

EAST JOINT COMMITTEE**17TH JUNE 2008**

Subject: Community Grants
Lead Officer: Contact Chris Wood on 01789 260640
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris Williams

Summary

To provide updated information on the budget available for Community Grants and details of applications received

Recommendation

That the Committee considers and awards rejects or defers grants as appropriate for the applications presented.

1 Background/Information

- 1.1 As mentioned earlier in the agenda, SDC and Warwickshire County Council officers have begun work to integrate the two authorities' grants services and it is planned that this integration will be in place in time for the September round of Joint Committee meetings. However, a number of applications to the SDC grants scheme have been received in the past few months, or are pending having been deferred at earlier SDC Area Committee Meetings due to lack of available budget or requiring further information.
 - 1.2 Details of the current SDC Grants Conditions and the approved scoring system that has been used to assess applications are contained within Appendix I. The resultant scores indicate to the Committee the level of grant aid that may be considered for each application.
 - 1.3 These are the first grants to be considered by the newly established Joint Committees. Please note however that the applications presented have been scored, for eligibility, using pre existing SDC criteria.
 - 1.4 Councillors may wish to consider deferring some applications to September when they will be assessed by the new joint criteria. To help with this each application has been judged to be either **time critical** or not and this information appears in the tabulated appraisal of each project. This judgment has been based purely on supporting documentation and written information provided on the application form.
 - 1.5 Comments have been incorporated into the report from WCC officers. The comments are based on:
 - Whether the application has been deemed time critical by SDC
-

- Whether the application would be recommended for a grant based on the criteria of the County Councils Community Development Fund
- Whether the application would be recommended for funding as a project in its own right

2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The total budgets available are detailed below. Committee is asked to consider the following grant requests:

2.1 Revenue

	Balance	Grant Request	Time critical?
Initial allocation	£13,200		
Previously awarded or allocated	£ 1,600		
Agreed Summer 08 Playscheme Grants			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lias Summer Playscheme, Long Itchington (£400) • Summer Arts at the Cutting Gallery, Stockton (£400) • St Mary's Children's Club, Southam (£400) • Wellesbourne Summer Playscheme (£400) 			
Total Amount Available for Allocation	£11,600		
Application - Allocate to Summer Activity Voucher Scheme		£1,500	Yes
Application No 840 Stockton News		£600	No
Application No 833 St James Church, Southam		£1,000	Yes
The following applications are judged to have potential for District Wide benefits Consequently the grant requests have been apportioned as follows... 30% East, 34% West and 36% Central These figures are based on population levels and also represent the percentage of Grant Funding made available to each committee in 2008/2009			

Application No 784 Young Enterprise South Warwickshire Please note this is a district wide project. The figures shown represent 30% of the total requested		£1,200	Yes
Application No 843 ILEAP Please note this is a district wide project. The figures shown are 30% of the total requested		£750	Yes
Application No 828 Orchestra of the Swan Please note this is a district wide project. The figures shown are 30% of the total requested		£1,650	No
Total amount of new requests		£6,700	
Balance to carry forward if all applications are awarded the requested amount.	£4,900		

Applicant	Summer Activity Voucher Scheme - Revenue
Project	This annual scheme provides free activity vouchers to young people living in Stratford On Avon District whose families are in receipt of means-tested benefits. This enables them to take part in summer activity schemes from which they may otherwise be excluded.
SDC Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i>
Deprivation Mapping	One point
Value to Community	One point Significant number of users
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community.
Risk Assessment	This scheme has been run since 2005. It is administered by SDC. The project is therefore assessed as Low Risk .
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 500 children from deprived families to take part in scheme Revenue support and therefore viability for all summer play schemes taking part across the district.
Total Project Cost	£20,000
Grant Request	£1,500 (30% of total £5,000 requested)
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three points High priority – may be considered for 30% - 35% of total project cost i.e. £6,000 –£7,000 Award should be within the range of £1,800 – £2,450 representing the 30% allocation to East Committee.
Notes	This scheme is match funded by WCC and Stratford Town Trust. The scheme is district wide and the application has been split between the 3 area committees. Grant applications will be considered by the 2 other Area Committees on 17 th and 26 th June.
Is Application time critical	Yes
WCC Comments	This scheme meets the criteria for a WCC grant and has been part funded by WCC each year.

