
Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

5th November 2013

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Community Forum Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Community Forum grants budget for 2013/ 2014.

Background

2. Part of the remit of the new Community Forums is the allocation of the delegated grants budget for each area.
3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered which have been established are set out in Appendix 1.
4. This Report is the standard report of the changed arrangements and responses to any clarifications required as part of the new process can be made as needed. As the Community Forum develops, this Report can be changed to support the direction that Elected Members of the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum in consultation with people living in their wards wish to give.
5. The balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £66,882.37 which includes carry forward from last year (2012/13.) No applications were received at the last Community Forum meeting.
6. There are three applications for funding to be considered on this occasion. Paper copies of the applications will be made available to Members at the meeting of the Forum. The three applications are:

- a. Fast Aid –

According to the documents which have been received, Fast Aid is a charity which aims *“to provide a professional and caring team of volunteers supporting the West Midlands Ambulance Service in responding to 999 emergency calls through careful selection of the volunteers”* with the objectives of *“maintaining our skills and training which help the members of our community in time of need.”* They state that they have 62 volunteers based in Dudley Borough. They are applying to all Dudley Community Forums for a sum of £10,000 requesting £1,000 from each Community Forum.

Gornal/Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum considered the application on 3rd September, 2013 and recommended approval subject to the outcome of the funding applications to the remaining Community Forums on the basis of equal contribution from the remaining nine Community Forums.

Sum requested: £1,000

- b. Dudley MBC - Environmental Management Division c/o Matt Williams, Assistant Director.

Funding is requested for the provision of Christmas trees at 2 locations in the Community Forum Area (Coseley – Vicarage Road, Roseville; and Sedgley – Bull Ring.) The application is for the costs to purchase, erect and remove the trees, together with associated energy costs for lighting. The costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the tree lights will be met from within Environmental Management's existing budgets. NB. The Application states that "a programme is being developed to plant live Christmas trees at different locations across the Borough. The cost and operational implications of planting live trees prohibits the purchase of trees at the height required for immediate decoration, and smaller trees need a number of years to establish before they can be decorated with lights. This is therefore a long term project."

Sum requested: £2,162.20

- c. Sedgley Community Association – at the time of writing this Report, this Application with reference to Christmas Lights has not been received by the Area Liaison Officer. In case of any unintended error in process which otherwise might have been amended in good time, it is recommended that Elected Members note the presumed application and agree to its consideration outside of the formal meeting this evening in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources.

Sum requested: unknown at the time of writing the report.

7. In making their decisions when applications are received, Members take account of current allocation for the Community Forum area and judge applications against the criteria established for grant allocation at the Community Forums and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

Finance

8. The latest balance for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £66,882.37

Law

9. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
10. 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 functions.

Equality Impact

11. This report complies with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Applications may include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendations

13. It is proposed that the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum note the current funds available.

Brendan Clifford

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Brendan Clifford - Area Liaison Officer
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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.

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.