

**Stourbridge Area Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**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 The Parish of St Mary, Old Swinford:

St Mary's church is a medieval, grade II listed, Anglican church which provides a place of worship and aims to serve the local community in the Stourbridge area. It is the Mother church of Stourbridge. The typical attendance is 200 people for regular services and up to 400 on special occasions.

The parish has made a request for a grant of £5,000 from the Trust. If granted, the money will be put toward repairs of the building, chiefly stonework and the east window, including work to address possible hazards to the public. The church is constructed from soft local sandstone which eroded over the years. If the work is not completed there could be further damage to the east window and internal features including the organ. It has been estimated that the total cost of all required repairs is £36,405.

The parish intends to raise the funds by leaflet dropping amongst parish households, trusts and charities, and publicity in the local papers. They currently have the sum of £6,376 available which will be contributed towards the repairs.

The church has supplied copies of the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, which have been independently audited. The accounts show that the church had unrestricted funds of £56963, of which £30,777 is designated for items as follows:

Organ Fund	£ 6,035
Rewiring Fund	£14,413
Clergy Housing	£ 3,953
Church repairs	£ 6,376 (Funds already received for this project)

There is a further £25,882 in General Funds which consists of £16,741 in a fund for the church hall which is managed as a separate entity and £9141 which represents less than one months working capital.

The remaining funds are :

Flower Fund	£190
Agatha Downing income	£114

## Finance

10. The Trust income for 2006/7 is summarised as follows:

	£
Investment Income	16,452
Rental Income	<u>1,116</u>
	<u>17,658</u>

It is anticipated that the income for 2007/8 will not change significantly.

11. No grants have been awarded in this financial year.

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 31.03.2007</b>
	£	£
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	121,362
- Equity Based	118,000	224,418
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	236,000	345,780
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Short-term investments are also held to provide some flexibility in the event of an unusually high level of bids in any year.

## **Law**

13. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.
14. 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
15. 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.
16. 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**

17. 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**

18. 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**

Letter ,Application Form 05/06/07 and general information  
Financial Statements 31/12/06  
'Parapet and Stonework Repairs Appeal' Leaflet  
Reports of Church Organisations