

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE: 31st JANUARY 2005

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider six applications for capital funding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £34,576.00.

- 2.2. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-

- (a) The allocation is to be spent on “capital” schemes as defined by legislation, i.e. “one-off” type expenditure on acquisition, construction, enhancement of land, roads, buildings, equipment or vehicles, which may also include the making of grants or loans for capital expenditure by others;
 - (b) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
 - (c) Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, i.e. not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups, and should make a difference in the local area;
 - (d) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
 - (e) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding); and
 - (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
 - (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
- 2.3. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

2.4. Application by Pedmore Cricket Club

- 2.4.1 The Pedmore Cricket Club is located in Pedmore Hall Lane, Stourbridge.
- 2.4.2 The Club has just over 400 members the vast majority of whom live within Stourbridge.
- 2.4.3 The Club has applied for a capital allocation of £1,904.79 to purchase a bowling machine to assist the Club with its junior, schools and coaching training scheme.
- 2.4.4 The 2003 accounts for the Club show that they made a small operating loss for that year.
- 2.4.5 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.5. Application by the Stourbridge Photographic Society

- 2.5.1 The Stourbridge Photographic Society is based at the St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Bromley Street, Lye. The purpose of the Society is to promote photography as a hobby and to share knowledge with members of the photographic community.
- 2.5.2 The Society has a membership of 36 of whom 11 live in Stourbridge whilst the other 25 live in other parts of the borough. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in photography and the Society hopes to increase their membership as a result of the new equipment for which they are applying for funding.
- 2.5.3 The Society has been asked to help those who wish to understand the complexities of being able to manipulate an image and to produce a quality photograph. For this reason they need to purchase a digital projector and laptop with a sound system to project a large image on a screen. The cost of providing this equipment is £2,900 and the application is for this sum.
- 2.5.4 The 2003 accounts for the Society show a cash balance as at the 5th December 2003 of £2,704.52.
- 2.5.5 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.6 Application by the Rufford School Parents in Partnership Group

- 2.6.1 The Rufford School Parents in Partnership Group is based at the Rufford Primary School, Bredon Avenue, Stourbridge. The aim of the Group is to promote community and social harmony for the benefit of all school users and to provide additional or alternative facilities and activities to enhance the mainstream and extra-curricular aspect of the school.

2.6.2 The application is for the purchase and installation of play equipment for young children in the community in a designated area to give them the opportunity to experience regular outdoor play in a safe environment. The total cost of the project is £8,570 and the Group is applying for an allocation of £5,000 with the balance to be provided from PTFA funds.

2.6.3 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.7 Application by the Girl Guiding Hagley Division

2.7.1 The Girl Guiding Hagley Division is based at the Alderman Tye Scout and Guide HQ, South Road, Norton.

2.7.2 The application is for funding to refit the kitchen at the Alderman Tye Scout and Guide HQ to meet current hygiene and safety standards. This will enable the building to be used for leader training sessions, unit meetings and other guiding activities. The total cost of the project is £6,404.50 and the application is for £5,000 with the balance to be provided by the applicant from sponsored events.

2.7.3 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.8 Application by St Mary's Church, Oldswinford

2.8.1 St Mary's Church in Rectory Road, Oldswinford have submitted an application for an allocation of £5,000 towards the cost of building a new disabled toilet within the Church and providing a new wheelchair ramp from the car park. The total cost of the project is £30,617 and the balance will be met from Church reserves.

2.8.2 The Church are intending to revamp the whole area with a large disabled toilet together with a wheelchair ramp with a handrail. There will also be a narthex with glass partitions so that mothers with young children can have a play area within the Church or those who are unwell can sit in peace and have a glass of water.

2.8.3 The 2003 accounts for the Church show that the Church has unrestricted funds of £99,439 of which £25,617 is committed to this project.

2.8.4 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.9 Application by Stourbridge Football Club

2.9.1 Stourbridge Football Club, who are based at the War Memorial Ground in High Street, Amblecote, have submitted an application for £5,000 towards the cost of replacing the roof of the stand covering the terraces. The estimated cost for

this project is £9,800 - £13,500 with the balance to be covered by fund-raising and a contribution from the supporters club.

- 2.9.2 The replacement of the roof is required on the grounds of health and safety.
- 2.9.3 The latest published accounts for the club reveal that as at the 31st May 2003 the club had nett current liabilities of £9,003. The club have been asked to provide more recent financial information to satisfy the Committee that the club is still a going concern and this will be the subject of a verbal report at the meeting.
- 2.9.4 Subject to the above this application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1. It is proposed that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by The Pedmore Cricket Club, The Stourbridge Photographic Society, The Rufford School Parents in Partnership Group, The Girl Guiding Hagley Division, St Mary's Church, Oldswinford and Stourbridge Football Club.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1. The Area Committee's delegated budget allocation is funded by the Council's mainstream capital resources. The current position with regard to available resources for 2004/5 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

5. LAW

- 5.1. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by The Pedmore Cricket Club, The Stourbridge Photographic Society, The Rufford School Parents in Partnership Group, The Girl Guiding Hagley Division, St Mary's Church, Oldswinford and Stourbridge Football Club.

John Polychronakis

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J. POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application submitted by The Pedmore Cricket Club
2. Application submitted by The Stourbridge Photographic Society
3. Application submitted by The Rufford School Parents in Partnership Group
4. Application submitted by The Girl Guiding Hagley Division
5. Application submitted by St Mary's Church, Oldswinford
6. Application submitted by Stourbridge Football Club