

**Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Community Forum Grants**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Community Forum grants budget for 2014/ 2015.

**Background**

2. Part of the remit of the Community Forums is the allocation of the delegated grants budget for each area.
3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered which have been established are set out in Appendix 1.
4. This Report is the standard report but can be changed to support the direction that Elected Members of the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum in consultation with people living in their wards wish to give.
5. Applications received at the last Community Forum meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were:
  - Coseley Cricket Club – request for £5,000 funding as contribution towards new mower and roller – recommended for approval;
  - Dudley Arts Council – request for £5,000 funding as contribution towards funding for Black Country Day – deferred pending further information and subsequently recommended for approval for a sum up to £2,000 providing ward councillors are satisfied with the breakdown of costs;
  - Access in Dudley – request for £3,411 as contribution towards improving access for disabled people across the borough – deferred pending further information – no response received to date;
  - The High Arcal School – request for £5,000 funding as contribution towards cost of refurbishment of space to create a business and community area - recommended for refusal and advised to reapply to Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton community forum.

6. There are 6 new applications for funding to be considered on this occasion. Paper copies of the application will be made available to Members at the meeting of the Forum. The applications are:

a. **The Beacon Hill Tenants Association:**

Funding is requested towards the cost of a new flag bearing the Sedgley coat of arms to be flown from Sedgley town centre. The flag will enhance and promote the image of Sedgley. The flag In accordance with application guidelines they have submitted one quote and other governance document but have not included audited accounts.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £396.48

b. **St Andrew's URC/Methodist Church:**

Funding is requested towards the cost of providing an access ramp and associated external works for wheelchair users to gain access to the community cafe from the Bilston Street entrance. A previous submission in November 2013 towards funding for the cafe was withdrawn. They have provided their accounts for consideration and have received 3 quotes for works, the lower totalling £24,523 with the remainder of the cost being met from applications for other grants and their own fundraising.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £ 5,000.00

c. **The Life Centre (Stourbridge):**

Funding is requested towards a borough wide debt advice service. They are seeking a contribution from all community forum. The service started under legal status of a society in November 2013 and gained charity status in March 2014. The debt advice service was scheduled to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The contribution will go towards initial start up costs of the service providing debt advice for local communities within a seven mile radius of Stourbridge. They have subsequently confirmed that this would include Sedgley and Coseley East wards. They have provided supporting cost information but no audited accounts.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £1,230.00

d. **Dudley Community Church:**

Funding is sought to support the extension of their Church building in Salop Street Dudley to create 3 new counselling rooms to expand their counselling support for children and young people with mental health issues. The service takes referrals from Schools, GPs and other local agencies across the borough. They are seeking a contribution from all community forum. They have received 2 quotations for the works and are awaiting a third; the lower of the 2 quotations received to date is £45,000. They have provided financial information for consideration.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £5,000.00

**e. Samaritans (Brierley Hill Branch)**

Funding is sought to fund repairs to a damaged retaining wall adjacent their Brierley Hill branch office and for replacement computers. The service is borough wide providing emotional support to anyone experiencing feelings of depression and distress. The same application has been sent to all community forum. In March 2013 the Brierley Hill/Brockmoor and Pensnett forum awarded £180 towards the cost of new computers. The Samaritans have provided supporting documentation and 3 quotations for the building works but only one quotation for the new computers as the provider is compatible with existing equipment.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £4,452.00

**f. Black Country Community Radio**

Funding is sought to enable the service to extend its broadcasting to the north of the Dudley borough. Their service reflects a range of community related topics such as health and wellbeing, fire prevention and local heritage issues. They are seeking pledges from community forum in the north of the borough to be paid if the licence application is approved. They will use funding towards the cost of transmitter equipment, aerials and licences. They have provided a list of indicative costs (not quotations) and a recent bank statement but as they are a new company they do not yet have audited accounts.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £2,000.00 (£1,000 application sent separately to both Sedgley and Coseley East)

7. In making their decisions when applications are received, Members take account of current allocation for the Community Forum area and judge applications against the criteria established for grant allocation at the Community Forums and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

**Finance**

8. The latest balance at 02 June 2014 for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £63,161. This is broken down below:
- Coseley East £ 44,412
  - Sedgley £ 18,749

**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 equal opportunities and diversity. Applications may include facilities which are available to children and young people.

## **Recommendations**

12. It is proposed that the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum note the current funds available.



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Steve Cooper - Area Liaison Officer  
Contact - Tel: 01384 81 5319  
e-mail: [steve.cooper@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:steve.cooper@dudley.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1



### **Guidelines for considering funding applications**

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.

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. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
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.