

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 14 SEPTEMBER 2005**

### **MISS BESSIE C ROXBURGH BEQUEST BACKGROUND REPORT**

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

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To summarise, for the information of members of the Committee, the purpose and continuing administration of the Miss Bessie Cleland Roxburgh Bequest contained in her Trust disposition and settlement registered on 26 October 1981. This deed directed her executors to pay over the residue of her estate "to the common good fund of the burgh of Darvel to be used in such manner as the Town Council of said burgh may think fit".

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** From 1983 onwards the Bequest, then comprising funds amounting to £14,500, was administered by Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council. The former District Council agreed that the funds should be used for the provision of a facility in Darvel to be named after Miss Roxburgh, but it was accepted that in the financial climate of the time it would be difficult to provide the facility without further funding. It was therefore agreed that until an appropriate capital project could be identified and approved, the income deriving from the Bequest should be used in part to make annual donations for local purposes. The former District Council continued to administer the Bequest on this basis until Local Government Reorganisation in 1996.
- 2.2** The balance of the Bequest transferred to East Ayrshire Council from the former District Council accounts in April 1996 and on 24 October 1996 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that until such time as a suitable capital project was identified, the Bequest should continue to be administered as an informal Trust making annual donations as before.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1** The Council succeeded in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 to a considerable number of bequeathed charities and trusts. The expense for administering this Bequest, along similar lines to others does not significantly increase the Democratic Process budget.
- 3.2** The capital funds are held in the Common Good account and, accordingly, there are no significant budgetary implications for the Council.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The statutory provision in terms of Section 222(ii) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, and the relative order, was that all property held as part of the Common Good of a burgh transferred to the District which was then required in administering that property to have regard to the interest of the inhabitants of the area to which the Common Good formerly related. In the 1994 Act, Common Good is transferred by Section 15(iv) and the Council

shall have regard to the interest of the inhabitants of the area to which the Common Good related prior to May 1975.

## **5. ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST - LOCAL EXPENDITURE OF INCOME**

- 5.1** The Bessie Roxburgh Bequest is properly part of the Common Good of this Council subject to the condition that the fund should be applied in the interests of the people of Darvel. The fund could be applied for any legal purpose which the Council proposes, without further formality. In the absence of an appropriate project for the whole fund, the Council have agreed to continue to administer the informal Trust and to make annual donations for purposes local to Darvel. In the past, purposes local to Darvel have been taken to include donations to organisations such as Darvel Improvement Group, Loudoun Musical Society, Darvel Friends of Guiding and Darvel Horticultural Society.
- 5.2** Trustees are referred to the guidelines for selecting applications annexed to this report (Appendix 1). These were adopted by the previous Trustees as a means of deciding upon applicants to receive payments. Awards recommended by the Joint Advisory Committee on 24 August 2005, require to be ratified by the Irvine Valley Local Committee on 14 September 2005.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that members of the Committee note the terms of this report and approve the Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee annexed to this report (Appendix 2).

David Mitchell  
Acting Executive Director of Corporate Support

31 August 2005  
GH/LF

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil**

Any person wishing further information, or wishing to inspect the background paper listed above should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, telephone number 01563 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer**

## APPENDIX 1

### GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

1. Preference should be given to proposals/projects which wholly or mainly benefit existing residents of Darvel.
2. The allocation of funds should encourage “self-help”, where appropriate, (e.g. by raising additional money or providing voluntary labour etc.)
3. The estimated benefit per person from the donation should reflect the importance of the need to be met. This can be achieved by selecting proposals which benefit a large number of persons (directly or indirectly). Alternatively, proposals which benefit a small number of persons can be justified on the grounds of greater need.
4. Regard should be had to the extent to which an applicant has already benefited from the Bequest.
5. Applications should be for single payments and not for continuing support beyond any one financial year.

#### **NOTE:**

The foregoing are purely guidelines which may be departed from on good cause shown.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

#### **MISS BESSIE C ROXBURGH JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2005 AT 1003 HOURS IN DARVEL TOWN HALL, DARVEL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Robert McDill, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson and Stuart Finlayson; and Darvel & District Community Council Representatives: George Dalziel and Les Pittams.

**ATTENDING:** Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; and Robert McCormick, Accountancy Assistant;

**APOLOGIES:** Darvel and District Community Council Representative: Max Flemmich.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Robert McDill, Chair.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. There was submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of the previous meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee held on 27 August 2004 (circulated).

#### **BACKGROUND REPORT**

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which summarised, for information, the purpose and administration of the Miss Bessie C Roxburgh Bequest contained in her draft disposition and settlement registered on 26 October 1981. This deed directed her executors to pay over the residue of her estate "to the common good fund of the Burgh of Darvel to be used in such manner as the town Council of said Burgh would think fit".

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance on the current fund balances and the amount available for disbursement in the current year.

The sum available for disbursement to local groups, was one half of the interest received on funds invested during the previous year (£504.00) and any additional revenue the Trustees wished to utilise to further support their decisions.

#### **SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS**

4. There was submitted and noted a summary of eight applications received for consideration as at 17 August 2005 (circulated).

In addition one late application had been received from Darvel Angling Club copies of which were circulated.

## APPLICATIONS

5. There were submitted nine applications totalling £1,520.00 received for consideration by the Joint Advisory Committee (circulated).

It was agreed to recommend to the Irvine Valley Local Committee that awards be made as follows:-

### Applications Approved:-

Darvel Horticultural Society - £90.00 contribution to running costs for annual horticultural show;

Darvel Lunch Club and Transport Group - £190.00 contribution to annual running costs;

Darvel Football Club - £150.00 for goal nets, footballs and medical equipment;

Mr Peter Orr (on behalf of Darvel Improvement Group) – £250.00 to purchase stone desk from Kingstone (Kilwinning) to display a plaque of six regiments based in Darvel during World War II, supplied by Darvel Improvement Group;

Darvel Childminders - £150.00 contribution towards bus hire for outing for children who use the service to be held during school holidays (July or October) subject to submission of organisations most recent financial accounts.

Loudoun Musical Society - £120.00 for transport for senior citizens to attend performance of "Summer Holiday" at the Palace Theatre during September 2005;

Darvel Friends of Guiding - £150.00 contribution towards repair costs of suspended ceiling in main hall;

Darvel's Skaters Group - £100.00 for a bus trip to Perth outdoor skate park;

Darvel Angling Club - £150.00 towards costs for organising juvenile fishing competition.

The meeting terminated at 1030 hours.