28 February 2020
Our ref: 6059088

Thank you for your request received on 4 February 2020, for the following information:

**Further to the response below, specifically Q2, I have been informed by a former member of the Mill Hill Neighbourhood forum committee that John Gillett, former Chair of the Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum thanked Councillor Val Duschinsky at a meeting for arranging a grant of approx £9,000 from the 'community fund' for the Forum, from which gazebo's, chairs and tables amongst other things, were bought.**

**Please can you confirm whether any such payment was made and if so why was this not disclosed in the previous response. Furthermore, please can you state whether, if such a payment was made, whether any checks were made as to what the money was allocated for and whether it was actually spent on these items.**

**For the absence of doubt, when the term 'community fund' is used, please take this to mean any funds available for the purposes of funding community organisations. Also please disclose any payments, whether they be grants, loans, gifts or any other type of payment to the Neighbourhood forum.**

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

**Response**

Further to the clarification of specific payments and allocations with Councillor Duschinsky, and knowledge of the year such payments occurred, the council has been able to search for and identify the specific transactions referenced.  The following are sums that have been identified as related to the Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum, but only one of them involved the transfer of funds to the Forum:

Hendon Area Committee – Non CIL funded project allocations (items references in relation to Councillor Duschinsky)

- 6th July 2016 (agenda Item 10, pages 51-57) - Approved allocation of £12,000 towards Mill Hill Pocket Park / Town Square Project

https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8660/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Jul-2016%2019.00%20Hendon%20Area%20Committee.pdf?T=10

The sum of £12,000 was related to the creation of the new pocket park was used internally by the council to meet the costs of delivering the project.

- 26th October 2016 (agenda Item 13d, pages 137-142) - Approved allocation of £9,998.80 towards Mill Hill Markets Project

https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8657/Public%20reports%20pack%2026th-Oct-2016%2019.00%20Hendon%20Area%20Committee.pdf?T=10

On 18/1/2017 the sum of £9998.80 was transferred to the Neighbourhood Forum (transaction reference D080007905) following receipt of an invoice.  This funding related to the purchase of equipment for the market stalls in association with the commitment of funds at Area Committee.

The purpose of the funds as specified in the committee report was:

1. Summer festival with Comida Fest = £3500

Design, print, promotion of publicity materials, stage and PA hire, toilets, rubbish disposal

2. Event Infrastructure

5 x 3mx3m marquees @£399 each including VAT/delivery = £1995.00

4 pairs of weights @£45 a pair for each marquee x 4 marquees = £720.00

10x 6ft folding tables @ £52 each including VAT/delivery = £520

20 x folding chairs @ £10.99 each, including VAT/delivery = £219.80 + £7.99 packing/handling = £227.79

3. Activities, entertainment, and music

Creative workshops @ £200 each x 3 markets = £600.00

Music and performances across all markets, with a high proportion used during Christmas and markets using the Pocket Park = £1,986.01

Other children's activities such as face painting and storytelling @£150 across three of the markets = £450?

Total = £9998.80 (requested from the Hendon Area Committee, there were matched projects referenced, but to be funded by the Forum)

No checks have been made to ascertain whether the grant was used in accordance with the allocation.  The group was formally constituted and the provision of the market stalls were delivered and continued without further recourse to public funds.  Elected Members instructed the provision of the grant and also sat on the Neighbourhood Forum Committee at the time; no issues regarding the provision of said equipment were raised.


**Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and

other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access.   http://open.barnet.gov.uk/

**Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose.  You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link   www.ico.org.uk

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

**Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk).  There is no charge for making an appeal.