

Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

04th November 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 2nd September 2014 were:
 - Dudley Council for Voluntary Services – request for £300 (£150 from each ward) towards annual awards event – recommended for approval;
 - Summerhill Community Association – request for £2,450 (from Coseley East Ward) towards refurbishment costs of the community centre – recommended for approval;
 - Sedgley Community Association – request for £5,000 (Sedgley Ward) towards Christmas lights – recommended for approval (from High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant).
6. At forum held on the 18th March and 24th June 2014 requests for funding towards the cost of Black Country Day and a license for Black Country Radio were considered. By way of an update:
 - In March 2014 - Dudley Arts Council were awarded up to £2,000 towards the cost of holding the borough wide Black Country Day Festival subject to being able to provide a breakdown of costs and demonstrate where they had been spent in Coseley East and Sedgley. Dudley Arts Council provided a response to ward members on the 13th October 2014.

- In June 2014 - Black Country Radio were awarded £2,000 towards the costs of a license to expand the service into the north of the borough. As at 20th October, they were still awaiting a decision from Ofcom. Which was expected sometime in November.

7 There are 5 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. Black Country Wheels:

Funding is requested towards the cost of establishing a pilot training course for beauty therapy. The programme will support around 10 individuals who have been out of work for some time. This course is designed to give them confidence and skills to enter full time education or work. Based in the Lye area, the course will be available to participants across the borough and the application has been made to all 10 forums.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £500.00

b. Duke of Edinburgh Award Association

Funding is requested towards the cost of funding the support and development of volunteer award leaders across the whole Borough. The scheme, run in conjunction with the Council's Youth Services, provides young people with self esteem, confidence and equips them with skills for adult life. The specific training would support potential leaders and equip them with skills to take younger people out on expeditions. They have provided 3 quotes for training and relevant supporting documentation. The submission has been made to all 10 forums.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £500.00

c. Bayer Street Allotments Association:

Funding is requested towards the cost of new security fencing to the allotments. The allotments are fully occupied by people of all ages and there is a waiting list. This latest request is in response to further vandalism and thefts. Produce from the allotments is given to local groups, community centre and sons of rest for raffles etc. They have provided 3 quotes and supporting documents.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £4,115

d. Cllr Mottram on behalf of residents of Coseley:

Funding is requested towards the costs of the supply, installation and removal upon completion of Christmas lights to 12 lighting columns in the village making pubs, shops and restaurants more attractive to residents, visitors and shoppers during the Christmas period.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £7,130.00

e. DMBC – Environmental Management Division:

Funding is requested towards the cost of providing, erecting and removing Christmas trees in Coseley (Vicarage Road, Roseville) and Sedgley (Bull Ring) together with the energy costs of lighting. The costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the tree lights will be met from within Council resources. The trees and lights will contribute to the sense of community over the festive period.

Sum being requested from the Forum is £2,343.43

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 13 October 2014 for the Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum is £ 62,750.81 being made up as follows:

	Fund	Available to award
Coseley East	Community Forum	39,311.72
	Shops/High St Innovation	8,368.05
	Ward balance	£ 47,679.77
Sedgley	Community Forum	11,702.99
	Shops/High St Innovation	3,368.05
	Ward balance	£ 15,071.04

Law

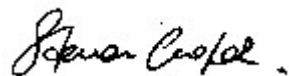
10. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
11. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory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



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

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 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.