

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2003**

**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 matters relating to a community grant award made to Catrine Voes Trust.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This Committee on 20 June 2001, agreed to make a community grant award to Catrine Voes Trust of 11.75% of their total project costs, up to a maximum of £2,000 in respect of the Trust's proposal at that time which was to undertake a Weir Feasibility Study together with associated work in connection with a proposed fishery and administration costs relating thereto. The Trust subsequently carried out the feasibility study and expended some money on administration but did not proceed with works in respect of the fishery due to the breakdown of an agreement which the Trust had with the local Angling Club.

- 2.2 Subsequently, the Trust submitted a revised proposal for use of the £2,000 community grant which was considered by this Committee on 11 April 2002 when it was agreed, namely:-

- to note that the Trust had expended a sum of approximately £150 in respect of administration costs; and
- to allow the Trust to utilise the balance of the grant award of up to £2,000 towards meeting the cost of the revised proposal (Weir Study - £693.00; Conservation Management Plan - £750.00; works in the woodland area - £405.00), subject, amongst other things, to the Trust putting in place a confirmed funding package for the revised proposal and to expenditure being committed before 11 April 2003.

**3. PRESENT POSITION**

- 3.1 As the Members may be aware, the Planning & Building Control Division of the Department of Development Services is currently working on the preparation of a Community Environmental Improvement Action Plan for Catrine, on behalf of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership. It is envisaged that the Action Plan would cover a wide range of regeneration/improvement projects within the community of Catrine over several years. It is the view of the Planning & Building Control Division that any further works associated with the proposed Catrine Voes and Woodlands Local Nature Reserve should be part of the much larger Action Plan since it is

felt that this approach would offer the best opportunity to maximise grant funding from a range of organisations.

- 3.2** The Voes Trust recognise the work being undertaken by the Planning & Building Control Division on the Action Plan and agree with that Division's views in respect of the opportunity for accessing grant funding. Accordingly, the Trust are proposing an amended project as follows:-

<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>£</b>
Weir Study	4,993.25
Updated Conservation Plan	2,580.00
Tree & Shrub planting + 5 year maintenance (Scottish Woodlands)	3,500.00
Chapel Braes maintenance (East Ayrshire Woodlands)	1,250.00
Administration (Catrine Voes Trust)	<u>1,300.00</u>
	<b><u>13,623.25</u></b>

**Funded by:**

East Ayrshire Council (Local Committee)	1,595.00
Enterprise Ayrshire	2,500.00
Historic Scotland	1,625.43
Scottish Natural Heritage	1,227.25
East Ayrshire Council (Planning Department)	500.00
Catrine Voes Trust	225.57
Contribution in kind (Rural Care Scheme)	3,500.00
Contribution in kind (East Ayrshire Woodlands)	1,250.00
Contribution in kind (Catrine Voes Trust)	<u>1,200.00</u>
	<b><u>13,623.25</u></b>

- 3.3** The amended scheme would therefore involve a contribution of £1,595.00 from this Local Committee amounting to 11.7% of the total project cost which comes below the limit specified by this Committee that the total community grant contribution should amount to no more than 11.75% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £2,000. Accordingly, the Trust would require to repay to the Local Committee a sum of £405.00 being that part of the original grant award which the Trust had proposed to expend in respect of work in the woodland area.

**4. DISCUSSION**

- 4.1** The Planning & Building Control Division indicate that the Weir Feasibility Study and the Conservation Management Plan as featured in the amended proposal and which have previously been approved, in principle, for Community Grant funding support from this Local Committee and have already been produced would contribute to the preparation and implementation of the proposed Action Plan. Accordingly, it is suggested that there would be justification for the Committee formally agreeing to allow the Trust to now utilise part of the grant award to assist in meeting the costs

associated with the Weir Feasibility Study and the Conservation Management Plan, being £693.00 and £750.00, respectively.

- 4.2** It is also considered important that any further work within the woodland area be included as part of the much larger Action Plan, rather than carried out in smaller packages. Accordingly, it is also suggested that it would be appropriate for the Committee to now seek repayment from the Trust of that part of grant award in respect of proposed works in the woodland area, i.e. a sum of £405.00, particularly since the Trust have indicated that they will not be proceeding with such works and have intimated their agreement that the sum in question should be returned.
- 4.3** In general terms, any future applications for grant funding in respect of environmental, or similar works, in or around Catrine would be assessed against the provisions of the Action Plan.

## **5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** There are no legal or policy implications arising from this report.
- 5.2** There would be financial implications arising from the report should the Committee wish to seek repayment from the Trust of any part of the community grant awarded. It is anticipated that any monies refunded by the Trust will be available for disbursement by the Local Committee during the 2003/2004 financial year.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) note the current proposals for the preparation and implementation of a Community Environmental Improvement Action Plan, by the Planning & Building Control Division on behalf of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership. This would cover a wide range of regeneration/improvement work within Catrine over a number of years, including works associated with the Catrine Voes and Woodlands Local Nature Reserve;
  - (ii) agree to allow the Trust to utilise part of the outstanding community grant award to meet the cost of the Weir Feasibility Study and the Conservation Management Plan, i.e. £693.00 and £750.00, respectively, on the understanding that these items will contribute to the Action Plan; and
  - (iii) confirm that the Trust should repay that part of the community grant award which had been allocated for the carrying out of works in the woodland area, i.e. a sum of £405.00.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

21 February 2003

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.**