

**Gornal /Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum – 23 June 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 14/15 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. **Black Country Community Radio**

Black Country Community Radio is an extension to the service that has already been provided to the community of Dudley and surrounding areas for nearly 40 years through the Dudley Hospital Radio.

This is a newly formed voluntary group set up with the assistance of Dudley CVS and is applying for voluntary status. It aims to work with the community in Dudley North and surrounding areas to promote social welfare with particular regard to: health promotion, crime and safety, fire prevention, local heritage, arts, entertainment and sport, transport, traffic and travel, local issues and training.

The Black Country Community Radio is requesting a **funding pledge of £1,000** from each ward pending their licence application being approved by Ofcom (forms to be submitted on 24 June 2014). This money is to support stage two and three of the application and would

go towards the purchase of studio equipment, IT, website development, installation of transmitter, installation of aerials and other items listed in full application.

**Funding pledge requested: £1000 from each ward**

5. **Ellowes Hall and Area TRA**

An application has been received to purchase two vandal proof notice boards to help promote the work, projects and ideas that the TRA are working on. The TRA have stated that the notice boards would be a preferred way to disseminate information and generate additional interest and support for the TRA. The TRA have had a quote of £5000 for the supply and erection of the boards by the council's building services.

**Funding requested: £2,500 from each ward**

6. **Life Centre Debt Advice, High Street, Stourbridge**

This is a start up project with the aims and objectives to give advice to members of the community who are in need of debt advice.

An application has been received for funding to support the first year part time salary for a Debt Advice Manager, plus stationery costs.

**Funding request: £615 from each ward**

7. **Dudley Community Church, Salop Street, Dudley**

For the past five years Dudley Community Church has managed Dudley Counselling Centre, a charity that began as a homeless project.

The church is seeking support to develop counselling services for children/teenagers and plan to extend the church building to create three counselling rooms dedicated to play therapy. The counselling service receives referrals from schools, GP's and other agencies and to date over 133 children have been helped with life damaging issues.

**Funding request: £2,500 from each ward**

8. **Access in Dudley, Halesowen**

Access in Dudley works to improve disabled people's access to the built environment and to raise the general public's awareness of all matters relating to people with disabilities.

An application has been received from this organisation which provides support across the whole borough for funding to update and print leaflets and other promotional materials.

**Funding request: £171.00 from each ward**

9. **Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch**

Samaritans provide confidential emotional support to anyone who is experiencing feelings of distress, despair or depression. Sometimes these emotions can lead to the consideration of suicide.

An application has been received for funding to support this borough wide service for repairs to a retaining wall and also to help with the purchase of new computer equipment.

**Funding request: £222.60 from each ward**

I am recommending that elected members give due consideration to each of the aforementioned funding applications.

**Urgent application considered prior to this meeting**

10. **High Arcal School**

An application was received to support the refurbishment of a room within the school to create a **new business and community centre** this in turn would be used by members of the public, community groups and local businesses. The intention is also to support voluntary, private and local community groups who are looking for a low cost or free venue to hire with ICT resources and facilities.

The application was sent in error to a different community forum for consideration and was redirected to Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, whose ward members agreed to allocate the funds.

**Funding awarded: £5,000 from Upper Gornal and Woodsetton ward**

**Finance**

11. Each Community Forum receives £10,000 per ward to allocate in the financial year.

7. The total sum currently available to spend in each ward is:-

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Amount £.</b>
Gornal	8,750.07
Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	21,962.82

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

### **Law**

9. The Localism Act 2011 gives Dudley Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
10. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Dudley 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 Community Forum considers the applications referred to in the report and makes recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

*Jan Jennings*

**Jan Jennings**  
**Head of communications and public affairs**

Contact Officer: Jan Jennings  
 Head of communications and public affairs  
 jan.jennings@dudley.gov.uk

### **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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government act 1972.
- Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications.



## **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 ten working 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.