Applicant	Stockton News – 840 - Revenue
Project	Start up costs for village magazine
Corporate Aims Met	One Point Aim 1 – A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life
Deprivation Mapping	n/a
Value to Community	One Point The requirement for a village newspaper was identified in the Parish Plan
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	Other funding applications are still pending and business sponsorship has yet to be secured. Therefore the project is assessed as a high risk
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community information disseminated on a regular basis • To become self sustaining after year 1 • Encourage community cohesion
Total Project Cost	£2,100
Grant Request	£600
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Two points Medium priority – may be considered for 20% - 25% of the adjusted total project cost i.e. £420 - £525
Notes	
Is Application time Critical	No. The Group are still in the process of securing business sponsorship which is required to progress the project.
WCC Comments	No comments provided

Applicant	St James Church Southam – 833 - Revenue
Project	Celebr8 – Fun in the Sun – Family Fun Day
Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i>
Deprivation Mapping	One point
Value to Community	One point The requirement for a family fun day was originally inspired by a Vision for Southam event
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The applicant has secured the majority of matched funding. A similar event – party in the park – has been a previous success. Therefore the project is assessed as Low Risk .
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Attendance numbers • Strengthening of community relationship
Total Project Cost	£4,114
Grant Request	£1,000
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three points High priority – may be considered for 30% - 35% of the adjusted total project cost i.e. £1,234 - £1,440
Notes	
Is Application time Critical	Yes. This event is scheduled to take place in Summer 2008.
WCC Comments	The application would not meet the required criteria for funding as the WCC local grants scheme does not fund events/festivals

Applicant	Young Enterprise South Warwickshire -782 - Revenue
Project	Provide educational programmes in primary and secondary schools to help young people understand and give them personal experience of how business works
Corporate Aims Met	Two points Aim 1 A district where everyone shares in an improved quality of life Aim 3 A district where business and enterprise can flourish
Deprivation Mapping	n/a
Value to Community	One Point This project benefits a significant number of users.
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The majority of the funding is already in place and the project is therefore assessed as low risk.
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300 pupils to attend the programme • 10 companies to be registered and participating in the National Trade fair in Stratford Upon Avon • A target of 14 schools to participate in programme
Total Project Cost	£21,250
Grant Request	£1,200 (30% of total £4000 requested)
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three points High priority – may be considered for 30% - 35% of total project cost i.e. £6,375 - £7,437. Award should be within the range of £1,912 – £2,231 representing the 30% allocation to East Committee.
Notes	As this project is district wide the application has been divided between the 3 area committees. Grant applications will be considered by the 2 other Area Committees on 17 th and 26 th June. This organisation received a grant of £2,250 from SDC in 2005.
Is the Application Time Critical?	Yes. Activities are planned to run from September 08 – July 09 so funding needs to be secured in advance in order to plan activities
WCC Comments	Unable to assess against WCC grant criteria based on the information provided. Need information on any links to the work of the County Council's Education Business Partnership.

Applicant	Orchestra of the Swan – 828 - Revenue
Project	Enable a series of workshops and performances in community venues.
Corporate Aims Met	One point Aim 1 A district where everyone shares in an improved quality of life
Deprivation Mapping	One Point
Value to Community	One Point A Significant number of users will benefit from this project
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	No other funding is in place with other grant applications pending. This group has successfully funded and run this event in previous years. The application is therefore considered Medium Risk.
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a large number of adults to attend concerts • Encourage a large number of children to participate in educational projects • Improve quality of life for care home residents
Total Project Cost	£7,128
Grant Request	£1,650
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three points High priority – may be considered for 30% - 35% of total project cost i.e. £7,128 - £8,316
Notes	As this application is district wide it has been split between the 3 area committees. 2 other grant applications will be considered by the other Area Committees on 19 th and 26 th June. This group previously received a 3-year arts grant from SDC of £2,975 per year from 2005 – 2007.
Is the Application Time Critical?	No. The event takes place from October 2008 – June 2009.
WCC Comments	The application would not meet the required criteria for funding as the WCC local grants scheme does not fund events/festivals

Applicant	ILEAP- 843 - Revenue
Project	A comprehensive program of leisure activities for disabled and non-disabled people during the Summer Holidays.
Corporate Aims Met	Two point Aim 1 A district where everyone shares in an improved quality of life Aim 3 A district where business and enterprise can flourish
Deprivation Mapping	One point
Value to Community	N/a
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	Some funding secured, with the majority of grant decisions pending. The organisers of this scheme have considerable expertise acquired over previous years that the scheme has run. This project is therefore assessed as Low Risk.
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 people taking part in their chosen leisure pursuits during the summer holidays • 200 parents/careers receive a short break from caring • Training of volunteers
Total Project Cost	£6,945
Grant Request	£750
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three point High priority – may be considered for 30% - 35% of total project cost i.e. £6,945 - £8,102
Notes	<p>ILEAP have a 3 year funding agreement with SDC for £2,600 pa to provide a bi-weekly Saturday club. This runs until 2009.</p> <p>Grants were awarded by SDC of £2,568 and £4,325 respectively for their 06 and 07 summer activity schemes.</p> <p>As this application is district wide it has been split between the 3 area committees. The 2 other applications will be considered on 19th and 26th June.</p>
Is the Application Time Critical?	Yes. This holiday activity scheme takes place summer 2008.
WCC Comments	The application meets the criteria for a WCC local grant.

