

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

18 JANUARY 2006.

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2006/07

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

Contact Officer: Sally Horne Tel No: 01962 848582

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB747- Community Grants – Policy and Review 2004/05 - 3 December 2003

CAB832 - Community Grants – Capital Awards 2004/05 - 17 March 2004.

WTF29 - Community Grants – Capital and Revenue Grants 2004/05 - 18 May 2004.

CAB1014 – Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06 – 08 February 2005

WTF46 – Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06 – 3 March 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report asks the Town Forum to consider and approve the Town Charge element of funding towards community capital grant applications in 2006/07.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Forum recommend to Cabinet:

1 The following capital grants for 2006/07 from the Town Charge:

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|
| (i) | St Faith's Parish Hall | £1,500 |
| (ii) | Weeke Community Association | £3,500 |

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the requests made for capital grants by projects serving the Winchester town area. As in previous years, projects located in the Town area are required to secure a contribution towards the costs from the Town Charge.
- 1.2 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Community Development Team. In the interests of economy, additional copies have not been taken however any Member wishing to study the forms prior to the meeting should contact the Partnership and External Funding Officer who will make the necessary arrangements.

2 Assessment Process

- 2.1 A number of difficult decisions have had to be made in order to reconcile supply and demand for the capital grants. The recommendations in this report represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Considerable effort has been made to ensure that each application has been subjected to a fair and objective process. This process forms the basis of the recommendations outlined in this report.

3 Capital Grants

- 3.1 A summary of each application relating exclusively to the Town area has been set out in Appendix I. As Members will be aware, capital grant applications usually require an element of 'match' funding from either the relevant Parish Council or the Town Account. The agreed policy is that the grant from the City Council's distinct general fund can be no more than twice the amount agreed by the relevant local council. Applicants unsuccessful in securing a Town Forum contribution will therefore not be eligible to receive the City Council element of the award.
- 3.2 Cabinet will be asked to consider the District element of the grant on 7 February 2006 and the recommendations of that report will be influenced by the agreed contribution of this Forum.
- 3.3 The overall notional budget set for grants from the Town Account is £25,000 and this is to be allocated across both the capital and revenue grants. In light of the recommended revenue grants in WTF64, there is a budget of £5,000 left for allocation to capital grants.
- 3.4 There are three applications considered relating exclusively to the Town area, two of which are recommended for approval. All applications request funding for one financial year only.

- 3.5 The application from St Faiths Parish Hall will allow works to be undertaken to prevent further and more costly damage to the building occurring and is a preventative measure to secure this community facility.
- 3.6 It is recommended that the application from Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau is rejected. Whilst the valuable work of the bureau is acknowledged the proposed works are not considered a priority under the City Council's capital grant programme.
- 3.7 Two further applications have been received from organisations based in the Town area. The applications – which are from The Kings Royal Hussars Museum and the Winchester Judo & Martial Arts Club – were considered by the Assessment Panel to be of wider than purely local significance and will therefore be considered separately to this process.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The community grants scheme is of direct relevance to a number of key objectives and priority areas: -
- ❑ Working with and supporting the voluntary sector to deliver the most appropriate services for local communities - Corporate Priority
 - ❑ Helping the voluntary sector to provide better services to the community - Cultural Strategy
 - ❑ Recognising the importance of small-scale community facilities and services and support these wherever possible - Cultural Strategy.
 - ❑ Providing more and better leisure opportunities which meet the needs of young people and people after retirement - Cultural Strategy
- 4.2 The applications contained in this report also contribute to the Community Strategy and in particular the Leisure and Recreation theme.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Resources issues are identified in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I Capital Grant Applications