

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2005

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM AWARDS CEREMONY SASKATOON, CANADA – 24 SEPTEMBER 2005

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the sub-committee of a request from Sorn Community Council for financial assistance to allow a member of the community to attend the awards ceremony for International Communities in Bloom 2005 in Saskatoon, Canada on 24th September 2005.
- 1.2 To consider the attendance of Elected Members at the above event.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 With considerable support from the Council, Sorn has been very successful in the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom competition having twice been winner. The village is in the finals again this year and the result will be known in mid-September.
- 2.2 Sorn also won their class last year in the Britain in Bloom competition and won a gold medal from the Royal Horticultural Society which is the highest award possible. However, the rules of this competition do not permit entry two years running.
- 2.3 As a result of the above, the village were invited to participate in the International Communities in Bloom competition and following judging on 2nd, 3rd and 4th August, have succeeded in getting through to the finals. This competition is of the highest standard and this is a significant achievement since the category in which Sorn is placed covers towns and villages with a population of up to 20,000. Other finalists include Dyce, Wetherby, four towns in Canada and one in Japan.
- 2.4 The award ceremony takes place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada on 24th September 2005 and is part of an international conference on environmental issues which runs from 21-24 September. Each of the finalists has the opportunity at the conference to promote their own area.
- 2.5 A request has been received from the Sorn in Bloom Committee for financial assistance to allow one member of the community to attend the award ceremony. Enquiries have been made of Aberdeen City Council to establish if they are providing support to Dyce and they have confirmed that they are funding the attendance of the local Elected Member and a member of Dyce Community Council at the ceremony.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of attendance including travel and accommodation will be in the region of £1500 per person.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The matter can be considered under the community well being provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Attendance would be an opportunity to promote the area, the policies of the Council and in particular the Community Plan and Environmental Strategy.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The International Communities in Bloom competition is a prestigious competition and the village of Sorn has now reached the final. A request has now been received from the Council to provide financial support for one resident of Sorn to attend the award ceremony and at the same time consider attendance by the Council.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the sub-committee:-
- (i) Consider attendance of Elected Members at this event;
 - (ii) Consider the provision of financial support to the Sorn in Bloom group to allow one member of the community to attend; and
 - (iii) Otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services
WS/JS
26th August 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter from Sorn in Bloom dated 16th August 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the above background paper should telephone 01563 576023 and ask to speak to William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

Implementation Officer – william.stafford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk