

Stourbridge Area Committee – 10th March 2008

Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Director of Urban Environment

Permission for a Family Fun Day

Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trusts
Application for Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the following requests for an application for funding from the Trust.

To request permission to charge for a Family Fun Day at Mary Stevens Park

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 Friends of Mary Stevens Park:

This is a two part application:

- a. The Friends of Mary Stevens Park work to raise funds for the park's restoration, their aim being to raise £100,000 for capital building projects including a new café extension to the pavilion and toilet refurbishment.

The Friends of Mary Stevens Park are requesting permission to hold and charge for a May Day, Fun Day event at the park on May 5th 2008. The event will be held jointly with Stourbridge & Black Country Events and would be similar to previous events, with stalls, funfair, live music and events/attractions.

Stourbridge and Black Country Events, as principal organiser of the day and activities, is the public liability insurance holder. It is an unincorporated association that, though not a registered charity, under its constitution distributes part or all of its net profit to charitable causes. It does not employ staff but contracts out all activities to individual companies, individuals or organisations. Members that help facilitate such events are, however, entitled to reclaim reasonable expenses for their time or costs with unanimous agreement of the Directors.

The proposed sponsorship agreement between Stourbridge and Black Country Events and The Friends of Mary Stevens Park, requires that 50% of net profits be paid to the Friends.

In the interests of safety and to help support the day, they also seek permission for Stanley Road closure and for parking on Swinford Common as last year.

The proposed car park entrance fee is £2.00 and a gate entrance fee of £2.00 for all except children under the age of 7 who may enter free of charge.

- b. The Friends of Mary Stevens Park are also requesting a grant from the Trust of £2,000 for the purchase of 2 marquees and 10 signs in support of the event. This will make the fun day events more sustainable for the future and will avoid unnecessary hire costs. The marquee will remain the property of, and be kept securely by, the Friends of Mary Stevens Park and would be made available to other charitable organisations on request.

Any signs raised in support of the fun day will be fitted on the morning of the event, and will be removed that same evening.

The bank balance of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park at 31st March 2007 was £11,527 of which £5,000 has been earmarked for architect fees in support of the pavilion extension plans.

Previous applications have been granted to the Friends of Mary Stevens Park of £1,500 in 2006/07 towards the cost of railings, the balance of £5,000 being awarded from capital allocations. In 2005/06 £2,500 was granted for playground extensions with £5,000 being awarded from capital allocation, and in 2004/05 £1037.78 was awarded from capital allocation for benches.

10. Application by The Green Fingred Gang:

The Green Fingred Gang has been set up to enable residents who have learning disabilities to achieve new skills through gardening activities, with a vegetable garden currently being developed

There are about 200 people, from Lye, Wollescote, Norton and Stourbridge benefiting from the project.

The Project is requesting a grant of £1,150 for decking, table and chairs, planters and a barbeque. The decking would provide improved access for residents with walking difficulties to the garden studio. The table, chairs and barbeque is for residents social events so that they can interact with local communities which would enhance their lives, help develop social skills and is hoped would break down barriers about people with disabilities.

The Project has supplied copy bank statements. These show a balance at 31st December of £1,265.

Previously £5,000 has been awarded from capital allocation in June 2007 towards the cost of the garden studio

11. Application by The Friends of Wollescote Park:

The Friends of Wollescote Park seek to preserve Wollescote Park and woodland walk areas for the benefit of the local community.

There are approximately 4,000 who benefit from the amenity.

The Friends of Wollescote Park are requesting £5,000 towards the cost of repairing the terracing to the front of Wollescote Hall, which is in a bad state of repair, and has already resulted in a number of minor accidents. The total cost of the project is £25,000. The remainder of the funding being £10,000 from the Liveability Fund and £10,000 from DMBC.

The Friends of Wollescote Park have provided Accounts for the year to 4th December 2007 which show a balance at bank of £3,714.15

Previously £1,458.67 has been awarded from capital allocation in June 2005 for a computer

Finance

12. The Trust income for 2006/7 is summarised as follows:

	£
Investment Income	16,542
Rental Income	<u>1,116</u>
	<u>17,658</u>

It is anticipated that the income for 2007/8 will not change significantly.

13. Grants totalling £15,000 have been awarded in this financial year.

14. 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:-

	Original Value	Current Value 31.03.2007
	£	£
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	121,362
- Equity Based	118,000	224,418
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	236,000	345,780
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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 application from Friends of Mary Stevens Park to hold a May Day Fun Day event as detailed in paragraph 9. If approved, it is recommended that this is made subject to
 - the subsequent approval by the Council's Safety Advisory Group to ensure all necessary Health and Safety requirements are addressed and that all Council departments have been consulted.
 - satisfactory finalisation of the sponsorship agreement between the Friends of Mary Stevens Park and Stourbridge and Black Country Events
 - Consider the funding application from Friends of Mary Stevens Park as detailed in paragraph 9
 - Consider the funding application from the Green Fingered Gang as detailed in paragraph 10
 - Consider the funding application from the Friends of Wollescote Park as detailed in paragraph 11



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Director of Finance



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Director of Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

Letters, Application Forms 8/1/08, 1/1/08, 7/2/08 and general information
Financial Statement 31/04/07
Bank Statements October, November and December 2007
Accounts to Dec 07
Photographs