

Stourbridge Area Committee – 20TH November 2006

Report of the Director of Finance

Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trusts
Application for Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the following request for an application 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 Wollescote St Andrew's Scout Group

The applicant is a charity which works to promote the development of young people to achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as members of their community. It currently has 70 members and meets at 26 Queensway, Wollescote..

A request is made for £5,000 grant towards the total cost of £38,100 to refurbish the kitchen , provide toilets with disabled facilities and a storeroom.. A quotation has been obtained for the project from 3DCraft. The applicant will be applying for various other grants including Awards for All and has also requested a grant of £5000 from the capital allocations budget of the Stourbridge Area Committee. The balance of the cost will be raised from fund raising activities and the applicant's own funds.

Accounts for the year to 31st December 2005 have been submitted with the application which show a deficit of £1659 (2005 £368) . As at 31st December 2005, the charity held £2332 in two bank accounts.

The applicant has previously been awarded £4900 at the Stourbridge Area Committee meeting in March 2005 towards the cost of central heating. They were also awarded £5000 from the meeting in February 2004 towards roof repairs.

Finance

10. The Trust income for 2005/6 is summarised as follows:

	£
Investment Income	15472
Rental Income	<u>1116</u>
	<u>16588</u>

It is anticipated that the income for 2006/7 will not change significantly.

11. Grants totalling £1500 have been awarded in this financial year
12. 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 31.03.2006
	£	£
COIF - Fixed Interest	118,000	129,096
- Equity Based	118,000	214,063
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	236,000	343,159
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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

14. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. 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

19. It is recommended that: -
- a.) The Committee consider the funding applications detailed in Paragraph 9.



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for Director of Finance

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List of Background Papers

Application Form
Accounts to 31st December 2005
Quotation