

GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 3RD JULY 2008

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

1.1 The Panel's budget for 2008/2009 is £201,728. The following amounts have been allocated to date:-

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief	143,000
Grants awarded by Panel	
Royal Welsh Show Feature contribution*	3,000
Grants determined by Officers in consultation with Chairman and Vice Chairman	4,115
Trophies, footballs etc	
Total Expenditure	150,115

- At the Cabinet meeting of 19th February 2008, it was agreed that a contribution of £3,000 would be paid in respect of the above from the Grants to Voluntary Sector budget. This commitment has been included in the statement of expenditure.

Therefore, the balance available for grants to the voluntary sector is £51,613, In addition, 50% of the 2007/08 underspend will be carried forward to supplement this years budget in accordance with the Authority's financial policy, an amount of £4,220.

The total of amounts requested for applications listed in this report is £10,220. In addition there are a number which do not specify amounts.

2. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2.1 The current general criteria for awarding financial assistance are listed below:-

Annual Award	£
(a) OAP Association with own building	250
(b) OAP Association without own building	130
(c) Junior Sports Club	45 per number of members
(d) Individuals representing Wales at home	130
(e) Individuals representing Wales overseas	250
(f) Jazz Bands	70
(g) Choirs	70
(h) Scout/cubs/brownies/guides/boys brigade/crusaders	45 per number of members

(i) St John Ambulance:-	
Cadets	70 per number of members
Badgers	45 per number of members
(j) Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA's with own premises	470
(k) Youth Associations without own premises	45 per number of members
(l) Brass and Silver Bands	500
(m) Allotment Associations	50

All other applications for sponsorship and miscellaneous grants are treated on their merits.

2.2 A total of 27 new applications have been received and are appended below for consideration.

2.2.1 **Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children**

This Welsh Charity offers assistance to young people with a hearing impediment, to enhance their educational and social development. The Foundation is active in this area and during 2007, grants totalling £1,100 were made to individuals. In past years £100 has been provided.

2.2.2 **East Wales Regional Athletics Council**

The Regional Athletics Championships were held at Brecon on Sunday 11th May. Any donation towards the cost would be gratefully accepted. In past years £50 has been provided although no application has been received since 2003/2004. There is no record of Leisure Services having been approached for funding.

2.2.3 **Eisteddfod y Cymoedd (Valleys Eisteddfod)**

The first Valleys Eisteddfod was held in Caerffili County Borough during October 2007 and was well supported by local schools and community groups. The 2008 event will be held on 17th October at Lewis Girls School and financial assistance is again requested. Last year £200 was awarded in respect of the first application.

2.2.4 **Pontllanfraith Children's Contact Centre**

The above is a registered charity that has recently opened. The Centre provides a neutral meeting place for children from separated families and will offer supported contact sessions with family members. The first year running costs, including start-up costs are expected to be in excess of £9,000 and unspecified financial assistance is sought. Social Services have been approached with a view to ascertaining the likely number of referrals but to date no response has been forthcoming.

2.2.5 **Royal Engineers Association, Abergavenny & Heads of the Valleys Branch**

The above held their annual parade at Brynmawr on 1st June. A number of members are from this area and a donation is sought towards the cost of the parade. Last year £50 was provided.

2.2.6 **Bargoed, Aberbargoed & Gilfach Credit Union**

The Union has paid business rates of £378.63, including small business relief, on its premises in Aberbargoed and a grant of that amount is requested as no rate relief is available to credit unions. The Panel has provided similar grants for a number of years and also supports two other credit unions with grants for a similar purpose.

2.2.7 **Caerphilly & District Credit Union Ltd**

As in 2.2.6 above, the Union has paid business rates of £4,776.50 on its premises in Caerphilly. A grant of that amount is requested. The Panel has provided grants of between £1884 and £4592 to the above in recent years for a similar purpose.

2.2.8 **Islwyn Community Credit Union**

Business Rates of £125.24 are due on the Union's premises in Blackwood as in 2.2.6 and 2.2.7 above. The Panel has provided grants of between £1445 and £1944 to the above in recent years for a similar purpose. A lower amount is requested this year due to the premises being vacated. A further application may be submitted once relocation is complete.

