
**Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
Community Forum - 17th March 2014**

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal 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. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for Consideration at this Meeting

4. Bumble Hole Conservation Group - An application has been received for funding to produce leaflets, booklets and a DVD for visitors to the Bumble Hole Visitor Centre.

Funding Requested: £426.05

5. West Mercia Scout County – An application has been received to support a resident of the Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrew's Ward to attend an international scouting jamboree in Japan.

Funding requested: £300

I am recommending that Members consider whether or not the above grants should be approved.

Finance

6. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate.
7. The total sum currently available to spend in this forum area.

| Wards | Amount |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews | £536.89 |
| Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood | £16,697.15 |
| Total Amount | £17,234.04 |

8. This amount includes unspent balances from the resources allocated to the former Area Committees.

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 equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities, which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

12. That the Forum considers the applications referred to in the report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

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List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting, but contain exempt information under the terms of part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 – Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.



Community Forums

Guidelines for considering funding applications for the Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews/Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood Community Forum

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.

Standing Orders requires the submission of at least two quotations, unless the Director of Corporate Resources deems that one is acceptable. The Director of Corporate Resources should exercise this discretion where the Members of a Community Forum have received copies of the grant application, have discussed the matter in public and have recommended award of a grant.

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. Funding will be split between all Wards and monies for applications that are approved will be allocated from the relevant Ward's budget. Where applications are received covering more than one Ward funding will be allocated from within all the affected Wards' budget.
8. Only one application will normally be considered per financial year from organisations and any subsequent applications in the same financial year will be referred to the relevant Ward Councillors for consideration.
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.