

Decision taken by: **Councillor Jacqueline Meade - Ward
Member for East Folkestone**

Subject: **Origins**

Executive/non-executive decision: **Non-executive**

Date decision taken: 5 October 2020

Name and address of applicant(s):

Randolph Matthews
232 Seabrook Road
Hythe CT21 5RG

Name and description of project:

Black History Month - A diverse group of people coming together to celebrate Black History Month and Black men in honour of our founding member Arike who passed away in June 2020.

DECISION:

To provide funding of £249.90 to the above project.

Reason for decision:

The theme for this year is: Black men are good - Stereotypical views have obscured the images of Black men for centuries. Racial and class inequalities, systematic discrimination and the media have contributed to creating a distorted portrayal of Black men in which they are pathologised. Black men are good is real lived experiences and achievements are underrepresented and overshadowed by the representation of them as perpetrators of violent crimes. George Floyd's death, and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests, have instigated a ray of solidarity and hope around the world and have exposed the racism experienced by Black people. In light of these protests, how can we encourage Black men to reclaim their true identity?

This project will also honour founding member Arike who passed away in July 2020 by highlighting the shared experiences of Black men in the town through visual art, conversations, poetry, food and music. It will also promote his legacy by engaging with local artists to create work on the theme and invite people of diverse identities who had/have a connection with Arike and other Black men to contribute a piece of writing, finishing the sentence 'Black Men Are...

Origins know that explicit racism was once legal and practised openly just a few decades ago: Discrimination in work, a place to live or access to education. Outlawing racial discrimination has helped. But it continues for black communities as an experience for people and in Folkestone Kent and throughout the UK. We feel that there is a need to work in partnership with the statutory and voluntary sectors in Folkestone to make a positive difference in Kent. The Black community is underrepresented in Folkestone, and for those who call Folkestone their home, there has been an interlocking of racism and mental health oppression. To provide services fairly, we want to promote equality, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief in line with the Human Rights Act. Origins group would like audiences to experience a greater awareness of the accomplishments Folkestone; a sense of pride in our collective multicultural history; and celebrate the diverse tapestry of cultures and ethnicities that form our national identity.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.

Signed:



**Councillor Jacqueline Meade
Ward – East Folkestone**

5 October 2020

