



Review of You Decide! 2016

June 2016

Purpose of the report

To allow the NP to review and consider the impact of its second Participatory Budgeting event to allocate all the Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership's Community Grants Fund 2016/17. Based on the findings, to consider which allocation process the NP will utilise in the next financial year.

Promotion & community support

Promotion included regular updated posters on the NP notice boards including "apply now", and "vote now", information in the Portobello Reporter and Porty-online, wide use of our/partner e-mail distribution lists, the NP website, displays in libraries/offices/community centres etc, information included in other Newsletters and via word of mouth, at meetings of sub-groups, community councils, local groups, and the East Twitter feed.

New voting, application forms and information packs were updated to include the 'You Decide!' name and NP logo etc.

Paul James, his CLD team and Graham Rowan PDO, offered groups and individuals support and information, help with forms, constitutions and bank accounts for new groups as required.

Changes in processes: Voting - spread/(up to £500 for small project/piece of equipment) age groups/promotion

Following a review of last's year's PB process, concerns were raised about the balance of voting in libraries (440) and during the Participatory Budgeting event held in the East Neighbourhood Centre event last year (40). The Neighbourhood Partnership also considered the demands of completing application forms, providing posters etc, especially for very small projects, and last year's voting process which was seen to be challenging.

On this basis, it was agreed to test a new approach this year:

- To spread the local benefit of the Partnership's Community Grants fund, £7,500 from this year's fund was set-aside to encourage smaller bids (up to £500 for small projects/piece of equipment). However, at the closing date for applications, only four smaller bids had been received. The Partnership

agreed awards for all four applications and remove them from the voting process. The remainder of the £7,500 allocated for smaller bids was incorporated into the total fund to be awarded at the PB event.

- the remaining fund would be allocated for applications up to £1,500 as before;
- to encourage local participation, communication and networking between local people/groups during the event it was agreed to **remove** the library voting. All applicants would be required to attend the Participatory Budgeting event to promote their bid or it would be excluded from the voting process;
- to ensure young people (under age 16) living in the Craigmillar area could vote without having to travel to Portobello Town Hall they could vote in Craigmillar Library on the same day as the event. Their voting results were telephoned to the Town Hall and included in the final decisions; and
- in response to complaints received about last year's need to score **every** project between one and five, this year people will be given 5 stickers to attach to the scoring chart of their preferred project(s).

This year, at the event 304 votes were cast between the two voting centres; 27 at Craigmillar Library and 277 in Portobello. There were 14 invalid papers. This resulted in 20 (including the four smaller awards) of the 25 projects who submitted applications being awarded a Community Grant.

This exhausted P&C's 2016/17 Community Grants Fund allocation of £21,737.

It was identified later that an arithmetical error was made in matching the successful applications to the Community Grant Fund available, and £1,390 more was allocated than was in the fund. The Convenor was give incorrect information on the day to formally announce the award winners and the amounts to be awarded. The Neighbourhood Partnership decided that these should be honoured.

To address the shortfall, an alternative local budget was identified linked to the local Community Grants fund. This budget is normally used to encourage participation and community engagement in Partnership activities. It was agreed that on this occasion this would be used to cover the cost of the over-allocation. The NP will develop a more robust process to ensure that further validation and checking is built into any future event to prevent a similar mistake being made.

Taking information from the Voting Registration forms, there is a breakdown of voters by address, age group and how they heard about the process (last year's numbers follow in brackets)

- **60%** of voters had a Portobello address (45%), **30%** a Craigmillar one (37%), and **10%** worked or volunteered (18%) in the NP area;
- **21%** were in the 8-12 age group (11.5%), **6%** in the 13-17 (8.5%), **7%** in the 18-25 (0%), (overall **34%** under 25s (29%)), **40%** in the 26-45 (38.5%), **17%** in the 46-65 (22%), and **7%** were 66 and over (11.5%);

- **18%** had heard about the process from the applicant (25%), **38%** through word of mouth (44%), **20%** from online sources (7%), **2%** from posters (7%), **15%** had applied before (3%) and **9%** other (8.5%).
- **37%** were male, and **53%** female.
- Of the 182 who left a preference, **90%** felt this was a good way to allocate funds, 6% felt it was not a good way, with **3%** unsure.

Comments received

The Voting Sheet also asked the voter for comments: very few left comments. Most people who did were positive about the process, although some left negative comments. Some were very enthusiastic about the whole process of giving local people a say in the decision-making. Conversely, many who left negative comments felt strongly that the previous method was better.

Some suggestions were the need for more voting venues and the option of online voting, although the numbers are too low to be significant.

Last year some commented that the need to score every project was complicated, cumbersome, unsuitable for children and/or older people, and most who left a suggestion felt that a simpler system would be better. There were no similar comments this year. General feedback at the May meeting of Portobello Community Council was overwhelmingly positive: “a definite improvement on last year”.

‘You Decide!’ – applications/decisions/awards

Of the **20 successful applicants** (17), **7** had not received a grant before, and one had applied in its own right this year (8).

- **9** successful applications are based in Portobello (6);
- **10** are based in greater Craigmillar (10); and
- **1** is based at Bridgend Farm (1).

Nine applications were explicitly for children and young people (8), four were for older people (2), none explicitly for vulnerable people or those affected by substance misuse (2). The remainder were more general in their client group.

Of the **5 unsuccessful applications** (12), **2** were new (7) and **3** had received an award previously (5). **One** was based in Portobello (7) and **4** in Craigmillar (5). Four bids were aimed at children and young people, and the others were more general.

In the previous financial two years before last year’s ‘You Decide!’ event, the Neighbourhood Partnership received 25 and 22 applications respectively, with new applicants in 5 and 8 instances. In both years 18 awards were made. However, after consideration some were only partial awards to support a wider spread of the fund.

Costs

Much of the work to support the process was core work. However, support from the members of the NP Board, CLD and other SfC colleagues helped deliver the event and the Craigmillar library youth voting etc. In addition printing of posters cost £340, the voting stickers cost £55, and the provision of teas and coffees for project volunteers/staff involved on the day cost £9.50.

At the event, in addition to NP Board members and SfC Partnership staff, volunteers included 3 staff from CLD, and Craigmillar library staff oversaw the voting in Craigmillar Library.

The Partnership extends its thanks to everyone who helped deliver 'You Decide! 2016'.

Finally, the partnership working required to deliver 'You Decide! 2016' has supported the delivery of the NP's aspirations. It also delivered unique opportunities to support delivery of specific outcomes included in our Local Community Plan linked to young people's input, and creating 'strong communities' via increased local input and influence.

Recommendations

The NP is asked to:

- i) Note the details included in this report;
- ii) thank all applicants, colleagues and partners who helped promote and/or deliver 'You Decide! 2016';
- iii) consider whether or not the Participatory Budgeting approach was successful in increasing local participation; and
- iv) advise the relevant Localities Team managers how they wish to proceed in the next Financial Year 2017/18, and any lessons to be learned/ incorporated.

‘You Decide! 2016’ Results

Applicant	Amount applied for	Votes
KITS	1,500	272
Towerbank PSA	1,500	237
Portobello Toddler Hut	1,500	121
Full Circle	1,475	111
Lifecare -Vintage Vibes	1,263	94
Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club	1,400	93
Tribe Porty Youth Theatre	1,500	88
Art Walk Porty	1,500	86
Venchie	1,500	77
Bingham 50+	1,015	64
Breadshare Community Bakery	1,500	63
Jack Kane Community Centre	830	52
Older Peoples ‘Constantly Connecting’ c/o JKC	1,500	43
Bridgend Inspiring Growth	1,500	38
St Teresa's Youth Club	1,390	33
Shindigs Scottish Artspace	255	28
Craigmillar Community Arts		25
Craigmillar EcoHousing Co-op		16
Newcraighall Leith Vics		5
Castlebrae Racing Pigeon Club		withdrawn
Tribe Porty		withdrawn

Four smaller applications awarded without the voting process

£500 category - 4 awards = £1,999:

East Edinburgh Older People's Forum	500
Hunters Hall Community Development Group	500
Joppa Tennis Court	500
Newcraighall PSA	499