

Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

27th January 2015

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 4th November 2014 were:
 - Bayer Street Allotments Association – request for £4,115 towards new fencing was endorsed;
 - DMBC Environmental Management – request for £7,130 for Christmas lights in Coseley was endorsed;
 - DMBC Environmental Management – request for £2,343.43 for Christmas trees in Coseley and Sedgley was endorsed;
 - Black Country Wheels – request for £500 towards a pilot beauty training course was not supported;
 - D of E Award Association – request for £500 towards young leader training was not supported.
6. At the November Forum an urgent request for help was made on behalf of Hurst Hill Community Association/Senior Citizens Thursday Club. The appeal was made following a burglary which jeopardised planned Christmas events. Support was sought to ensure that those events could be reorganised in time for Christmas. Elected Members present supported their request. At that stage the amount was unknown as work had not been carried out. Documentation has now been submitted to confirm funding in the sum of £562.33.

- 7 There are 2 new applications for funding to be considered on this occasion. Paper copies of the applications will be made available to Members at the meeting of the Forum. The applications are:

a. West Midlands Fire Service:

Funding is requested towards the cost of providing training to young people in relation to understanding fire. The course will cater for 15 young people and result in an OCN Level 2 qualification. The training sits outside the Fire Service's core activities and is aimed at young people (aged 11+) not in education or employment and/or at risk of engaging in anti social behaviour. The course will challenge attitudes and behaviour in relation to fire as part of the Fire Service's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. West Midlands Fire Service have confirmed that the submission, previously thought to have been submitted to all 10 forums, is now only being submitted to this forum as the course is aimed at young people from the Coseley High School area.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £4,000.00

b. Sedgley Scorpions Football

Funding is requested to replace vandalised goalposts on the pitch at Clayton Park with portable goalposts. The club provides football coaching and organised matches for around 200 local boys and girls in 13 teams.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £1,495.00

8. 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

9. The latest balance at 08 January 2015 for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £ 46,341.71 being made up as follows:

	Fund	Available to award
Coseley East	Community Forum	33,994.22
	Shops/High St Innovation	-157.00 *
	Ward balance	£ 33,837.22
Sedgley	Community Forum	10,531.49
	Shops/High St Innovation	1,973.00
	Ward balance	£ 12,504.49

* Following representations from Community Forum leads, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration has subsequently approved a revised allocation for the Shops/High St fund based on the number of wards. This reduced the amount per ward to £6,973. As Coseley East previously endorsed £ 7,130 funding towards Christmas lights this has created a small over-commitment. This can be offset against the Coseley East Community Forum reserve subject to approval of the ward members.

Law

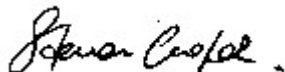
10. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
11. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

12. 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

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



.....
Steve Cooper – Area Liaison Officer
Contact - Tel: 01384 81 5319
e-mail: steve.cooper@dudley.gov.uk

Appendix 1



Guidelines for considering 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 21 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.

High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding Applications

10. One-off funding has been made available in the 2014/15 financial year for projects which improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area, with preference to the Borough's Centres and High Streets.
11. The Council will decide which source of funding successful applications will use, but as guidance for applicants High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant funding will be considered for the following:-

Eligible proposals

- Proposals will be considered either for Capital or Revenue activities.
- Proposals of up to £5,000 in value (including VAT where applicable).
- Proposals are preferred for projects within the Borough's defined Principal or Local Centres, but applications may be considered in any location where benefits to the local economy or environment may be demonstrated.
- Proposals that show a partnership approach (between for example business and the Community will be preferred).

Ineligible proposals

- Proposals which create ongoing revenue costs for the Council. Proposals must demonstrate how any improvements will be maintained.
- Proposals which are required as a direct result of a planning condition, enforcement action or any other statutory consent.
- Proposals that do not have the agreement of the owner or occupier of land or property affected.
- Proposals that do not have a realistic prospect of being granted planning permission.

Suggested areas of expenditure

- Proposals to improve the appearance or condition of empty commercial or retail premises.
- Proposals to improve vacant or unsightly land.
- Match funding to support funding bids for the above.
- Activities and events to support centres economic vitality.