

**Have
your say**

Community FORUM

Serving the wards of

Halesowen North and Halesowen South community forum

The Community Forum is a way for people to play a part in important issues affecting the local area. Please come along if there is something you want to raise with us. Contact information for your local Councillors is printed on the back of this agenda.

**Tuesday 2nd September, 2014 at 6.30 pm
Leasowes School,
Kent Road, Halesowen B62 8PJ**

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Listening to you**
 - Questions and comments from local residents
- 4. Working with you**
 - Topics raised by Local Councillors
- 5. Community Forums - Love Your Local Community Funding**
 - Councillors to make a recommendation based on a report of the Lead Officer - TO FOLLOW
- 6. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meetings**
 - 4th November, 2014 - Olive Hill Primary School - 6.30pm
 - 27th January, 2015 - Leasowes School - 6.30pm
 - 17th March, 2015 - Olive Hill Primary School - 6.30pm

**Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website
www.dudley.gov.uk**

Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum

Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below. Please take the opportunity to come along to your local Community Forum and let us know about the issues that matter in your local area.

Halesowen North



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Halesowen South



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Councillor Alan Taylor
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Report to Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum 2nd September 2014

Report of Lead Officer

Area Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for grant assistance from the Community Forum Funding Budget.

Background

2. The 10 Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the 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. A copy of the applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications

3. There are three new applications be reconsidered. These are:
 - **Halesowen Abbey Trust** – Since the last meeting the forum elected members have approved an award of £5,000 in respect of this application.
 - **Elayna Barnsley & Matthew Wong** - These are 2 scouts who wish to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015. Each application is for £2995. Six other individual applications have been considered by Hayley Green, Cradley South & Belle Vale forum and awards of £625 **per scout** were made.
 - **Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS)** - an application for £300 from each of the 10 forums to support voluntary and community groups. Reference is made in the application to the groups they support in the B62/B63 areas.

Finance

4. Taking account of all previous commitments, the current balance of funding available to the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum is **£10,746.61** (taking into account the Halesowen Abbey Trust award).

Law

5. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.

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

6. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Recommendation

7. That:-
- i) The Community Forum considers the applications referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



Sean Beckett
Customer Services Manager, Dudley Council Plus
Customer Services Division, Directorate of Corporate Resources
and Lead Officer to the Community Forum.

Contact Officer: Sean Beckett
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Email: sean.beckett@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this report is based have been sent to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.



Community Forums

Guidelines for considering funding applications

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.
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. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
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.