

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

30th January 2014 - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2013/14 year.

Background

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Community Forum Funding budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for consideration at this meeting:

Black Country Bowls Club

4. Funding of £2250 (the full cost) is requested for four new park benches to replace the existing ones which are currently in a poor state of repair. The Assistant Director of Environmental Management for the Urban Environment is aware of the application and supportive.
5. Black Country Bowls Club provides organised bowling and social support to its members. They share the bowling green with the Crystal Bowling Club who are aware and support this funding bid. The funding will help all those who use the club and will improve the image of Wollescote Park.
6. The original application is for 3 benches, however due to the quotes received a fourth bench could be provided if the above amount is supported. This would replace all damaged benches.

Gig Caritas

7. Gig Caritas brings professional and amateur practitioners together to create performances for charitable causes. Funding of £4000 is requested towards a project cost of £14,072 to enable the purchase of a range of lighting and sound systems equipment. Their current equipment is borrowed and has a number of limitations. This funding request does not cover the full amount and they have also applied to the Lottery Awards for All Fund for £10,000.
8. Gig Caritas run a variety of concerts / events throughout the year that range in size and variety to raise money for charitable causes. They bring together a range of community organisations to either support the delivery, provide content or to help with logistics. These groups include youth choirs, amateur dramatic clubs, adult choirs and other groups.

Fellows Morton & Clayton (FMC) Ltd

9. Funding of up to £5000 is requested from a project total cost of £10,195 to replace the rotting wood roof on their trip boat 'The Blackcountryman' with a steel skin making the passenger area rain proof. This funding request does not cover the full amount and the remainder of the cost will be funded through reserves and fund raising. Only one quotation is available due to the specialist nature of the work and some of the work can be undertaken by volunteers under supervision.
10. FMC Ltd maintain and operate 'The Blackcountryman' with the aim of introducing residents to the canals of the area and supporting education by providing crewed trip boat outings. The boat is owned by the Stourbridge Navigation Trust with all profits covenanted back to the Trust from FMC Ltd on an annual basis.

Friends of Swan Pool Park

11. Funding of £5000 is requested to provide a youth shelter and a selection of benches at a various locations in Swan Pool Park. The total cost of the project being £12,700 exceeds this request with the balance coming from other funding providers. The Assistant Director of Environmental Management for the Urban Environment is aware of this application.
12. The aims and objectives of the Friends of Swan Pool Park is to improve facilities in the park for all. This funding will help to provide additional facilities for the local community including a youth shelter which is intended to reduce nuisance to residents.

Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications prior to the forum.

Finance

13. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
14. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: **£35,067.43**
15. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

Law

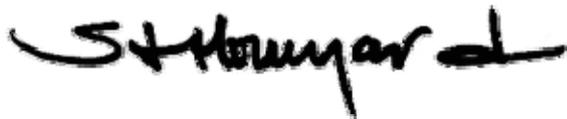
16. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
17. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory function.

Equality Impact

18. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

19. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



.....
Sue Holmyard
Assistant Director of Planning & Environmental Health

Contact Officer: Sue Holmyard
Telephone: 01384 814030
Email: sue.holmyard@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications

Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Forums

Guidelines for considering funding applications

Community Forums will consider every funding application on its own individual merits.

Community Forums have discretion to make recommendations on each application taking account of the funding available.

A decision on an individual application will not be seen as setting a precedent for the consideration of any other applications received by the Council or another Community Forum.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are to assist Community Forums in considering funding applications.

Community Forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. The funding allocation may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

Capital: one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

Revenue: expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

2. Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy. Consideration will be given to how a scheme fits with wider community initiatives.
3. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.

4. Funding applications may be submitted to more than one Community Forum depending on the area(s) of benefit. Each individual Forum shall retain discretion over its own funding allocation. A recommendation made by one Community Forum shall not create an expectation that it will be supported by another Forum.
5. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
6. All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.

Standing Orders requires the submission of at least three quotations, unless the Director of Corporate Resources deems that one is acceptable. The Director of Corporate Resources should exercise this discretion where the Members of a Community Forum have received copies of the grant application, have discussed the matter in public and have recommended award of a grant.

7. Individual funding applications should be for a maximum of £5,000 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
8. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
9. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a fresh application would be required.
10. In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.