

**Stourbridge Area Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Report of the Director of Finance**

**Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trusts  
Application for Grants**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the following request for an application for funding from the Trust.

**Background**

2. Ernest Stevens made various donations of property to the Council, which were to be used for specific purposes. These have been identified as individual Trusts and detailed below:
  - a.) Mary Stevens Maternity Home and Public Park Charity.
  - b.) Mary Stevens Park, Recreation Ground and Park, Norton.
  - c.) Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.
  - d.) Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation, Wollescote
3. Only the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation has investments, which generate income for disbursement.
4. Members will be aware that the four Ernest Stevens Trusts are now combined under the control of this Committee.
5. The annual income of the Stevens Park & Recreation Ground Foundation Trust may be applied under the terms of the Trust Deed in one or more 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 property held under the terms of the original Trusts dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 1929 and 13<sup>th</sup> February 1931.
  - 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 £5000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project
9. Application by Thomas Pocklington Trust:

The Thomas Pocklington Trust is a national charity (Registered Charity No. 1113729) which aims to promote independence, social inclusion and carer support for people with visual impairment

The local branch is based at The Mary Stevens Centre, 221 Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge. There are about 35 people, from mainly Stourbridge and Halesowen benefiting from the project based at this Centre. There is also a resource and information service, Braille translation and reader scheme.

The Project is requesting a grant of £5,000 to create a sensory garden for community use. A quote has been obtained of £25,397. The project is subject to a licence which was the subject of a report to Stourbridge Area Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007, where it was said that the site is also used by other charities (Age Concern, MIND, Mary Stevens Hospice and also has public access.

Accounts have been received for Thomas Pocklington Trust Limited for 1 March 2006 to 31 March 2007 showing net assets of £98.8m (of which £80.5m is investments), mainly in a permanent endowment fund. Cash at bank and in hand amounted to £556,000 of which £435,000 is in unrestricted funds.

## **Finance**

10. The Trust income for 2007/8 is summarised as follows:

	£
Investment Income	17,963
Rental Income	<u>1,116</u>
	<u>19,079</u>

It is anticipated that the income for 2008/9 will not change significantly.

11. No grants have been awarded in this financial year, however grants of £2,071 in excess of income were awarded in 2007/8

12. 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 Paragraph 9 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:-

	<b>Original Value</b>	<b>Current Value</b>
	£	<b>31.03.2008</b> £
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	121,876
- Equity Based	118,000	204,936
	236,000	326,812
	236,000	326,812

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

## Law

The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area

The conditions under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.

The law relating to Trusts, which are charitable, is contained in various acts, the main ones being the Charities Act, 1960, the Charities Act 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961

## **Equality Impact**

- . The Trusts have been set up to benefit the public of the Borough or certain geographical areas of the Borough as outlined in the Deeds of Gift

## **Recommendation**

- . It is recommended that: -

The Committee consider the funding applications detailed in Paragraph 9



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**Director of Finance**

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## **List of Background Papers**

Application Form 07/05/08

Report & Accounts 1/3/06 to 31/3/07 – Thomas Pocklington Trust

Quote for work – ADM Gardens & Pond Services