

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS WORKING GROUP

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AREA COMMITTEE – 27 OCTOBER 2003

1.0 Proposals of Cllr Ms J Foster

1.1 The proposals of Cllr Ms Foster were considered and the recommendations of the Working Group are:

- (1) That the current policy of devolving the capital budget to each Ward remain.
- (2) That we use bodies such as the Priority Neighbourhood Initiative, to help disburse approved capital grants to communities who may be most in need, but do not necessarily have the organization to make an application.
- (3) That we encourage organizations, such as Dudley Community Network (Dosti), who have their own funds, to use them where possible to help needy communities in the Area.
- (4) That while each case is considered on its merits, the Committee policy will be to approve applications in sums not exceeding £2,000, on the basis that £10,000 has been allocated to each Ward, provided that the Committee may approve grants exceeding £2,000, if they agree that the excess sum is taken from the allocation of another Ward or Wards.

2.0 Summary of Deferred Applications by Ward

CASTLE & PRIORY WARD

2.1 Youth News

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to help purchase computer equipment.

3.0 Summary of New Applications by Ward

CASTLE & PRIORY WARD

3.1 Friends Of Priory Park & The Green

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute towards the rebuilding and refurbishment of the park-keepers/wardens pavilion.

However, the release of the grant is conditional on them being able to show, before the end of the financial year, that they have the balance of the required monies, which they have stated is £1,000.00.

3.2 Wrens Nest Football Club

The recommendation is that this application be deferred until more information is available on the precise nature of the capital funding requested.

NETHERTON & WOODSIDE WARD

3.3 New Testament Welfare Association

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£1,754.60** to help purchase a gas cooker, a fridge freezer, portable heaters, dining chairs and kitchen utensils, with the proviso that the facilities remain open to use by the whole community.

ST ANDREW'S WARD

3.4 Netherton Cricket Club

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute to the erection of a new safety fence along Highbridge Road.

ST JAMES'S WARD

3.5 Friends of Grange Park

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to help contribute to the purchase of equipment that would enable them to support events in the park.

ST THOMAS'S WARD

3.6.0 Three applications had been received for this Ward, from:

**St Thomas's Community Network
Dudley Detached Project
Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh Temple.**

3.6.1 However, Councillor John Davies, on behalf of his Ward colleagues, proposed that these applications be deferred until the first meeting of the Working Group in 2004, possibly held in January or February.

3.6.2 At that time, they would know what further applications have been received for St Thomas's Ward and would be in better position to judge what level of grant monies can be awarded, given their current budget situation.

3.7 The Joe Darby Statue & Plaque

3.7.1 This statue is in **St Andrew's Ward**, although it sits close to the border of **Netherton & Woodside Ward**.

3.7.2 The Directorate of the Urban Environment (DUE) had contacted the Borough Artist Steve Field, who had provided costings for a bronze plaque to be fixed to the statue.

3.7.3 The recommendation of the Working Group is that **£5,000.00** be allocated to provide a bronze cast plaque listing the feats of Joe Darby with 4 metalwork pictorial relief plaques depicting his key jumping performances on each side of the obelisk.

3.7.4 Because of the local fame of Joe Darby (born 1861) and his importance to the historical heritage of Dudley, it is recommended that the total sum required be made up of contributions from the allocations of different Wards i.e. £2,000.00 each from St Andrew's and from Netherton & Woodside and £500.00 each from Castle & Priory and St James's.

4.0 The Duncan Edwards Statue & Plaque

4.1 The statue in the Market Place is on the border between **St James's** and **St Thomas's Wards**.

4.2 The DUE had investigated why there was no plaque originally placed on the statue and had discovered that there was a deliberate decision taken when the statue was commissioned, to omit any description of Duncan Edward's considerable team achievements for Manchester United.

- 4.3 It was considered that vandalism and defacement of the statue would be encouraged by detailed references to the contribution that Duncan Edwards made to the successes of Manchester United during his playing days.
- 4.4 This is also why he is portrayed in his England strip rather than that of his League team.
- 4.5 There is also the acknowledgement that Duncan Edwards is so famous, he may not need a detailed description of his achievements.
- 4.6 The Working Group considered these facts and understood the reasoning for the original decision and also the fact that there has been no significant defacement of the statue since it was erected.
- 4.7 Also they considered the potential ongoing issues and costs, if a plaque placed on the statue were to be continually damaged.
- 4.8 Therefore the Working Group recommend to the Committee that the original decision be upheld and that no plaque be attached to the statue.