

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 19 JULY 2006

HOSPITALITE DE NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES UK – 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to request the Committee to consider an application received from Notre Dame De Lourdes UK for a contribution towards their 150th Annual AGM and Reunion to be held in Kilmarnock on 4 November 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Notre Dame De Lourdes UK is the UK based branch of an international organisation set up to facilitate voluntary service in aid of sick pilgrims in Lourdes, France.
- 2.2** The UK branch meets every year in a different locations. Previous venues have been in Cambridge, Manchester, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- 2.3** The Galloway Diocese, which includes East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, has approximately 100 members of which approximately 25 are from East Ayrshire.
- 2.4** The group propose to host an event in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on 3-4 November 2006, involving approximately 300 members from the UK and Europe.
- 2.5** On Saturday 4 November 2006, the group will begin the day with Mass at St Joseph's Church, then they will have the AGM at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock, followed by hopefully, a Civic Welcome by the Provost and an evening Dinner and Dance.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1** The Committee at its meeting on 4 July 2006 having noted the Council policy for dealing with applications for recognition for Anniversary celebrations agreed that as the AGM and Reunion was considered an international event, to refer the application back to Officers to identify further sources of additional funding.
- 3.2** As requested Officers have carried out investigations as to additional sources of funding. An enquiry was made with the External Funding and Sustainability worker who has confirmed that the nature of the event would be very unlikely to qualify for external funding. Also, with the timescales now involved, external funding would not be secured in time. The Policy and Resources Committee

does have a budget for making grant awards but such awards are made to local or national organisations that provide a service to the residents of East Ayrshire.

- 3.3** The appropriate decision making forum for such civic recognition of Anniversaries is the Members Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.4** In order to establish a consistent approach for civic involvement in an anniversary celebration, the Council adopted a policy for consideration of approaches received from local groups, establishments etc for recognition of anniversary celebrations. This is shown at Paragraph 5.1 of the report. Whilst agreeing the policy in principle the Sub-Committee also agreed to consider each application on their merits with regard to the prevailing budgetary position and to any exceptional circumstances including the overall significance of an event to East Ayrshire.
- 3.5** As the next meeting of the Members Services Sub Committee is not due to be held until 6 September 2006 which may not provide sufficient time for the organisation of the above mentioned event, it is recommended that the application be considered at this Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The group has advised that the total cost of the event will be approximately £12,000. This includes accommodation, meals and meeting venues.
- 4.2** The group has requested a contribution of £2,000.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Council Policy for dealing with applications for recognition of anniversary celebrations from local groups, establishments etc approved by this Sub-Committee on 31 January 2001, recommends that 125th – 175th anniversaries should be awarded £3 per year up to and including 100th year and £1.50 per year thereafter. Therefore, the recommended contribution for a 150th anniversary would be £375.

6. LEGAL/COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES – Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The Committee is asked:-
- (i) consider the request from Notre Dame De Lourdes UK for a contribution of £2,000 towards the event; and
 - (ii) to remit the necessary arrangements to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support in consultation with the Chair.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

CB/DL
13 July 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application for Civic Hospitality from Notre Dame De Lourdes UK.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers in respect of this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer on Tel No (01563) 576129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.