**Lytchett Matravers Parish Council**

**Notes of a Dorset Community Action (DCA) Event on 26th June 2019 on National Lottery Funding**

**Morden Village Hall**

**Guest Speaker Kirsty Main, National Lottery Community Fund**

# Background on National Lottery

* About 28% of the money collected from National Lottery ticket sales is distributed to good causes via the National Lottery Distribution Fund. Of the rest, 50% is distributed in prize money, and the remaining 22% is split between Camelot, the Treasury, and Retailers.
* The amount of money paid to the National Lottery Distribution Fund each year has varied between about £1.4billion and £1.9billion during the last decade. The peak years were in 2012/13 (associated with the Olympics), 2014/15 and 2015/16. In 2017/18 the amount was £1.64billion.
* The money available for good causes is distributed through different agencies in each of the devolved nations. The agencies operating in England are the Arts Council, the British Film Institute, Sport England, UK Sport, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the Big Lottery Fund.
* The Big Lottery Fund is now branded as the Community Fund. It receives about 40% of the money available for Good Causes. This equates to about £800million each year. The remaining 60% is split evenly between the Arts Council, the Heritage Fund, and Sport England.

# Notes of the Meeting (to be read in conjunction with handout attached as a separate pdf file)

Kirsty made the following points:

* Kirsty works for the National Lottery Community Fund. This was previously known as the Big Lottery Fund. The Community Fund is funded from the sales of National Lottery tickets.
* The Community Fund has been split into two elements, as follows:
* Awards for All – grants of up to £10,000
* Reaching Communities – grants over £10,000
* The Awards for All grants are administered centrally, and can be applied for online.
* The Reaching Communities grants have been split up to provide a separate fund for each County, which are administered locally. Kirsty is the Funding Officer for Dorset, and distributes between £2million and £3million each year for the whole of Dorset.
* 90% of the grant money goes to voluntary community groups
* To receive a grant, an organisation must have its own bank account in the organisation’s name
* To qualify for an Awards for All grant, the project needs to be contained within the year when the grant is awarded
* The Community Fund prioritises projects which satisfy 3 criteria. Firstly, the project will build stronger relationships in the community, secondly the project will shape and sustain shared spaces that matter to people, and thirdly the project should deliver early action to prevent problems and tackle disadvantage.
* Projects should be people led, with meaningful involvement of those who will benefit, make use of the strengths that already exist in the community, and demonstrate connections with other relevant organisations.
* An organisation can only receive one Awards for All grant in any one year.
* Hundreds of applications are received each week for Awards for All grants, and the success rate is about 50%. The process to select grant applications and approve payments takes about 14 weeks.
* The success rate for Reaching Communities grant applications is about 20%. Applications might typically be 3 sides of A4. The process to select applications and approve payments takes about 6 to 9 months.
* In considering Reaching Communities grant applications, the Communities Fund team will take into account whether there have been other projects funded in the same geographic area.
* To be successful in applying for Reaching Communities grants, match funding is helpful but not essential. It is also important to provide evidence that there has been a meaningful consultation with the group or groups of people who will benefit from the project to determine their needs, and for the application to provide a clear statement of how the project will make a difference.

Councillor Rob Carswell

Councillor Ralph Watts

July 2019