

WTF 142
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): WINCHESTER TOWN

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

20 January 2010

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATIONS & IMPROVEMENT

Contact Officer: Bernice Heller Tel No: 01962 848582

RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF 125 - Community Grants – Capital Awards – 13 January, 2009

CAB 1780 - Community Grants – Capital Awards - 4 February 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report asks the Town Forum to consider and approve the Town Charge element of funding towards community capital grant applications in 2010/2011.

In their consideration of this Report, Members are particularly advised to have regard to their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct and the Council's Protocol on Member Participation in Grant Aid applications. In summary, this states that:

- Council policy is that we accept no public participation regarding specific grant applications – this includes non-Forum Councillors speaking from the floor.
- Members of the Forum who are ordinary members of an organisation which has submitted a grant application may wish to speak and vote, but should refrain from “special pleading” and limit their contributions to answering any questions of fact that may arise. This is because no public participation is allowed on grants to support specific cases.
- Members of the Forum who have personal and prejudicial interests (ie an office-holder) in any applications should declare this and leave the room during the consideration of that specific grant, regardless of whether or not they have been

appointed to the group as the Council's representative.

Members are requested to notify the Democratic Services Officer, Colin Veal (cveal@winchester.gov.uk 01962 848 438) in advance of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Town Forum, subject to Council approval of the 2010/2011 budget provision makes the following decisions on Capital Grants:

The following capital grants for 2010/2011 be approved from the Town Account:

- (i) Winchester Dramatic Society - £10,000
 - (ii) St. Faith's Parish Hall Committee - £2,000
2. That further consideration be given to grant aiding the Winchester Dramatic Society in the financial year 2011-2012.

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

20 January 2010

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 An informal group from the Town Forum has met and considered the applications detailed below along with the Community Grants Officer.
- 1.3 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Partnerships, Communication & Improvement Division. Any Member wishing to study the forms prior to the meeting should contact the Community Grants Officer who will make the necessary arrangements.
- 1.4 All recommendations are in accordance with the Terms of Reference agreed for the Town Forum in 2007/08.

2 Assessment Process

- 2.1 The recommendations in this report represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Each application, as outlined in Appendix 1, has been considered by an informal group of representatives from the Town Forum along with the Community Grants Officer. This process forms the basis of the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 2.2 A summary of each application relating exclusively to the Town area has been set out in Appendix I. 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 general fund can be no more than twice the amount agreed by the relevant parish/town council, or the Winchester Town account. Applicants unsuccessful in securing a Town Forum contribution will therefore not be eligible to receive the City Council element of the award.
- 2.3 Cabinet will be asked to consider the District element of the grant on 3 February 2010 and the recommendations of that report will be influenced by the agreed contribution of this Forum.

- 2.4 Three applications have been considered relating exclusively to the Town area, two of which have been recommended for approval.
- 2.5 It is recommended that a grant of £10,000 be awarded to the Winchester Dramatic Society towards the cost of an extension to their building. A sum of £10,000 was awarded to this organisation in 2009-10 and it was agreed by Town Forum in January, 2009, (WTF 125) and Cabinet in February 2009 (CAB 1780) that further funding would be considered for this organisation in 2010-11 and 2011-12 should funds be available.
- 2.6 The application from St. Faith's Parish Hall Committee has been recommended for approval. This organisation is seeking grant towards the upgrade of their toilet and heating facilities. The improved facilities will help reduce water usage, economise on gas consumption and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- 2.7 It is recommended that the application from Weeke Community Association be rejected. There have been issues concerning the lack of support by this organisation to young people in the locality seeking to make use of this community facility.

3 Budget

- 3.1 The baseline grant budget currently stands at £41,760 for both Revenue and Capital grants.
- 3.2 A recommendation has been made to increase the grant budget by an additional £53 to provide a total grant budget of £41,813.
- 3.3 A total of £25,813 has been recommended towards Revenue Grants in WTF 141 and a further £4,000 has been set aside towards the replacement evening programme for the Tower Arts Centre.
- 3.4 A total of £12,000 is recommended towards Capital projects.
- 3.5 In order to meet all grant recommendations the grant budget will need to be increased by an additional £53. This will be decided upon as part of the budget consideration taking place elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.
- 3.6 In relation to 2010/2011 if the Town Forum wishes to increase any of the recommended grant levels the further increase in the grant budget will have to be considered in the context of the overall budget proposals.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The priority areas for revenue grant funding are in line with the Winchester City Council Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes for Health and

Wellbeing, Safe and Strong Communities, Economic Prosperity, High Quality Environment, and Inclusive Society.

- 4.2 The community capital grants scheme helps address many of the Council's priorities for the District and in particular those under Health and Well-being, and Inclusive Societies. Detail for each application is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 A number of the above projects are assisted under the well-being power in S2 Local Government Act 2000. This is the power to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area – and is relevant to partnership working with other community organisations. The Council has to have regard to any relevant provisions of the community strategy, as well as the above strategies in making grants.
- 4.4 The Statutory Guidance on the well-being power would not prevent grants being made as proposed. Some projects can also be justified under other powers e.g. S19 Local Government Act 1976 – non-profit making recreation projects; S142 Local Government Act 1972 – advice on people's rights; S 145 Local Government Act 1972 – promotion of the arts and S73 Housing Act 1985 – assistance for voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Resource implications are identified in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I

Capital Grant Applications 2010/2011

Name of Organisation	St. Faiths Parish Hall Committee
Project Details	Upgrade of the toilet and heating facilities. The improved facilities will help reduce water usage, economise on gas consumption, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
Comments (if any)	This application will be considered for a grant from the general budget at the February 2010 Cabinet meeting.
Total Project Cost	£12,491
Amount Requested from WCC	£10,274
Recommended Grant from Town Forum:	£2,000

Name of Organisation	Weeke Community Association
Project Details	To complete existing ongoing project to provide disabled toilet facilities and improve ladies toilet facilities.
Comments (if any)	Concerns have been raised about the lack of support by this organisation to young people in the locality who are seeking to make use of this community facility.
Total Project Cost	£6,375
Amount Requested from WCC	£3,000
Recommended Grant from Town Forum:	No funding

Name of Organisation	Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre)
Project Details	To build an extension to create a multi purpose room at the Chesil Theatre which will increase facilities for young people.
Comments (if any)	This application will be considered for a grant from the general budget at the February 2010 Cabinet meeting. A total grant award of £30,000 (£10,000 from Town Forum and £20,000 from the General Budget) was committed to this organisation in 2009/2010 and it was agreed that consideration would be given to awarding similar grants in 2010/2011, and 2011/2012.
Total Project Cost	£1,151,000
Amount Requested from WCC	£30,000
Recommended Grant from Town Forum:	£10,000