

Decision taken by: **Ward Member for Romney Marsh –
Councillor Ian Meyers**

Subject: **JAM**

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

Date decision taken: 23 February 2021

Name and address of applicant(s):

Sarah Armitage
Ludwell House, Charing, Ashford,
Kent TN27 0LS

Name and description of project:

Marsh primary schools – Ferdinand the Bull, part of JAM on the Marsh
(JOTM) festival
To support the delivery of a free filmed performance of Ferdinand the Bull for all
Marsh primary schoolchildren to participate in school and enjoy this summer, and
future years.

DECISION:

To provide funding of £287 to the above project.

Reason for decision

Significant challenges prevent children in Shepway from taking part in the arts:

- Severe education budget cuts, affecting teaching and opportunity
 - lack of specialist teaching
 - lack of cultural infrastructure
 - lack of opportunities and income to experience performance, professionals and quality means
- Shepway remains one of the most arts-deprived areas of England with limited cultural infrastructure and provision.

Young people on Romney Marsh have little arts access and meagre opportunities to participate in, create or experience arts activity, negatively impacting on social, academic and personal progression. Poor transport prevents children's access to and benefit from activities/opportunities.

Since 2012 JAM has been working with Romney Marsh schools, bringing ambitious and aspirational opportunities.

Sadly Covid has halted 2020 activity. Of our 7-month singing + concert in 2019

"This experience was so valuable which they may never have again." Teacher

"We couldn't provide this without JAM." Teacher

"Musically outstanding, bringing the community together; inspirational for the children. Audience

"JOTM embraces all ages, bringing so much enjoyment, learning and life-changing experiences to so many!" Audience

Whilst singing can't yet resume, the schools are looking forward to *Ferdinand*, boosting experience of high-calibre, engaging performance that would not happen otherwise, opening the children's eyes and broadening horizons.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.

Signed:



23 February 2021

**Councillor Ian Meyers
Ward – Romney Marsh**

