

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2003

COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT SCHEME: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline applications for financial assistance under the Community Services Department Grants Scheme for Members' consideration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Grants Scheme comprises of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations and the Awards to Bands Grants Scheme. Organisations applying for the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Scheme should serve a national or East Ayrshire wide community and in any case should benefit two or more Local Committee areas. The Awards to Band Scheme contributes towards annual running costs of bands. A total sum of £5,000 is available for distribution to voluntary organisations and bands.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Each application is assessed by officers possessing the appropriate expertise within the Community Services Department according to key criteria areas as outlined in a report to the Leisure Sub Committee of the Community Services Committee on 20th May 1997.
- 3.2 Details of 13 applications are contained within Appendix One with the recommended levels of financial assistance adjusted to reflect the total sum of £5,000 available.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A budget of £49,550 is available for the Community Services Grants Scheme in financial year 2003/2004 of which £44,550 is committed leaving a balance of £5,000. Should the recommendations which are contained within Appendix One be approved this will fully commit the Community Services Grants Scheme budget for financial year 2003/04.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All Grants to the Community Services Grants Scheme are assessed utilising key criteria, which relates to the Council's Leisure Strategy and other core strategies and policies.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 13 applications have been received from voluntary organisations and bands details of which are displayed in Appendix One. Should Members approve the recommendations, the budget for the Community Services Grant Scheme 2003/04 would be fully committed.
- 7.2 Further applicants to the scheme during the current financial year will be advised that the budget is fully committed and would be provided with information on alternative funding mechanisms for specific projects where appropriate.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Members approve, refuse or defer the applications as detailed in Appendix One.
- 8.2 It is recommended that Members note the advice which would be forwarded to other applicants to the scheme during the financial year 2003/04.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/AH/AM

25 August 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Applications from Voluntary Organisations.
2. Report entitled 'Grants to Voluntary Organisations Scheme: Applications for Financial Assistance' to Leisure Sub-Committee of the Community Services Committee on 20 May 1997.

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services,

Implementation Officer: john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 September 2003

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SCHEME

ORGANISATION BY HEADINGS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	IMPACT/CONTRIBUTION TO EAST AYRSHIRE	AMOUNT REQUESTED 2003/2004	RECOMMENDATION
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HERTIAGE:

Doors Open Day - Ayrshire	<p>On Sunday 7 September 2003, the objective is to arrange for 50 buildings to be open free for local visitors and others to view inside. The focus is on built heritage.</p> <p>Application to support administration, postage, insurance, publicity, leaflets, posters and banners.</p> <p>(Total Project Cost £ 4620)</p>	Direct impact – The event represents good value for money and East Ayrshire Buildings are well represented. The group have been taking advice from Local Authority Officers to increase school involvement and through the East Ayrshire Craft Officer they now provide space within the venues for craft makers to demonstrate their skills.	£1500	£950
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COMMENTS

The application intersects with the Leisure Strategy under the Museums and Arts aim MS3 – to enhance the significance of buildings. With the involvement of craft makers, it now also intersects with the Arts and Cultural Development Aim AC2 – to offer appropriate support to individuals and groups developing skills and excellence across a range of arts activities.

ORGANISATION BY HEADINGS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	IMPACT/CONTRIBUTION TO EAST AYRSHIRE	AMOUNT REQUESTED 2003/2004	RECOMMENDATION
ENVIRONMENTAL:				
West of Scotland Begonia Society	<p>To support the cost of show, rosettes, trophies / prizes and Judges Expenses.</p> <p>The show takes place in East Ayrshire</p> <p>(Total Project Cost £1090.97)</p>	<p>Direct impact on East Ayrshire community. The show, in conjunction with Sorn Horticultural Society attracts growers from East Ayrshire and surrounding area and instruction/advice is freely given to all interested parties. The show allows residents of East Ayrshire to view at a local level, National Standards of plant propagation.</p>	£50	£50
COMMENTS				
<p>The group has 71 members. The application intersects with aims within the Leisure Strategy and Environment Strategy.</p>				

