
**Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
Community Forum - 4th November 2013**

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 remainder of the 2013/14 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.

Application for Consideration at this Meeting

4. **Girl Guides - 5th Cradley Heath**

An application has been received from the Girl Guides, Cradley Heath, to help fund the purchase of IT/storage/health & safety equipment.

Funding Requested: £750.64

Brownies - 1st Quarry Bank

An application has been received from the Brownies (Christ Church) to help fund activities and events to celebrate their centenary celebrations at local, district, divisional and national level.

Funding Requested: £4000.

Dudley MBC - DUE - Environmental Management Division

An application has been received from the Environmental Management Division (Dudley MBC) for the provision of Christmas trees at Castleton Street, Netherton

and High Street/Park Road, Quarry Bank. This includes the costs to purchase, erect and remove the trees, together with associated energy costs for lighting.

Funding Requested: £2,162.20.

Fast+ Aid Charity No. 1147703

The above organisation has applied for a grant in total across all community forums of £10,000. To date consideration has taken place at the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Forum on the 3rd September 2013 where the application was approved in principle on the basis that it should be referred to all forums as a Borough-wide application. The final amount awarded being dependant upon support being forthcoming from the other 9 forums. The application has also been considered by the Amblecote/Cradley and Wollescote/Lye and Stourbridge North Members who have recommended to award £1000.

The aims of the charity are to provide a professional and caring team of volunteers who support the West Midlands Ambulance Service in responding to 999 emergency calls, using a group of trained volunteers. There are a total of 62 volunteers all based within Dudley Borough.

The funding is to purchase a second vehicle to be used in the Dudley area so that they can respond quickly to 999 calls. The Fast+Aid vehicle and crew provide life saving care to patients waiting for the arrival of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Funding Requested: £1,000

5. I am recommending that Members consider whether or not the above grants should be approved.

Finance

6. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate.
7. The total sum currently available to spend in this forum area.

Wards	Amount
Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews	£10,836.28
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	£22,582.17
Total Amount	£33,418.45

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

Law

8. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the Community.
9. 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

10. 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

11. That the Forum considers the applications referred to in the report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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Matt Williams
Assistant Director
Environmental Management

Contact Officer: Matt Williams
Telephone: 01384 814510
Email: matt.williams@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 I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 – Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.



Community Forums

Guidelines for considering funding applications for the Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews/Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood Community Forum

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.

Standing Orders requires the submission of at least two quotations, unless the Director of Corporate Resources deems that one is acceptable. The Director of Corporate Resources should exercise this discretion where the Members of a Community Forum have received copies of the grant application, have discussed the matter in public and have recommended award of a grant.

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. Funding will be split between all Wards and monies for applications that are approved will be allocated from the relevant Ward's budget. Where applications are received covering more than one Ward funding will be allocated from within all the affected Wards' budget.
8. Only one application will normally be considered per financial year from organisations and any subsequent applications in the same financial year will be referred to the relevant Ward Councillors for consideration.
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.