

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 11 APRIL 2002

COMMUNITY GRANT: CATRINE VOES TRUST

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to consider a request from Catrine Voes Trust to utilise a community grant for a purpose other than that which was originally approved.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 20 June 2001, the Local Committee considered an application for community grant from Catrine Voes Trust. The Trust sought a grant of £3,200 in respect of a feasibility study (weir stabilisation and fish pass) - £6,000; contract work (one year) in connection with fishery - £8,000; and administration costs (fishery and general) - £3,000; total cost £17,000. The Trust proposed to fund the project by meeting the cost of £2,800 from their own resources (including £500 "in-kind") with the remainder of the cost to be met from external funding in respect of which applications had been made to various agencies including the Local Committee under the Community Grants budget.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Local Committee's decision, approval of a grant of 11.75% of the total project cost, up to a maximum of £2,000, was issued in July 2001. The grant award was subject to the group securing funding from other sources in respect of the balance of the overall costs.
- 2.3 The proposed project formed one element of a larger programme of environmental works to the lands and waterways owned by the Trust around Catrine Voes to establish a nature reserve and was to be carried out in conjunction with Catrine Angling Club to establish a hatchery for the stocking of the Voes and stretches of the River Ayr.

3. CURRENT PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Trust have now intimated that while the feasibility study relating to the weir and fish pass has been undertaken, they have not been able to proceed with the proposed contract work due to delays by the Angling Club in determining how to proceed in respect of their involvement in the project. The Trust now feel that it would not be possible to meet the timescales set out by the Local Committee in terms of the Conditions of Grant, i.e. for the project to be completed by July 2002.
- 3.2 Accordingly, the Trust are now proposing to focus on work recommended in an updated Conservation Management Plan (prepared by consultants on behalf of the Trust) to the woodland element of the proposed local nature reserve.

3.3 The profile of the Trust's project as now proposed, is therefore as follows, namely:-

Costs

Weir study	Actual cost £4,993.25	(prepared)
Conservation Management Plan	Actual cost £2,500.00	(prepared)
Recommended Work	Estimated cost £9,000.00	
Administration Costs	Estimated cost £1,500.00	

Total cost of the project is just under £18,000.00 (based on actual and estimated costs)

Funding

East Ayrshire Council (Local Committee)	£2,000.00
Enterprise Ayrshire	£2,500.00
Historic Scotland	£1,625.43
Scottish Natural Heritage	£1,227.25
East Ayrshire Council (Planning)	£500.00
Contribution in kind (Rural Care Scheme)	£2,000.00
Contribution in kind (Catrine Voes Trust)	<u>£1,200.00</u>
	£11,052.68

The Trust also intend to apply to various organisations for funding to account for the balance of the costs, amounting approximately to £7,000.

4. PRESENT POSITION - COMMUNITY GRANT

4.1 Of the maximum grant award of £2,000 made in this case, the Trust indicate that a sum of £693.25 has been expended as a contribution towards the cost of the Weir Feasibility Study, and a sum of approximately £150.00 has been incurred in respect of administration costs, leaving a maximum unexpended balance of £1,155.25.

4.2 The Trust have requested that the Local Committee:-

- (a) agree to allow the Trust to utilise the grant award of up to £2,000 towards meeting the costs of their current proposal as set out in Paragraph 3.3, above; and
- (b) in the meantime, to use part of the community grant award to meet the balance of the cost of the Conservation Management Plan (the total cost of preparation of the Plan was £2,500 of which £1,750 has been accounted for).

5. **FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.**

6. **ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The Director of Community Services has had a detailed assessment carried out in respect of the Trust's current proposals and reports as follows, namely:-

- **Weir Study** - a sum of £693.25 has been expended and this is in accordance with the original grant allocation as approved by the Committee. The Trust still intend to undertake work identified in the feasibility study when possible and therefore a contribution of £693.25 from the grant award for this purpose can be justified.
- **Conservation Management Plan** - Designation of the lands and water ways owned by the Trust as a local nature reserve have been passed in principle by East Ayrshire Council in 1998. As the original Conservation Management Plan had fallen outwith its five year period of operation, formal recognition and full implementation was delayed until such times as an updated Conservation Management Plan was produced. A consultant has now updated the Management Plan, but this cannot be formally released until the costs of preparation of the updated Plan have been met. The Trust have confirmed that half of the cost has been met so far with £500.00 pledged from East Ayrshire Council's Planning Section on condition that the balance of £750.00 is met. Following consultation with the Planning Section and the Dean Castle Country Park, it is apparent that if the Catrine Voes Trust is to receive official designation as a Local Nature Reserve, it is essential that the updated Conservation Management Plan be implemented.

It is recommended that the Trust be granted permission to utilise £750.00 of the original grant award of £2,000 to meet the outstanding balance of the cost of the Conservation Management Plan.

- **Associated Works in Woodland Area** - The Trust is proposing a funding package made up from a range of external funds to undertake much of the prescribed work detailed in the Conservation Management Plan. The Trust has yet to submit funding applications to most of the external funding bodies and therefore it is highly unlikely that the necessary funding package and the work as detailed will be undertaken by the end of June 2002.

It is also unlikely that the Cumnock Area Local Committee's grants process will enable the Trust to successfully apply for Community Grant funding during 2002/2003. Therefore, bearing in mind the mechanism adopted by the Committee for the disbursement of Community Grants, it is recommended that the Trust be allowed to retain the remaining balance, being £405.25, of the original grant in respect of other works detailed in the revised proposal, thereby confirming the Local Committee's support for the proposal and meaning that the Committee's total financial contribution to the revised project would be £2,000. This recommendation is subject to the Trust putting in place a confirmed funding package for the revised proposal and to expenditure being committed before 11 April 2003.

- **Other Issues** - The following comments may also be of interest to the Local Committee, namely:-
 - **Operation of the Trust** - Whilst the Trust has been relatively inactive over the past year and the Trust Directors do not appear to meet very often, there is nothing in the Trust's Articles of Association to suggest that the Trust is acting in an improper fashion. The Trust's apparent inactivity should be addressed if the Conservation Management Plan is supported and both the Council's Planning Section and the Dean Castle Country Park Section would be involved in assisting the implementation of the Conservation Management Plan. However, it is recommended that the Trust be required to ensure that their membership details are up-to-date.
 - **Catrine Angling Club** - Catrine Angling Club are still intending to develop a hatchery, but independently from the Voes Trust. The Club are currently looking at site options and it is unlikely that the hatchery will be in place during 2002.
 - **East Ayrshire Woodlands Scheme** - East Ayrshire Woodlands have been involved in the Chapel Braes area of the Voes. For the work detailed in the Conservation Management Plan, in many cases they have quoted for much of the work.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee give consideration to the request from the Catrine Voes Trust, as set out in Paragraph 4.2, having regard to the information presented in Section 6.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

25 March 2002

SN/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Grant Application from, and correspondence with, Catrine Voes Trust.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576151. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on telephone number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

AGENDA