2.2 Capital

	Balance	Grant request	Time Critical?
Initial allocation	£60,000		
Previously awarded or allocated		£0	
Application No 821 Ratley Village Hall		£15,000	Yes
Application No 827 Stockton Community Church		£10,000	Yes
Application No 826 Wellesbourne Parish Council		£8,042	Yes
Balance to carry forward if all applications are awarded the requested amount.	£26,958		

Applicant	Trustees of Ratley Village Hall – 821 - Capital
Project	Major Refurbishment of Ratley Village Hall
Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i>
Deprivation Mapping	
Value to Community	One point The need for an improved hall was identified as part of the parish plan.
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The applicant's external funding application has reached the final stages for Lottery funding, which included a Lottery award of £12,500 to support their project plan. The property is owned by the applicant. The project is therefore assessed as Low Risk .
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased accessibility • Additional activities that met community needs • Reduced running costs through improved energy efficiency
Total Project Cost	£331,139
Grant Request	£15,000
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Two points Medium priority – may be considered for 20% - 25% of the adjusted total project cost i.e. £66,228 - £82,785
Notes	A previous grant of £5,000 was awarded by SDC in June 2005 towards this project. This grant was used for the project start-up to cover feasibility study and architects fees.
Is Application time Critical	Yes. The group has been selected for the final round of the community buildings Lottery fund. Their application for a £265,000 grant depends on other local funding being secured. Deadline is 31 st August.
WCC Comments	This application meets the criteria for the WCC grant scheme.

Applicant	Stockton Parochial Church Council – 827 – Capital
Project	Re-ordering and extension of Church Building to make it a useable facility for the whole community including facilities for public internet use and rural cinema, meeting rooms, children’s play area/crèche, baby changing facilities and disabled access.
Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i>
Deprivation Mapping	n/a
Value to Community	One point The parish plan published in 2006 fully supported the need for this project
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The applicant has already raised over £200,000 and needs to secure remaining £50,000. The property is owned by the applicant. Therefore the project is assessed as Low Risk .
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage by the local population • Increased accessibility • Preservation of Grade II listed building
Total Project Cost	£265,000
Grant Request	£10,000
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Two points Medium priority – may be considered for 20% - 25% of the adjusted total project cost i.e. £53,000 - £66,250
Notes	
Is Application time Critical	Yes The final stage of this major project cannot be completed until the final funding in place. Unnecessary costs with contractors will be incurred if work is delayed.
WCC Comments	Unable to assess against WCC grant criteria based on the information provided.

Applicant	Wellesbourne Parish Council- 826 – Capital
Project	Replacement of worn out and non compliant play equipment
Corporate Aims Met	One Point <i>Aim 1 A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life</i>
Deprivation Mapping	One point
Value to Community	One point In line with village appraisal
Equality Impact Assessment	There will be no negative impact on any sector of the community
Risk Assessment	The applicant has secured all of remaining funding. The parish council owns the playground. Therefore the project is assessed as Low Risk .
Outcomes To be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety of children using play area • Play equipment complies with current legislation
Total Project Cost	£16,084
Grant Request	£8,042
Financial Appraisal	Contained within blue confidential papers
Project Rating	Three points High priority. The project is also for a play area and so may be considered for up to 50% of the total project cost i.e. £8,042
Notes	
Is Application time Critical	Yes. One swing has been closed off for 7 months and the remaining swing does not comply with current standards. Removal of the remaining swing would result in a lack of play facilities during the peak usage Summer months.
WCC Comments	Unable to assess against WCC grant criteria based on the information provided.

Main Conditions Relating to the Community Grants Scheme

Eligibility

- 1.** Town and Parish Councils are not eligible to apply for grants from Stratford-on-Avon District Council, except for play area, formally approved Village/Parish/Town Plan, Appraisal, Market Town Healthcheck or Vision related grants, identified within approved action plans.
- 2.** Expenditure by a religious organisation will only be considered for grant aid where it specifically relates to the adaptation or improvement of facilities for non-religious, community leisure and recreational purposes.
- 3.** Applications for grant aid for expenditure on projects outside the Stratford on Avon District Council's area will only be considered where it can be clearly demonstrated that such expenditure will be of benefit to residents of the District.
- 4.** Applications by an Educational Authority, or establishment, will only be considered for grant aid where the project would directly benefit the leisure and recreational needs of the general community.

Frequency and Amount

- 5.** A group will only be awarded one grant within any 24-month period, except for where a Partnership Agreement is in place, or where the applicant is applying for an annual event or festival, or where an Area Community Committee for specific reasons deems a project high priority. Where further funding will be sought within the 24-month period, a group should present details of its estimated income and expenditure for the period.
- 6.** Stratford-on-Avon District Council will only normally make grants of up to 25% of total project costs. This sum can be increased at an Area Community Committee's discretion if the project is identified as high priority.
- 7.** Stratford-on-Avon District Council will only award grants (up to a maximum of 50% of total project costs) for play area projects which meet the standards adopted in the Minimum Requirements for Play Areas. No grants will be given to those play area projects that do not meet the standards.

