

Stourbridge Area Committee – 27th September 2010

Report of the Treasurer

**Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trusts
Application for Grants**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Trust.

Background

2. Ernest Stevens made various donations of property to the Council, which were to be used for specific purposes. These have been identified as individual Trusts and detailed below:
 - a.) Mary Stevens Maternity Home and Public Park Charity.
 - b.) Mary Stevens Park, Recreation Ground and Park, Norton.
 - c.) Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.
 - d.) Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation, Wollescote
3. Only the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation has investments, which generate income for disbursement.
4. Members will be aware that the four Ernest Stevens Trusts are now combined under the control of this Committee.
5. The annual income of the Stevens Park & Recreation Ground Foundation Trust may be applied under the terms of the Trust Deed in one or more of the under-mentioned ways: -
 - a) the maintenance and improvement of the property for the time being belonging to the Foundation;
 - b) the acquisition and layout of additional land to be held in Trust;
 - c) the maintenance and the improvement of property held under the terms of the original Trusts dated 6th December 1929 and 13th February 1931.
 - d) the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of residents in the area of the former borough of Stourbridge.

6. In so far, in the opinion of the Council, that the net income of the Trust cannot be usefully and beneficially applied in accordance with the provisions in the foregoing paragraph, it may be applied for such other charitable purposes for the benefit of persons resident within the area of the former Borough of Stourbridge as the Council may determine.
7. In the application of the income of the Foundation, the Council should give preference to the area of the former Urban District of Lye and Wollescote and to meeting the needs of the people resident therein.
8. There is no set maximum amount stipulated in the Trust deed for a grant. However, in the past, the Trustees have tended to apply the criteria that the grant should be a maximum of £5000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project
9. Application by Lye Town Football Club – extract from report taken to Stourbridge Area Committee on 17th November 2008:

Lye Town Football Club is based at Stourbridge Road, Lye. Its aims are to manage a successful football club and provide high quality facilities for its members and the local community. The club benefits some 360 members (junior, senior and social) the majority of whom are from Lye and Wollescote.

The Club is requesting a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of a combined rebuild project in partnership with Lye Cricket Club that will see a new clubhouse for both clubs located on the Football Club side of Lye Sports Ground.

The revised project will provide for the adaptation and refurbishment of the existing Social Club, and create a large flexible space to be a multi-use sports and social area for football training, cricket practice, bowls, and functions for local people including weddings and parties.

Lye Cricket Club is in favour of the combined venture. This Area Committee granted a total of £10,000 last year (£5,000 from Stevens Trust, £5,000 capital allocation) towards its Pavilion rebuild, and they are now requesting an extension of 8 months to claim the grant to enable further investigations, including results of a current feasibility study, design options and costings (currently estimated at £240,000) Both clubs currently have approximately £220,000 available (including £10,000 from this Area Committee and a grant from Federation for Sport towards the original Pavilion rebuild option). It is anticipated that a further £15,000 will be made available from local businesses.

The current feasibility study will identify a revised project budget (forecast £240,000). It is anticipated that an application will be made to the Football Federation and 'Award for All' to contribute to any additional costs or budget shortfall.

Following this application the Committee agreed to a grant of £5,000 to the Football Club for the works outlined above.

Subsequent to the approval above, Lye Cricket Club decided against proceeding with the concord between themselves and the football club. The football club proceeded with a total rewire of their buildings, but this no longer formed part of a joint venture for a new clubhouse to be used by both groups. The Football Club has now submitted invoices in order to receive payment of grant. It is considered appropriate for the Committee to review this spend to determine if funding should still be provided to the football club, given the change in circumstances.

10. Application by Wollescote St. Andrews Scout Group:

The Scout Group wish to carry out works to garages on a site the group lease from the Council. After dismantling six unsafe garages and converting three into storage areas the concrete floors of the garages remain. These are stepped and have occasioned a number of accidents both to vehicles and children.

The Scout Group therefore wish to dig up the concrete bases and use this to consolidate another piece of land adjacent to the garages, which is also held by the group. This would mean the steps would be removed and tarmacked and suitable drains would be put in place to help avoid flooding.

The numbers of people benefiting from the project are approximately 100 from the Lye and Wollescote and approximately 150 from Stourbridge. The group has 100 members.

The group is requesting a grant of £4,947 towards the costs of works to these garages. This is the full estimated cost of the project.

The group has supplied a copy of the payments and receipts for the year to 31st December 2007. These show that during the year ended 31st December 2009 the Group's shortfall was £3,777.

The group has previously been awarded £5,000 in November 2006 and £4,000 in November 2008 from the Stevens Trust and a £5,000 capital allocation from this Committee in November 2006.

Finance

11. The Trust income for 2009/10 is summarised as follows (figures subject to audit):

	£
Investment Income	15,665
Rental Income	1,116
	16,781

It is anticipated that the income for 2010/11 will not change significantly.

12. There has been one grant awarded so far this year for the 15th Stourbridge (Norton St. Michael's) Scout Group for £5,000 as it was the view of the Committee that the application was of exceptional merit for the benefit of the whole of the community.
13. At a previous meeting of the former Finance (Stevens' Bequests), Sub-Committee, Members agreed to maintain the "real" spending power of the bequest as a fundamental part of the investment strategy. The total sums shown in Paragraph 9 above could be spent without jeopardising the strategy. However, should the value of the investment fall, any income then generated would need to be reinvested and would not be available for disbursement. The market values of the investments are (figures remain subject to audit):-

	Original Value	Current Value
	£	31.03.2010 £
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	122,682
- Equity Based	118,000	190,152
	236,000	312,834
	236,000	312,834

Short-term investments are also held to provide some flexibility in the event of an unusually high level of bids in any year.

Law

The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area

The conditions under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.

The law relating to Trusts, which are charitable, is contained in various acts, the main ones being the Charities Act, 1960, the Charities Act 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961

Equality Impact

- . The Trusts have been set up to benefit the public of the Borough or certain geographical areas of the Borough as outlined in the Deeds of Gift

Recommendation

- . It is recommended that: -

The Committee consider the funding applications detailed in Paragraphs 9 and 10



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Treasurer

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List of Background Papers

None (previous allocation information included above has been taken from a report to Stourbridge Area Committee on 17th November 2008).