

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 31 JANUARY 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 have also applied to various organisations for funding to account for the balance of the costs, amounting approximately to £7,000.

**3.4** The Trust are hopeful that the total funding package will be put in place to enable the project to be completed within the timescale required by the Council in terms of the Conditions of Grant, i.e. by July 2002.

## **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, leaving a maximum unexpended balance of £1,306.75.

**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. CONCLUSIONS**

**6.1** While the Trust have been able to carry out the feasibility study in respect of the weir and fish pass, they are not in a position to carry out the originally proposed contract work. This is due to a delay on the part of a third party and in this circumstance the Trust's request for the grant monies to be expended in respect of the Trust's latest proposal as set out in Paragraph 3.3, above, appears reasonable since the monies would be used to meet part of the cost of work in woodlands which form another element of the Trust's overall strategy for development of the local nature reserve. 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.

**6.2** The Trust's latest proposal provides for a reduced level of administration costs (£1,500) compared to the original proposal of (£3,000), which reflects the nature of the amended proposal.

**6.3** The Trust's request to utilise a portion of the community grant award i.e. £750 in order to meet the balance of the cost of the Conservation Management Plan, would seem to be reasonable. The Trust anticipate that their current proposal, will proceed within the required timescale. However, in the event that the Trust are unable to secure funding for the balance of the cost of the current proposal, the Plan would inform works at the woodland area in future.

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**7.1** It is recommended that the Committee give consideration to the requests from the Catrine Voes Trust, as set out in Paragraph 4.2 having regard to the information presented in this report.

Fiona Lees

Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

25 January 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**