Supporting Evidence

- 8.** In support of the application, the Council will require up-to-date accounts from the organisation together with three quotations for undertaking the necessary work. (If obtaining three quotations for the project is not possible/appropriate, an application may still go forward subject to consultation with a Grants Officer). Any grant offered would be based on the lowest quotation received. However, if the work is proposed to be undertaken on a self-help basis, details should be submitted of the actual cost of the materials to be used in order that an appropriate level of grant aid can be made.

9. Notification should be received from the local Parish or Town Council that they are prepared to give support, preferably in financial terms, to the scheme concerned. Account will be taken of efforts made by the applicant organisation to raise funds for the project themselves.

If An Application is Successful...

10. A substantial amount of the work included within the project should be completed by the end of the financial year in which the grant award is made.
11. A Post-Implementation Safety Check, for which the applicant group is responsible, will be required for capital projects. The purpose of this is to verify full compliance with any legal requirements. The cost of a Safety Check may be included within the grant application. *(Please note, for play area projects, a post installation inspection must be carried out by a RoSPA or RPII inspector – details can be found at www.playinspectors.com).*
12. Appropriate steps should be taken for on-going maintenance (Please note that Stratford on Avon District Council cannot support on-going running costs associated with an organisation, eg maintenance and future replacement equipment costs).
13. The District Council's contribution should be recognised in any promotional material or events relating to the project. Grant-aided organisations will be expected to co-operate with the District Council in any promotional activity arising from grant awards.
14. Feedback will be required following the completion of the project, to establish whether the original stated objectives are achieved. The format the feedback takes will depend on the size of the grant award.
1. If the cost or scope of the scheme or project varies significantly from the original application, the Council must be informed as soon as possible.

Scoring System

Each application will be scored against the following criteria:

Corporate Strategy Aims (1 point for 1 Aim met or 2 points for 2 or more Aims met):

Aim 1: A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life

Objectives:

- 'Residents feel able to influence Council decisions'*
- 'Residents have easier access to local public services'*
- 'More housing is available at a price local people can afford'*
- 'More people enjoy a healthier lifestyle'*
- 'Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is reduced'*

Aim 2: A Clean & Green District

Objectives:

- 'Reduce the risk of Flooding'*
- 'A high quality environment'*
- 'Increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill'*
- 'Reduction in the Councils carbon footprint'*

Aim 3: A District where business and enterprise can flourish

Objectives:

- 'Increased economic vitality of the four main market towns'*
- 'Expanding local businesses are able to remain in the district'*
- 'Increased value of the visitor economy across the whole district'*
- 'Improve the skills of the working population'*

Deprivation Mapping (One point):

This refers to the Parish in which a project is situated. A point can be scored if the number of households, within the Parish, and in receipt of means-tested benefits exceeds the District average, ie 13.5%. (NB: figures used are 2006 Parish Deprivation Figures).

Value to Community (One point):

To recognise issues such as significant numbers of users, rural isolation, accessibility, schemes arising from Parish Appraisals, etc.

Percentage Grant Award:

Low Priority: 10 – 15% (0 or 1 point)

Medium Priority: 20 – 25% (2 points)

High Priority: 30 – 35% (3 points)

ACCs must award grants within the respective bands unless they give clear reasons why they wish to give a different percentage grant. These reasons must be stated in the Committee's Notice of Decision.

- 2.3 The grant requests are listed above. Recommended levels of grant award are shown with each individual application; however these sums may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the Committee.

3 Options available to the Committee

The Committee has the option in each case of awarding, rejecting or deferring grant requests.

4 Members' Comments

- 4.1 Any comments received will be listed under the individual grant application.

5 Implications of the proposal

5.1 *Legal/Human Rights Implications*

- 5.1.1 There are no legal/human rights implications to this report

5.2 *Financial*

- 5.2.1 See 2.1 and 2.2 above

- 5.2.1 The grant requests are listed above. Recommended levels of grant award are shown with each individual application; however these sums may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the Committee.

5.3 *Environmental*

- 5.3.1 Successful applicants will be encouraged where appropriate to adopt sound environmental principles when delivering their project

5.4 *Corporate Strategy*

- 5.4.1 The extent to which each applications supports delivery of the Council's Corporate Strategy is identified within the details provided

5.5 *Equality Impact Assessment*

- 5.5.1 An equality impact assessment is included with each proposal

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 A risk assessment is included with each proposal

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 That the Committee considers and awards, rejects or defers grants as appropriate for the applications presented.

Robert Walsh

HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES