

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the relevant Cabinet Member may speak in response. The deputation will be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

**(a) Deputation concerning the Youth Capital Fund and the 15<sup>th</sup> Brighton Scout Group – Mr Duncan Hill (Spokesperson)**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Brighton Scout Group, based in Manor Farm, serves girls and boys from across East Brighton, with membership stretching from Woodingdean and Rottingdean in the east, through Whitehawk and Manor Farm, to Queen's Park, Tarnerland and Five Lanes. Our membership is socially and religiously diverse. Parental occupations include long-term unemployed, post office clerks, plumbers, nurses, civil engineers, business analysts and university lecturers. Schools represented include Whitehawk Primary, St Mark's CE, St John the Baptist RC, Queen's Park, Carlton Hill, St Lukes, Patcham High, Longhill, Varndean and Brighton College – and we have Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist members. They meet together as equals, learning to respect and value each other.

Our leaders are all volunteers – and we fund most of our activities ourselves, rather than through grants or the like. Sometimes, though, we need a little extra help.

Our group is growing fast – faster than any other Scout Group in Brighton. Membership has almost doubled in the past year, and we want to make sure that we continue to improve the opportunities we give to our ever-growing group of young people.

The Youth Capital Fund seemed to us to be a great opportunity to do this – our Scouts would benefit not just from the improved facilities (a bouldering wall, outdoor game equipment, new tents, an upgraded kitchen) but also from the process itself – they came up with the ideas, and researched costs, they identified other groups with whom we could share the new facilities, and they wrote the bid. In the process they learnt about setting priorities, making compromises, budgeting. They learnt about the council's important role in supporting their community – and how they and other young people can take part in that. That the decisions about which YCF bids would be successful were guided by other young people greatly impressed them, giving them a belief in the council's commitment to taking youth seriously.

We were overjoyed to learn that we had been awarded £6000 – to give you some sense of how much that is to us, that's more than our total spending in 2008/9. This grant could give us a top-rate Scout Hall, to be used not just by 15<sup>th</sup> Brighton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, but by other Scout Groups from across Brighton, local Brownies, tenants and residents associations and others. The group would not just be offering better Scouting, but would have the facilities to ensure long-term viability and strength

Almost as soon as we were celebrating our success, we found out entirely by chance that the Council is now considering cutting the grants they have already promised. No-one from the council bothered to tell us about this, and as I understand it many other successful groups around the city have also not been told about this. Some have even incurred financial commitments as a result of trusting the council.

I ask the Cabinet to honour in full the awards made this June. In doing so you will not just be ensuring the continued success of groups like the 15<sup>th</sup> Brighton Scouts, but also showing young people that they do matter and are valued by the Council. – “A Scout is to be trusted” is the very first line of the Scout Law. Please show our Scouts that Councillors are to be trusted too.

**(b) Deputation concerning the Youth Capital Fund and Sounds Enterprising – Mr Adam Joolia (Spokesperson)**

The main issues I wish to highlight are:

- The fact that the YCF grant offer letters have already gone out and funding agreements been signed off and invoiced for
- Off the back of the funding agreement; a lot of work has already been done by the young people and Audioactive in preparation for the project and the charity which is already in a fragile state capacity wise has invested a lot of staff time (in-kind) into the work
- The potential impact that our grant, should it be released could have in the lives of young people and the wider community with regards to the ‘Big Society’ concept, social enterprise, youth unemployment/employability, engaging hard to reach groups, creating a community resource and becoming less reliant on grant funding
- The potential impact that the absence of the grant could in the lives of young people and the wider community with regards to the above
- The fact the grant would represent a low-risk investment in the above with far higher return with regards to the above than expenditure

Appendix 1: Sounds Enterprising proposal for funding