

Agenda Item 22 June Agenda

Grant Application – Action Against abuse

Application form, budget and banks statement attached in support of this request for £488 by a national charity dealing with domestic abuse, non-molestation orders etc.

The application was received within the grant “window” (March/April).

As the council no longer has the General Power of Competence, we should consider Section 137 of the LGA 1972 (rules governing grant awards) which advises as follows:

The council must first be satisfied that there is a direct benefit to the area or part of the area, or to some or all of the inhabitants. The council is the body to determine whether or not such benefit will accrue, and a decision by the council could only be challenged on the ground that it was wholly unreasonable. The use of “some” in relation to the inhabitants means that the council cannot use the power to benefit a single individual. It may be possible for the council to help an organisation to which the individual belongs, thus releasing funds for the organisation to help individuals. For example, a council could make a donation to a local organisation which provides grants to needy persons.

The council must secondly ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. This means that a council should not spend a disproportionately large amount on something which has no or very little direct benefit. For example, spending the whole of the council’s allowance under the section 137 which amounted to £10,000 for the benefit of two people would be unlikely to be confer commensurate benefit to the expenditure incurred.

In other words, the council should consider whether any grant is value for money, considering how many people are likely to benefit in the parish.

Proposal: To consider the grant application and the level of award if granted.

Phil Burgess
Clerk to East Dean and Friston