

## **BECCLES U3A**

### **Covid 19 Group Recovery Grant**

#### **Briefing note for Convenors**

##### **Introduction**

The support of activity groups and the members of the groups is the number one priority of Beccles U3A. It is the aim of the Committee to encourage as many people as possible to gain social contact and to help them use their existing skills and interests and learn new ones. An existing grant scheme is available to support group development and, in addition, until 31 December 2020, the committee has agreed to make available grants for initiatives which will promote the continuance of a group's activities or for social meetings in circumstances where, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these might otherwise be curtailed. The situation will be reviewed during December 2020 and may be continued if circumstances continue to warrant it.

##### **Principles**

Each group is able to apply for a grant of up to a suggested maximum figure of £150 (although this will be flexibly applied) to facilitate the continuance of a group during the time when normal meeting may not be possible.

##### **Applications**

The convenor of a group (or a designated group member) may apply to obtain a grant and arrange for any expenditure and seek reimbursement from the Treasurer. A Grants Sub-Committee will meet weekly to consider applications which may be approved, rejected or a smaller sum than applied for agreed. The recommendations of the sub-group will be final although difficult or contentious applications will be referred to the main Committee for a wider range of views. If an application for funding is not accepted, the reason will be explained to the applicant.

##### **Criteria**

For 'pandemic' grants, the main criteria will be that it is used to facilitate group meetings. This could include, but is not limited to, purchasing a Zoom (or similar) licence or, for groups which meet in private houses, the hiring of a meeting room where any social distancing guidance can be observed. In normal circumstances, members of groups would be expected to contribute to part of the cost of room hire and a willingness to do so would be viewed favourably.

##### **Other**

Any tangible assets purchased will remain the property of Beccles U3A, will need to be included on an inventory and returned if the group disbands. Whilst this would not normally apply to the purchase of intangibles such as licences and room hire, any unused value must be offered to U3A for possible use by other groups.