

---

**Stourbridge Area Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Joint Report of the Area Liaison Officer and Treasurer**

**Capital Allocations & Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the applications either from Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust or from Area Committee capital allocations.

**Background**

**Capital Allocations**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £73,804.99 for 2011/12.
3. The unallocated budget is after £10,000 has been set aside in 2011/12 towards the cost of the repair of the gates at Mary Stevens Park. This was agreed at this meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and currently the total amount set aside is £40,000.
4. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council directorates, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-
  - a. The allocation is to be spent on “capital” schemes as defined by legislation, i.e. “one-off” type expenditure on acquisition, construction, enhancement of land, roads, buildings, equipment or vehicles, which may also include the making of grants or loans for capital expenditure by others;
  - b. For projects with a value of over £1,500 applications will only be approved if the applicant can demonstrate that they will secure at least 50% of the cost of the project either from their own resources or from some other funding.
  - c. The applicant has not been awarded a capital allocation by the Committee or a grant from the Stevens Trust within the preceding two years.

Except, in either point (b) or (c) , in the opinion of the Area Committee, there are special circumstances which would warrant the approval of the application in the public interest.

- d. Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
- e. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, i.e. not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups, and should make a difference in the local area;

- f. Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
- g. Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding);
- h. Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value; and
- i. Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
- j. Application forms and supporting documents can be viewed by Members on request to the Area Liaison Officer.

#### Stevens Park & Recreation Ground Foundation Trust

- 6. Ernest Stevens made various donations of property which were to be used for specified purposes. These have been identified as individual Trusts and detailed below:
  - a. Mary Stevens Maternity Home and Public Park Charity.
  - b. Mary Stevens Park, Recreation Ground and Park, Norton.
  - c. Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.
  - d. Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation, Wollescote
- 7. Only the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation has investments, which generate income for disbursement.
- 8. Members will be aware that the four Ernest Stevens Trusts are now combined under the control of this Committee as Trustees.
- 9. In the application of the income of the Foundation, the Trustees have discretion to give preference to the area of the former Urban District of Lye and Wollescote and to meeting the needs of the people resident therein.
- 10. There is no set maximum amount stipulated in the Trust deed for a grant.
- 11. However, in the past, the Trustees have tended to apply the criteria that the grant should be a maximum of £5000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project and at the Area Committee in November 2008 it was agreed that income from the trust would be ring fenced to contribute to the future repair of the gates and that grants would only be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

#### Applications

##### **15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group**

- 12. The applicant's original application for £5,000 was approved at the Area Committee meeting in June 2010 for grant from capital allocations and the trust. At the Area Committee meeting in March 2011 it was agreed to extend deadline for claiming the grant to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011

13. The applicant is now requesting that the Committee approve the variation to the project for which the grants were made and to extend the time limit further.
  - The project has changed because insufficient funds were raised for the original project, and;
  - contrary to previous advice, the existing building is structurally sound and can be redeveloped, providing a more affordable and larger facility.
14. Main sponsors of the previous project have verbally agreed to support the redevelopment option pending their Trust Board agreement. Revised detailed plans will be drawn up by early autumn and submitted for planning permission and work commenced by March 2012

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group**

15. The applicant has not completed a formal application form or provided financial information but has submitted a letter requesting a grant to SAC and Stevens Trust.
16. The request is for a grant of £500 to purchase 1 gas griddle and 2 gas boiling rings.
17. The group had an application approved in June 2010 as detailed above

#### **Lye Cricket Club**

18. The applicant has submitted a request for a Capital allocation and a grant from the trust. The application from the Trust requests a grant for £1,150 for
  - Tarpaulin sheeting for wicket covers to replace impractical metal sheeting (£700),
  - New covers would cost £6,000. The covers need to be repaired by March 2012 ready for new season.
  - Mobile training cage (£450) being sold by another cricket club due to their relocation.
  - Last grant was awarded Nov 2007
19. The applicant has also requested a capital allocation of £3,200 to;
  - Redevelop the entrance ramp and part of driveway at the club to make access easier, particularly for the disabled.
  - In the 2012 season Lye Cricket Club are hoping to support ECB Disability Cricket Vision 2009-2013 and provide access to the sport for all people and therefore the ground access needs to be improved.
  - A quote of £4,000 has been received for the proposed work.
  - The applicant has supplied a statement of accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 which show a deficit of £59,122 (previous year surplus £24,230) mainly due the repairs on the pavilion. The accounts show £1,663 in bank accounts, and net current liabilities of £5,715. Last year there was £53,267 in bank accounts but this has been used for the pavilion repairs.
  - The club currently has 65 members aged from under 16years to over 65 years

## **Finance**

20. The Area Committee's delegated budget allocation is funded by the Council's mainstream capital resources. The current position with regard to available resources for 2011/12 is set out in paragraph 3 of this report.

21. The Trust income for 2010/11 is summarised as follows:

	£	
Investment Income		15,965
Rental Income		1,116
		17,081

It is anticipated that the income for 2011/12 will not change significantly.  
No grants have been approved in 2011/12

## **Law**

22. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

23. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.

24. Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area

25. The conditions under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.

26. The law relating to Trusts, which are charitable, is contained in various acts, the main ones being the Charities Act, 1960, the Charities Act 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961

### **Equality Impact**

27. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

### **Recommendation**

28. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications as detailed in the report.



**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer: Jane Porter

Telephone: 01384 814201

Email: [jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk)



**Treasurer**

Contact Officer: Iain Newman

Telephone: 01384 814802

Email: [iain.newman@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:iain.newman@dudley.gov.uk)

### **List of Background Papers**

Letters from 15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's Scout Group)  
Applications, accounts & quote from Lye Cricket Club