

**Have
your say**

Community FORUM

Serving the wards of Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town community forum

The Community Forum is a way for people to play a part in important issues affecting the local area. Please come along if there is something you want to raise with us. Contact information for your local Councillors is printed on the back of this agenda.

**Wednesday, 28th January, 2015 at 6.30pm
At Gig Mill Primary School, The Broadway,
Norton, Stourbridge**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Listening to you**
 - Questions and comments from local residents
- 4. Winter Warmth Initiative**
 - To receive a presentation from the Warm Homes Officer
- 5. Working with you**
 - Topics raised by Local Councillors
- 6. Community Forum - Love Your Local Community Funding**
 - Councillors to make a recommendation based on a report of the Lead Officer
- 7. Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings**
 - Wednesday 18th March, 2015 - Chawn Hill Church

**Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website
www.dudley.gov.uk**

Norton/Pedmore & Stourbridge East/Wollaston & Stourbridge Town Community Forum

Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below. Please take the opportunity to come along to your local Community Forum and let us know about the issues that matter in your local area.

Norton



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Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

**Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre
Community Forum - 28th January 2015**

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum - Love Your Local Community Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2014/15 year.

Background

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Community Forum Funding budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for consideration at this meeting:

Gig Caritas

4. Funding of £2000 is requested to purchase extra staging to enable an increase in the level and variety of events that Gig Caritas are able to present including a concert in March 2015 at St John's URC in Stourbridge. It will also add to the current stock of staging enabling more local groups to use the equipment for a variety of purposes, artistic and non-arts related. One quote is attached with an explanation that the staging needs to be the same as the equipment they already own. It can only be obtained from the manufacturers direct.
5. Gig Caritas received £4000 funding from the Forum last year to purchase a range of lighting and sound system equipment. They have also received funding from other sources including the National Lottery and have an income of approximately £2000 from other sources including fund raising and hire of equipment.
6. Gig Caritas is a community organisation that brings together musicians and artists to present concerts and other events to raise money for local charities. It has been in existence for about three years and in that time has raised about £10,000 for a number of local and varied charities.

West Midlands Fire Service

7. Funding of up to £4000 is requested by West Midlands Fire Service to fund a non core activity – an accredited 5 day course in Understanding Fire. This course will provide an opportunity for 15 young people who attend Coseley High School - identified as at risk of being NEET, and lower academic achievement - to achieve a specific qualification whilst challenging attitudes and risky behaviour. The programme aims to reduce anti social behaviour particularly in relation to activity around Network Rail property and track whilst raising aspirations.
8. They have received no funding from any community forums or other council funding bodies in the last three years. An application will be made to the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum.
9. West Midlands Fire Service is a publicly funded service although this programme is not part of their core activity.

Finance

10. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
11. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £11,339.92.
12. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.
13. Additional one off funding of £20,919 from the High Street Innovation / Empty Shops Grant Funding has been made available for the 2014/15 financial year for projects which improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area, with preference to the Borough's centres and High Streets. This is an increase on what was reported at the previous Community Forum and is the result of an amended allocation formula agreed by the Director of the Urban Environment and the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration.
14. The total sum available from this funding to spend across all wards is; £18,595.60.

Law

15. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
16. 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 function.

Equality Impact

17. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

18. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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Andrew Leigh
Head of Housing Strategy & Development

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List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications

Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Forums

Guidelines for funding applications

Every funding application will be considered on its own individual merits by community forum elected members, who will take into account the funding available and make recommendations on each application to the Council's Director of Corporate Resources.

Applications will be considered only from voluntary and community organisations that are based in the Dudley borough. Applications should be submitted through a parent organisation e.g. a sports club rather than an individual team within a club.

Applications are to be submitted at least 21 days before a community forum meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Later applications will be considered at the next available forum meeting. Elected members can make recommendations on genuinely urgent applications between forum meetings.

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.

All expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money. Quotations must be provided in line with the Council's procedure rules. Details are set out in the application form.

Guidelines for considering applications

The following guidelines are to assist elected members in considering funding applications. Individual community forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. Funding 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 which should normally be funded by the organisation itself.)
2. Schemes should contribute to the aims of the Community Strategy and not conflict with Council policy. 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.

3. 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.
4. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources e.g. running costs or repair and maintenance of buildings and equipment.
5. 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.
6. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously received funding from a community forum (or former area committee) within the previous three years.
7. Representatives of organisations submitting applications are encouraged to attend the forum meeting and to speak if they wish in support of their applications.
8. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the funding is spent within nine months, otherwise the funding will be returned to the Council. A fresh application would need to be submitted and approved in order for the funding to be released.
9. In appropriate circumstances, funding may be given on condition that certain items of equipment purchased with the funding are made available for use by other organisations.

High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding Applications

10. One-off funding has been made available in the 2014/15 financial year for projects which improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area, with preference to the Borough's Centres and High Streets.
11. The Council will decide which source of funding successful applications will use, but as guidance for applicants High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant funding will be considered for the following:-

Eligible proposals

- Proposals will be considered either for Capital or Revenue activities.
- Proposals of up to £5,000 in value (including VAT where applicable).
- Proposals are preferred for projects within the Borough's defined Principal or Local Centres, but applications may be considered in any location where benefits to the local economy or environment may be demonstrated.
- Proposals that show a partnership approach (between for example business and the Community will be preferred).

Ineligible proposals

- Proposals which create ongoing revenue costs for the Council. Proposals must demonstrate how any improvements will be maintained.
- Proposals which are required as a direct result of a planning condition, enforcement action or any other statutory consent.
- Proposals that do not have the agreement of the owner or occupier of land or property affected.
- Proposals that do not have a realistic prospect of being granted planning permission.

Suggested areas of expenditure

- Proposals to improve the appearance or condition of empty commercial or retail premises.
- Proposals to improve vacant or unsightly land.
- Match funding to support funding bids for the above.
- Activities and events to support centres economic vitality.