p>
1.4	<p>An additional service offered is Forest School sessions. These will take place outdoors, in selected woodlands, encouraging play, and facilitating an increase in self-esteem, self-confidence, and physical stamina. Self-regulation, emotional wellbeing, and language development have also been shown to be effective in such learning environments.</p>
1.5	<p>There will be focus on exploration and interaction with nature, with a model of playful learning, teamwork, and collaboration through natural resources. This is particularly beneficial for the many children with SEND who attend, who are often unable to express such educational needs within a classroom. This also provides opportunity for children and families to learn about, and take pride in, the green spaces within Ipswich.</p>
1.6	<p>Over 12 months, this project seeks to operate 190 Forest Schools for 450 disadvantaged children, alongside open-access drop in sessions.</p>
1.7	<p>On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, coaches will collect up to 30 children to participate in outdoor learning, or participants who are able will travel on foot. These sessions will operate from 9:00-15:00.</p>
1.8	<p>On Mondays, there will be an open access Forest School 'stay and play' session. On Fridays, there will be an open access Forest School 'stay and play' session for children with SEND and their parents. Both will last for 1.5h in the morning or afternoon.</p>
1.9	<p>Participants for Sessions Tuesday-Thursday will specifically target young children from high areas of deprivation, using referrals and criterion. Monday and Friday sessions are open access. All sessions are free.</p>
1.10	<p>It is anticipated all sessions will be fully booked. Sessions will also be advertised on social media.</p>

1.11 Volunteers are being sought to help manage the project. In a survey of parents, 45% expressed some interest in volunteering, which Bows and Arrows intend to promote and develop.

1.12 The nursery locations are as follows:

- Ravenswood Nursery
- Buttons and Bows Nursery
- Wigwams Nursery
- Little Learners & Forest Learners Nursery
- Children's Triangle Nursery
- Wellington Nursery

1.13 Figure 1. Plots of attendees across Ipswich, with each blue marker representing the residence of a child:



2. Links to Area Action Plan

2.1 Department of Communities and Local Government - Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills, and Training**, which is an Area Action Plan priority.
- **Health and Disability**, which is an Area Action Plan Priority.
- **Living Environment**.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services**.

2.2 Proud of Ipswich underlying principles:

- **Promoting Community Wellbeing and Fairness in Ipswich**, which is *the* action plan priority.

3. Financial implications

3.1 There is £2,552.00 remaining unallocated in the Central Area Committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

3.2 Cost breakdown:

Description of expenditure		Cost (£)
1x Forest School Leader Salary		£14,261.00
2x Coach hire per week		£9,500.00
Children's waterproof clothing		£1,590.00
Group Shelter		£109.00
Early years Forest School Kit		£469.00
Total project costs		£25,929.00
Total requested from Area Committees	North East	-
	North West	£1,000.00
	Central	£500.00
	South East	£3,000.00
	Ravenswood Community Fund	£3,000.00
	South West	£2,000.00
	TOTAL	£9,500.00

3.3 Other grants and match funding:

Name of Funder	Amount of funding requested	Granted (yes/no)	Waiting for outcome (yes/no)
Steel Trust	£10,000	No	Yes, Applied 30/10/23

Children in Need	£12,000	No	Not yet applied
Local funders – (Redacted) and Scarfe Charitable Trust	Up to £3,000	No	Not yet applied
Internal fund raising Just Giving	£2,000	Yes - £1067.59	Yes – ongoing fund raising
Internal fund raising Easy Fundraising	£250	Yes - £55.18	Yes – ongoing fund raising

- 3.4 Bows and Arrows are requesting funding from each area proportional to their user base in each.
- 3.5 As per Area Committee guidelines, any funding allocated would not be funded as contribution toward the core salary cost.
- 3.6 The Bows and Arrows group were previously awarded £2,639.75 from the NWAC in November 2022 to improve their outdoor play facilities at the Nature Den Nursery on Bramford Lane. This funding was later returned to the NWAC due to Nature Den Nursery ceasing operations in March 2023.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Bows and Arrows (registered Charity no. 1129046), has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, safeguarding policy, and business plan, as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.
- 4.4 Ipswich Borough Council can confirm that this project is **not** a replacement of statutory services in Ipswich.

5. Risks considered

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)
Safeguarding risk to children and vulnerable people	Emotional or physical harm to individual	Safeguarding system in place	3	3
Actions to mitigate risk	All staff and volunteers use a vulnerable children and safeguarding policy. There is a higher proportion of trained adults: children to mitigate the effect of being outdoors and the particular vulnerabilities of the target audience.			
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)
Lack of funding from other Area Committees, or part funding.	Project may not be able to run as effectively if not fully funded across all areas.	Bows and Arrows have broken down their bid by families supported in the area and continue to seek other funding sources.	2	3
Actions to mitigate risk	Bows and Arrows have specified area-specific intervention by the proportionate number of families, thus can support families per area if not funded by all committees. They have also secured other funding as contribution towards the project and continue to do so.			
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)

Damage to the forest environment.	Sentient and non-sentient wildlife could be interrupted.	High ratio of supervision of children; promoting a sense of pride in the woodland areas; young age of participants.	2	2
Actions to mitigate risk	Bows and Arrows have a higher than usual ratio of supervision of children for this project to manage any risk to both the individuals and the wildlife preservation. A key goal is to encourage respect for the environment in Ipswich to encourage more time spend outside which will be a part of the sessions. This intends to facilitate an environment where there will not be interruptive damage to the wildlife.			

6. Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £500.00 to Bows and Arrows.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £500.00 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

7. Record of Decision taken

8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

Signed.....

[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]