- 2.2.9 Arthritis Care, Ystrad Mynach**
Financial assistance is sought towards the cost of transporting members to meetings and outings. In past years £270 has been provided.
- 2.2.10 Blackwood & District Amateur Radio Society**
The above, which has 58 adult and 5 junior members, is seeking a grant of £100 towards running costs and the purchase of training manuals. In past years £100 has been awarded.
- 2.2.11 Caerphilly Local History Society**
The Society currently has a membership of 74. A grant is sought to help with the £230 annual cost of meeting room rental. The Society has been supported for a number of years and £120 has been provided for the last three years.
- 2.2.12 Cefn Hengoed Ladies Friendship Club**
The above is a group of 14 ladies who meet each week. A grant of £100 is requested towards the cost of rent and transport. In past years £35 has been provided.
- 2.2.13 Crosskeys College Choral Society**
The Society held its annual concert at Risca Leisure Centre on the 17th May with guest soloists and Orchestra. The total cost of the production will be in excess of £9,000 and financial assistance is requested. In past years £500 has been awarded in respect of similar productions.
- 2.2.14 Crumlin Women's Institute**
The above has 11 members and is seeking a grant of £140 to pay for the hire of a Hall each month. This is a recurring application and previously £35 has been awarded.
- 2.2.15 Graig-y-Rhacca Environment & Conservation Group**
The above aims to be a platform for the community to develop and focus on environmental and local initiatives. A grant of £500 is sought to help purchase specialised bicycles and equipment to enable local Police Officers to patrol larger areas and inaccessible locations. Schemes will also be set up within the community to improve the standard of cycling and road safety for local children. It has been indicated that, once the bikes and equipment have been purchased, funding will be identified by Gwent Police to set up and run the operations. Initial cost will be around £5,000. A Welsh Church Fund application for the same purpose is also included at 3.9.
- 2.2.16 Machen over 50's Club**
The above has 40 members and aims to provide social activities and educational talks. A grant of £100 is sought to help pay for coach trips. For the past two years £50 has been provided.
- 2.2.17 Pengam & Fleur de Lis Community Flower Festival**
A Committee has been formed to try and make the festival an annual event involving the whole community. A grant of £400 is requested in order to fund the Festival.
- 2.2.18 The Really Cuckoo Company, St Mary's, Risca**
The above is a Theatre Company that aims to give young people an opportunity to develop personal skills whilst entertaining the local community. The Company has 22 junior and 21 adult members and is seeking an unspecified grant to help with running costs. In 2004/2005, £120 was awarded in respect of the first application. This would currently equate to £90 based on the number of junior members. A Welsh Church Fund application for equipment is also appended at 3.10.
- 2.2.19 Roundhouse Promotions – Crosskeys and Risca Sports Awards**
Roundhouse Promotions is a voluntary group that was formed recently to organise the Crosskeys and Risca Sports Awards. The first event will take place at Risca Leisure Centre on 3rd October. Unspecified financial assistance is sought to meet pre-event costs such as printing, publicity and advertising.

2.2.20 Rhymney Valley Music Club

The above aims to promote the advancement of music by arranging eight professional concerts each year. A grant of £500 is requested to help with the cost, which is estimated at £6,000. In 2006/07, £200 was awarded in respect of the first application (ie £100 + £100).

2.2.21 Rhymney Valley East Route Flying Club

The above has 17 adult members and aims to promote pigeon racing at all levels in the Caerphilly CBC area. A grant of £100 is sought to help with running costs. This is the first application. Adult hobby clubs are normally supported with grants in the region of £35 to £50. A Welsh Church Fund application for equipment is also included at 3.8.

2.2.22 Ystrad Mynach Community Partnership

The Partnership was established in 2006 to support the processes of regeneration and community development in Ystrad Mynach. A grant of £2,500 is requested to help with the cost of a community fun day to be held on 19th July. A similar amount was awarded last year in respect of start-up costs of the partnership. In the past, the Panel has provided initial funding to Community Partnerships but not repeat grants.

2.2.23 Ystrad Fawr Formation Dance Team – “ABBA”

The above are British Formation Team Champions and are raising funds to compete again next year. The team has been supported for several years with grants of £90.

2.2.24 Ystrad Fawr Formation Dance Team 2 – “FANTASIA”

The team, consisting of eighteen children aged 9 to 11, was formed in 2007 and danced their first competition in March 2008. They are now raising funds in order to compete at Blackpool in 2009 and are seeking financial assistance. Last year £180 was awarded in respect of their first application (£90 + £90).

2.2.25 Alun Roberts, Blackwood – Summer Camp

Mr Roberts is a second-year degree student who has been awarded a placement at a summer camp in the USA, where he will help teach young children to swim and teach basic lifeguard skills. The cost of the trip is £395 and Mr Roberts is seeking financial assistance. The Panel has not supported similar applications in the past.

2.2.26 Samar Wafa, Caerphilly – BHF Cuba Trek

In November, Ms Wafa will be trekking 100km across Cuba in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. She is committed to raising a minimum of £3,000 and has requested a grant of £500-£1000. The Panel has not supported similar applications in the past.

2.2.27 Elizabeth Elsey, Aberbeeg – Oasis India Project

Ms Elsey has been offered a place with the charity Oasis Trust to volunteer in India and Bangladesh for six months from October 2008. The projects include working with street children and community development for girls. In order to take part Ms Elsey must raise a sum of £3,900 for Oasis and an unspecified donation is sought. The Panel has not supported similar applications in the past.

3. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

3.1 At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that the following criteria would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund.

- (i) A grant of no more than £1,500 be given to partly fund projects of £4,500 and over;
- (ii) Smaller projects less than £4,500 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost;
- (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred;
- (iv) No organisation be allowed to apply in consecutive years.

The Council's annual allocation from the Fund is £46,045. The total of grants awarded so far this year is £6,000 (as listed in 3.2), and therefore the balance available is £40,045. Eight new applications are appended below. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £11,020.

