

COMMUNITY CHEST

Submitted by: Sara Shuker

Portfolio: Resources and Efficiency

Ward(s) affected: All Wards affected

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of Community Chest applications processed at the time of writing this report for the period April 2011 to December 2012.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Panel note the applications received & processed to date.**
- (b) That the Panel consider application from Wye Road Community Centre.**
- (c) That the Panel consider a proposed change to the criteria.**
- (d) That the Panel consider the response to an objection from Audley Parish Council.**

1. Background

- 1.1 68 applications have been received for the financial year 2012/13 from 14 Locally Based Bodies.
 - Grants totalling £33,392.65 have been awarded from £52,709.54 applied for.
 - 32 received full grants applied for, 26 received partial grants, 6 applications refused, 1 application was withdrawn, 1 awaiting further information, 1 application waiting for applicant to secure match funding before monies released, 1 application to be considered by the Panel.
 - WRCC 1213 03 Wye Road Community Centre, Senior Citizens Christmas Party – they are holding a party on 16 December 2012 for 80 elderly residents to purchase table decorations, food refreshments, they are applying for £900.00, they have volunteers helping with the food preparations and refreshments.
- 1.2 Audley Parish Council has made an objection in writing to a decision by the Borough Council to overturn their recommendation not to award a grant.
- 1.3 A change in the criteria is recommended in respect of public sector applications.

2. Issues

- 2.1 An application received from Wye Road Community Centre requires Panel decision.
- 2.2 The Panel overturned Audley Parish Council's recommendation not to award an applicant a grant on the basis that we considered that the reason they stated was unsubstantiated and erroneous.
- 2.3 Audley Parish Council raised an objection (by e-mail and letter) to the Panel's decision and to the fact that it did not refer the matter back to them with our concerns about their decision.

- 2.4 The current criteria state that “The Community Chest cannot support the activities of public sector bodies, for example school or social services activities.....Applications from public sector bodies will only be accepted if it can be demonstrated that they are acting on behalf of, and with the support of, a voluntary or community group(s).”
- 2.5 A recent application from Staffordshire Police has been received that did not show that it was either on behalf of, or with the support of, a voluntary or community group(s).
- 2.6 Following discussions with the Partnership Manager at the Borough Council, and the Partnerships Manager for Staffordshire Police (Newcastle), your officers recommend amending the criteria to remove the following text – “Applications from public sector bodies will only be accepted if it can be demonstrated that they are acting on behalf of, and with the support of, a voluntary or community group(s).”

3. **Options Considered**

Not applicable

4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 That the Panel consider approval of the application from Wye Road Community Centre.
- 4.2 That the Panel considers its response to Audley Parish Council’s objection to the Borough Council’s decision.
- 4.3 That the Panel consider approval of the amendment to the criteria, and that this be reviewed at the Community Chest review in February 2013.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 Wye Road Community Centre acts as a Locally Based Body and therefore cannot determine its own application, hence the referral to Panel for decision.
- 5.2 Clearly stating that the public sector cannot apply will avoid any confusion on the part of all involved.
- 5.3 The Panel is the logical body to consider objections from Locally Based Bodies to Community Chest decisions.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 All applications approved cover a range of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

Not applicable.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 A breakdown of the current budgets for the Locally Based Bodies 2012/13 will be available at the meeting.

10. **Major Risks**

Not applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

Not applicable.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Not applicable.

13. **List of Appendices**

Not applicable

15. **Background Papers**

Applications made from April 2012 to December 2012
WRCC 1213 03 Wye Road Community Centre application
APC 1213 05 Audley Cricket Club application.
Letter from Audley Parish Council - 2 November 2012