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SPORT:

Boy's and Girl's Clubs (Glasgow & South West Scotland)	The application is to support a varied and substantial programme of activities through out the year for member clubs. The application is also towards general administration costs of the organisation. (Total Project Cost £10,916)	Although none of the events will take place in East Ayrshire, Sports Clubs from the area will be able to participate in the events. The organisation has a good membership base from East Ayrshire and the events will provide an excellent opportunity for young people from various backgrounds to come together and participate in a sports festival.	£2000	£500
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COMMENTS

The application intersects with Sports Development aims within the Leisure Strategy – To ensure that young people have opportunities to take part in a wide range of sports and to identify, nurture and support talented sports persons.

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SPORT:

Sports for Special Needs	<p>Hire of swimming pool for weekly training for young people who have a disability.</p> <p>(Total Project Cost £ 3,250)</p>	<p>Direct impact to East Ayrshire community. The group provides weekly swimming sessions for children and young people who have a disability and encourages and supports members who participate in galas and recreation fun days. The group also provides support to families of disabled children and organises social events which contributes to building the self – esteem and self confidence of the participants as well as providing much needed respite for the families.</p> <p>The group meets many of the Councils core strategies which include the Leisure Strategy and equal opportunity strategies as the group reduces social isolation felt by disabled people, it enables children and young people with disabilities to reach their full potential as well as allowing them to participate in recreation and sporting activities. The club currently has 82 members.</p>	£2,250	£1450
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COMMENTS

The assessing officer reports that this is an extremely valuable service to children and families with disabilities. Without this grant it would be difficult for this group to continue providing such a full programme. The Council's Leisure Strategy is met by providing equal opportunity for all regardless of ability. The group has produced several medal winning swimmers throughout the years however more important than the clubs results are the social and mental benefits which flow from the work carried out by the club to each participant and their families.

ORGANISATION BY HEADINGS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	IMPACT/CONTRIBUTION TO EAST AYRSHIRE	AMOUNT REQUESTED 2003/2004	RECOMMENDATION
ARTS AND CULTURAL:				
Ayrshire Music Festival Association	Running Costs associated with holding the annual music festival. The festival promotes music, speech and drama in Ayrshire through a competitive process. Costs include adjudicators fees and expenses, administrative costs, printing, insurance and trophies. (Total Project Cost £13,000)	The festival is competitive which is not ideal however it does encourage participation in the arts in a broad sense, both for pupils and their parents or guardians.	£500	£300
COMMENTS Intersects with Arts Aims within Leisure Strategy.				

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ARTS AND CULTURAL:

The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland	<p>The grant will be used to fund the continuing work of The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland which aims to provide opportunities in orchestral and jazz training for all musicians. The range of activities covers the orchestral spectrum from classical to jazz and includes extensive supplementary educational and outreach work. The application is towards management and administration costs, accommodation and travel for courses, hall rental, publicity, music hire, audition costs and staff costs.</p> <p>(Total Project Cost £650,000)</p>	<p>The group provide no direct benefits to the people of East Ayrshire in terms of performances or formal subsidised places at local level. Consultation with colleagues in the Department of Educational and Social Services indicated that less than five children who reside in East Ayrshire have taken part in this groups work over the past few year. It appears that this group does not intend to visit East Ayrshire or carry out any work in the local area.</p> <p>The applicant has not demonstrated any local benefit from their work and should a grant be awarded, it is recommended that this would be used to significantly reduce the costs of participants from East Ayrshire.</p>	£1000	£0
<p>COMMENTS No evidence of local benefit combined with minimal uptake on places from East Ayrshire</p>				

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ARTS AND CULTURAL:

West of Scotland Charities Band Association	The grant application is towards the West of Scotland Annual Brass Band Championships which in March 2004, is taking place in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. Brass Bands from all over Scotland will be attending this competition. The grant application is towards hall rental, adjudicator expences and prizes.	This event will attract visitors to the area and will raise the profile of Brass Band Music. It is anticipated that 2 brass bands from East Ayrshire will participate in the event.	£1250	£200
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COMMENTS

Whilst been a worthwhile and quality event, the group are already receiving a 50% reduction in the standard hire rate of the Grand Hall. The costs detailed within the application seem high compared with financial information provided within the Organisation's balance sheet. It is also felt that there were opportunities for this organisation to increase the entry charges to the event and consider seeking sponsorship.

