

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE -

15TH NOVEMBER 2004

Wards affected Pedmore & Stourbridge East, Norton, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town, Lye and Wollescote, Cradley & Foxcote

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

GRANT APPLICATIONS: STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Members of the Committee are asked to consider the following application for funding from the Trust.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be aware that of the four Ernest Stevens Trusts now combined under the control of this Committee, only one, the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust, has funds available for disbursement for charitable purposes.
- 2.2 The annual income of the Fund may be applied under the terms of the Trust Deed in one of the under-mentioned ways:-
- (a) the maintenance and improvement of the property for the time being belonging to the Foundation;

- (b) the acquisition and layout of additional land to be held in Trust;
- (c) the maintenance and the improvement of the property held under the terms of the original Trust;
- (d) the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of residents in the area of the former borough of Stourbridge.

- 2.3 In so far, in the opinion of the Council, that the net income of the Trust cannot be usefully and beneficially applied in accordance with the provisions in the foregoing paragraph, it may be applied for such other charitable purposes for the benefit of persons resident within the area of the former Borough of Stourbridge as the Council may determine.
- 2.4 In the application of the income of the Foundation, the Council should give preference to the area of the former Urban District of Lye and Wollescote and to meeting the needs of the people resident therein.
- 2.5 There is no set maximum amount stipulated in the Trust deed for a grant. However, in the past, the Trustees have tended to apply the criteria that the grant should be a maximum of £5,000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 That the committee considers the following application:-

- **OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS R.C. CHURCH ,
STOURBRIDGE**

The applicant is a registered charity, number 234216 which is situated in New Rd, Stourbridge. The facilities are used for meetings of social, cultural, musical & community nature for all ages from toddlers to senior citizens.

The Committee are requested to consider the application for a grant of £5000 towards the cost of refurbishing the Grade 2 listed building. A Financial Report from Walker Cotter Ltd detailing the work required is attached (Appendix 2), showing roof repairs, asbestos removal, window replacement & a new kitchen. The estimate for the work is £273,343.78 including VAT. The total number of people who would benefit from the proposed project include 200 from Lye & Wollescote, 1700 from Stourbridge & 100 from outside the area eg Kinver, Clent & Hagley.

The applicant has submitted its annual accounts to 31st December 2003 (*Appendix 1*). The accounts show a surplus for the year of £68,447 before £43,817 was deducted as transfers to /from loans & investments. The Church holds £95,421 in various accounts with Nat West Bank plc and Barclays Bank plc and holds Diocesan unit trusts, held centrally by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the parish.(Appendix 3)

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 The Trust income for 2003/4 is summarised as follows: -

	£
Investment Income	16,213
Rental Income	1,116

17,329

It is anticipated that the income for 2004/05 will be maintained at this level. Grants totalling £7,500 have been awarded in 2004/05 to date.

- 4.2 At a previous meeting of the former Finance (*Stevens' Bequests*), Sub-Committee, Members agreed to maintain the "real" spending power of the bequest as a fundamental part of the investment strategy. The total sums shown in 4.1 above could be spent without jeopardising the strategy. However, should the value of the investment fall, any income then generated would need to be reinvested and would not be available for disbursement.

The market values of the investments are:-

	Original Value	Current Value 30.06.2004
	£	£
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	124,380
- Equity Based	118,000	162,675
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	236,000	287,055

Short-term investments are also held to provide some flexibility in the event of an unusually high level of bids in any year.

The share valuation was obtained from CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 The Trust is administered in accordance with the Trust Deed and as Trustees, the Council is under a fiduciary duty to ensure that the annual income of the Trust is properly applied for the purposes identified in the Trust Deed.

By virtue of a scheme dated the 24th May, 1966, made by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Trust income can be applied for the maintenance and improvement of property donated by Earnest Stevens, the acquisition and laying out of additional land and the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the residents of Stourbridge. Furthermore, if the Council is satisfied that the income cannot be usefully and beneficially applied in accordance with the above purposes, it can be applied for other charitable purposes for the benefit of persons resident in Stourbridge.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 This report has no direct equal opportunities implication.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that members consider the funding application detailed in this report in the light of available funds.

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: Diane Robbins - Ext. 4816

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Completed Grant application questionnaire.

Financial Report from Walker Cotter Ltd

Annual accounts

Bank Account confirmation