3.2 **Previous Decisions**

At the meeting of 20th March, the Panel were asked to approve Welsh Church Fund grants for 2008/2009 in respect of applicants who were not eligible until this financial year. The minute of the meeting records that "any approvals be paid from the 2008/2009 allocation". Members are therefore asked to confirm that the following are awarded grants up to a maximum of £1500:

- St Augustine's Church, Pontllanfraith
- St David's Church, Fleur de Lis
- St Peters RC Church, Bargoed
- Ty Isaf Baptist Church, Pontymister

3.3 **Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Tredegar**

The Church has recently been rewired at a cost of £14,076. The maximum grant is requested.

3.4 **Emmanuel Church, Machen**

The Church has purchased a printer/copier, computer and software at a total cost of £5,026. A grant of £1500 is requested.

3.5 **Newbridge Methodist Church**

A programme of improvements is being undertaken in order to make the building and grounds more accessible to the Community. Total cost of the project is in excess of £20,000 and a grant of £1,500 is requested.

3.6 **St Anne's Church, Cefn Hengoed**

A grant of £1500 is sought towards the cost of a new roof. The project is estimated to cost in excess of £20,000.

3.7 **"ENABLE" supporting Caerphilly Children's Centre**

Enable, a registered charity, is raising funds to build a therapy extension to house a floor-level trampoline that will allow severely disabled children the opportunity to experience this type of activity. Total cost of the project is £200,000 and a grant of £1500 is requested.

3.8 **Rhymney Valley East Route Flying Club**

The above aims to purchase a number of electronic timing systems for pigeon racing. These would be for use by current and new members. The quoted cost is £6,778 and a grant of £1500 is requested. A grant for running costs is also requested at 2.2.21 above.

3.9 **Graig-y-Rhacca Environment & Conservation Group**

A grant of £1500 is sought to help purchase specialised bicycles to enable local Police Officers to patrol larger areas and inaccessible locations. Schemes will also be set up within the community to improve the standard of cycling and road safety for local children. Total cost of the scheme will be around £5,000. An application for financial assistance from the Panel's budget for the same purpose is also included at 2.2.15.

3.10 **The Really Cuckoo Company, St Mary's Risca**

The above is a Theatre Company based at St Mary's Church Hall with 21 adult and 22 junior members. The group has recently purchased a follow spotlight and video camera to aid productions. The cost is £1,560 and a grant of £520 would represent one third. A grant towards running costs is also included at 2.2.18.

4. TROPHIES, FOOTBALLS ETC

- 4.1 It has been the practice of the Panel in recent years to retain an amount in respect of trophies, footballs etc to be presented often by members, at a variety of appropriate Local Authority organised sporting competitions. The Sports Development Team arranges a number of events every year and the Organisations supported are mostly voluntary groups, community clubs and schools.
- 4.2 Last year £1,000 was allocated for this purpose and the Panel is asked to consider whether to continue this practice.

5. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

- 5.1 The following grants have been awarded in accordance with the agreed criteria:-

Reference	Name of Organisation	Grant Awarded £
2007/2008		
223/07	Bargoed YMCA (Including Junior Sports)	830
224/07	Pentwynmawr Ladies Choir	70
225/07	1st Cefn Fforest (Trinity) Guides	135 + 135
226/07	1st New Tredegar Rainbows	45 + 45
227/07	1st Trinant Brownies	45
228/07	Malcolm Allen, Newbridge – Shooting	250
229/07	Nigel King, Caerphilly – Pool	130
230/07	Ioan Rees, Hengoed - Chess	250
231/07	Sioned Rees, Hengoed – Chess	250
232/07	Gilfach A & A Residents Association	130
233/07	Jamie Bussell, Pentwynmawr – Athletics	130
2008/2009		
001/08	Brithdir 55-65 Club	130
002/08	Gilfach OAP Welfare Committee	250
003/08	Llanbradach OAP Welfare Committee	250
004/08	Maesycwmmer OAP Association	250
005/08	Abercarn Cricket Club	180
006/08	Heolddu Gymnastics Club	225
007/08	Pontymister Youth Football Club	540
008/08	Ryan Banwell, Bargoed – Roller Hockey	250
009/08	Richard Vaughan, Llanbradach – Badminton	250
010/08	Georgia Haines, Abercarn – Gymnastics	250
011/08	Hannah Bateman, Wattsville – Gymnastics	250
012/08	Laura Bateman, Wattsville - Gymnastics	250
013/08	Leah-Marie Hill, Pontywaun – Ballroom Dancing	130
014/08	Paige Jones, Croespenmaen – Ballroom Dancing	130
015/08	Leigh Marshall-Gilbert, Abercarn – Ballroom Dancing	130
016/08	Laura Pople, Newbridge – Ballroom Dancing	130
017/08	Jordan Storey, Pentwynmawr – Ballroom Dancing	130
018/08	Emily Penson, Wattsville – Gymnastics	130
019/08	Victoria Williams, Rhymney – Gymnastics	130
020/08	Anthony Harris, Cwmcarn – Bowls	130