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ARTS AND CULTURAL:

Dalmellington Senior Band	The grant requested is towards Band Hall Equipment, conductor fees, transport costs and the purchase of music.	Direct impact to East Ayrshire. The Dalmellington Band in its long history of almost 140 years has established a high reputation as a first class musical ensemble.	£2000	£300
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COMMENTS

The Council's criteria for Bands will not support the purchase of equipment however the conductor fees, transport costs and purchase of music are legitimate expenditure.

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ARTS AND CULTURAL:

Dalmellington Junior Band	The grant requested is towards music, transport instrument maintenance, affiliation fees and workshop costs.	Direct impact to East Ayrshire. The Dalmellington Junior Band provides excellent training for young musicians. The junior band is a good ambassador and presents a positive image of Dalmellington and East Ayrshire.	£400	£300
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COMMENTS

The Junior Band provides high quality music for many events in East Ayrshire and elsewhere.

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ARTS AND CULTURAL:

Kilmarnock Pipe Band	The grant requested is towards the hire of premises for band practice.	The Kilmarnock Pipe Band provides high quality music for the public in East Ayrshire and beyond. They are ambassadors for Kilmarnock and East Ayrshire when they play in other parts of the Country.	£400	£300
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COMMENTS

The band contribute to keeping alive the tradition of this Scottish musical form.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Crime Stoppers Scotland	To give people in East Ayrshire awareness, understanding and trust of Crimestoppers as a tool to protect their own safety and that of others. To work in partnership with East Ayrshire Council, voluntary sector, emergency services, businesses and media to engage vulnerable people with Crimestoppers. To support community safety groups, schools, victims, neighbourhood watch, offender and police projects with up to date publicity materials and opportunities to take part in writing and poster competitions and associated schemes. (Total cost £5000)	Direct Impact: The organisation offers the opportunity for the public to report crimes through a free phone number with the option of anonymity. This will contribute to a reduction in crime throughout East Ayrshire and will directly support organisations which already exist within East Ayrshire.	£1000	£450
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COMMENTS

The application intersects with aims within the East Ayrshire Community Safety Strategy and the themes within social inclusion priorities. Crimestoppers has proven to be a worthwhile and long standing organisation and provides a valuable link between police, Council and the community.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Ayr and District Safe Drivers Association	The application is for running costs. The grant would specifically be spend on rental of meeting rooms. (Total Project Cost £2108.57)	Direct Impact: Young drivers are more than twice as likely to be injured in an accident. Any training that can promote safer and improved driving on the roads of East Ayrshire will have a positive impact with communities.	£100	£100
COMMENTS The application supports the aims within the East Ayrshire Community Safety Strategy.				

ORGANISATION BY HEADINGS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	IMPACT/CONTRIBUTION TO EAST AYRSHIRE	AMOUNT REQUESTED 2003/2004	RECOMMENDATION
Recreational Activities:				
Burgh of Cumnock Cage Bird Society	The grant will be used to pay for the running cost of providing an open show and will cover the costs of rosettes, judges expenses, hall rent, stationary, prize money. (Total Project Cost £1165)	Direct impact on East Ayrshire community. Membership open to all and have 40 members from throughout Ayrshire including Cumnock, New Cumnock, Muirkirk, Mauchline and Kilmarnock. The show attracts many local people.	£250	£100
COMMENT The club continues to be a benefit to members of the community and is the only one of its kind in the area. Their activities intersect with some of the aims within the Leisure Strategy.				