

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DECISION

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Open | | Would any decisions proposed : | | |
| Any especially affected Wards | Discretionary | (a) Be entirely within cabinet's powers to decide YES | | |
| | | (b) Need to be recommendations to Council | | NO |
| | | (c) Be partly for recommendations to Council and partly within Cabinets powers – | | NO |
| Lead Member: Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds E-mail: cllr.elizabeth.nockolds@west-norfolk.gov.uk | | Other Cabinet Members consulted: None | | |
| | | Other Members consulted: None | | |
| Lead Officer: David Thomason E-mail: david.thomason@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616246 | | Other Officers consulted: Sarah Dennis Roger Partridge Les Miller | | |
| Financial Implications YES | Policy/Personnel Implications NO | Statutory Implications (incl S.17) NO | Equal Opportunities Implications NO | Risk Management Implications YES |
| If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s) | | | | |
| Date meeting advertised: 23/05/12 | | Date of meeting decision to be taken: 29/05/12 | | |
| Deadline for Call-In: 07/06/12 | | | | |

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAPITAL GRANTS

Summary

This report details the decisions made in relation to the first round of Financial Assistance Capital Grants for 2012/13.

Recommendation

- Downham Market & District Heritage Society – Award £650
- Heacham Club Charity – Award £10,000 (conditional)
- Hunstanton Sailing Club – Award £10,000 (conditional)
- Old School Community Heritage Project – Award £5,000 (conditional)
- Tilney St Lawrence Village Committee – Award £4,000
- Watlington Short Mat Bowls Club – Award £565
- Wereham Village Hall – Award £15,000 (conditional)
- Westacre Arts Foundation Ltd - £15,000 (conditional)

Reason for Decision

Determination of applications under the Financial Assistance scheme.

A grants panel meeting was held on 17 May 2012 to assess applications for capital grants which fall within the Shared Services and External Relations Portfolio. This report details the recommendations made at this meeting by the Portfolio Holder.

The recommendations featured in this report are subject to the 'call-in' procedure. When the grant decision becomes official the applicants will be notified in writing by the Norfolk Community Foundation on behalf of the Borough Council. All terms and conditions of the grants will be stated in the official offer letter.

Grants of £2,500 or less

| Organisation | Application summary | Amount requested | Amount awarded | Reason why refused or full amount not awarded/ comments |
|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Downham Market & District Heritage Society | To purchase a laptop computer, printer and scanner for the Heritage Centre. | £1,934.00 | £650.00 | One third of capital costs was offered in line with the criteria for this fund. |
| Watlington Short Mat Bowls Club | To replace 2 playing mats. | £1,695.00 | £565.00 | One third of capital costs was offered in line with the criteria for this fund. |
| | | TOTAL | £1,215.00 | |

Grants over £2,500

Heacham Club Charity

The Charity provides sporting, leisure and community facilities to those living in and around Heacham. The organisation has identified that the current sports pavilion is not adequate to meet the community's needs. Due to child protection regulations, there are not enough changing rooms to accommodate all users - regulations do not allow boys and girls, or children and adults, to share changing areas. In addition, there are not enough toilets and the community spaces (kitchen and meeting rooms) are not up to expected standards. Works totalling £268,000 are proposed to upgrade and extend existing facilities. The FA and Football Foundation have been involved in planning, and have pledged up to 50% of total costs. Sport England have also pledged £50,000 in principle. The group has already raised an additional £22,000 through local fundraising, and other bids are underway.

Requested - £15,000

Awarded - £10,000 (on the conditional that the other funds needed are secured)

Hunstanton Sailing Club

The club is located on the North sea front in Hunstanton, and offers a range of water sports. There are currently 176 members, including some disabled people for whom the centre offers the only opportunity locally to sail at sea. The current club house was built in the 1980s and is both limited for current needs, and proving impractical to repair. It is proposed that this building will be replaced with a larger structure, including more space for changing, better

disabled facilities, storage for the rescue boat and other equipment, flexible training/ event space and an office. This will enable the club to cater for more people, and host national events for which it currently lacks the capacity. Works will cost c. £347,000. To date £15,000 has been raised by the club, and applications amounting to c.£400,000 have been submitted.

Requested - £15,000

Awarded - £10,000 (on the conditional that the other funds needed are secured)

Old School Community Heritage Project

The Project was formed in 2003 as a registered charity to take forward the project to put the building into community use. Once complete, the building will offer a central base for a wide range of community groups, public meetings and a local archive plus digital community cinema and an IT suite. All of these elements have been included in plans in response to local consultation. Works are expected to cost £500,000 in total - the majority of this sum is expected to come from a £400,000 bid to the Heritage Lottery. At this time the Financial Assistance Scheme offered a contribution of £5,000, and the group will be encouraged to apply again to the fund for support towards interior fitting out and equipment.

Requested - £15,000

Awarded - £5,000 (on the conditional that the other funds needed are secured)

Tilney St Lawrence Village Committee

The committee is seeking to develop an area on the vilage hall site to create a new covered recreation space to provide a social area, primarily for families, away from the sports/ play area in the hall grounds. This will have a tarmac surface and will include benches, picnic tables, barbecues and cantilever roofing that will enable all year round use by the community. This project has arisen from consultation with local residents, groups and schools, who have all shown support for plans to put into use this overgrown and largely unused area adjacent to the village hall. Works will costs £51,798 in total and much of this will be covered by a grant from WREN. Third party funding of £4,000 is requested from this panel to enable the group to draw down this grant.

Requested - £4,000

Awarded - £4,000

Wereham Village Hall

Funds are requested towards a large scale capital project to build a new village hall for Wereham, as the current building is no longer viable. The existing hall is 90 years old, and is an ex-WW1 wooden hut. Structural surveys have indicated that it is no longer viable to repair, and is likely to remain usable for a further 12 months at best, with reduced usage advised. The village has recently lost its shop, post office and school, leaving the hall as the only public place for local people to meet. Villagers have been encouraged to take part in consultations to ensure the new building will meet the needs of all potential users. The cost of the new build is estimated at £200,000. Large scale bids to the lottery and WREN are underway.

Requested - £15,000

Awarded - £15,000 (on the conditional that the other funds needed are secured)

Westacre Arts Foundation Ltd

The group has secured planning permission to construct a new building on the current site to increase and improve its facilities. This work has been divided into 2 phases - the first will see the extension of the studio, and create a new creative arts space (total cost £407,450), and the second will create a 150 seat performing arts space (estimated cost £1.1million). These developments are proposed to meet demand from audiences and participants, as performances as well as workshops and training opportunities are regularly over subscribed. This additional capacity would also enable the group to become more sustainable with increased income. Phase 1 of this project is expected to begin in September 2012 and complete by April 2013.

Requested - £15,000

Awarded - £15,000 (on the conditional that the other funds needed are secured)

Financial Implications

The total Financial Assistance Capital Grants budget for 2012/13 is summarised as follows:

| | £ |
|--|---------------|
| Financial Assistance Capital Grants budget 2012/13 | 74,500 |
| Commitments | |
| This report | 60,215 |
| Community and Culture Capital Grants already approved in 2012/13 | 0 |
| Total Commitments | 60,215 |
| Balance Of Funds Available 2012/13 | 14,285 |

There is sufficient budget provision to cover all recommendations in this report.

Policy Implications

The applications are in line with the Corporate Strategic Objectives.

Statutory Implications

None.

Risk Implications

Failure to assist local, voluntary organisations in helping meet the Borough Council's corporate objectives.

Access to Information

Completed grant application forms for each funding request.

Signed:

Cabinet Member for

Date

Swinter/templates /delegated decision header