



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL - 23RD MARCH 2009

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 £199,261. The following amounts have been allocated to date:-

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief	162,000
Grants awarded by Panel	12,574
Royal Welsh Show Feature contribution*	3,000
Grants determined by Officers in consultation with Chairman and Vice Chairman	25,950
Trophies, footballs etc	1,000
Total Expenditure	204,524

- 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.

Therefore, the 2008/2009 budget is currently overspent by £5,263. After allowing for the carry forward of the 2007/2008 underspend (£4,220), the net overspend so far this year is £1,043.

The total of amounts requested for applications listed in this report is £8,400. 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.

A total of 24 new applications have been received and are appended below for consideration.

2.2 **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**

During the 2008 Eisteddfod, almost 5000 competitors travelled to Llangollen to compete in a unique atmosphere of goodwill and understanding. The 2009 Festival will be held in July and Local Authorities throughout Wales and the Borders are being asked for financial support but no amount has been specified. The last award by the Panel was £500 in 1999/2000.

2.3 **Cancer Lifeline Upper Rhymney Valley (CLURV)**

The above is a voluntary advice and transport service for cancer sufferers in the Caerphilly CBC area. A grant of £3,500 is requested towards the cost of transporting patients to and from hospital appointments and redecoration of premises. Last year £500 was awarded in respect of the first application.

2.4 **Cascade Carving Club**

The above is a group of 20 adults who aim to enjoy woodcarving together and encourage others to take up the craft. A grant of £200 is requested for the hire of transport to a Woodcarving Show and the purchase of tools. This is the first application. In past years, Hobby Clubs have been awarded £50.

2.5 **Cor Cwm Ni**

This is a local Choir that aims to socialise and entertain through the medium of Welsh. A grant of £500 is sought to help fund a trip to Lannion in May. This is first application. Choirs are normally awarded £70 annually in accordance with the set criteria.

2.6 **Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall**

The building has recently had a cybercafé installed with a grant from Communities at One. The Management Committee would like CCBC to support the facility by networking the computers and providing maintenance. A grant of £1,000 is requested, which is the cost of supporting 10 PC's for one year. Last year £200 was awarded in respect of the first application.

2.7 **Risca Millennium Committee**

The above aims to enhance the community spirit within the local area. A grant of £1,000 is requested to help finance the annual Carnival and Fete. Last year £200 was provided in respect of the first application.

2.8 **St Martins Ladies Fellowship**

This is a group of 20 ladies who meet fortnightly. An unspecified grant is sought to help pay for a day out in summer. This is the first application. Similar groups have previously been awarded £50.

2.9 **Tirphil Young at Heart**

A grant is sought to help with the cost of educational day trips for the 24 members. No amount has been specified. In past years £35 has been provided.

- 2.10 **Special Olympics GB – Brooklands ATC**
The Special Olympics GB National Summer Games will be held in Leicester during July 2009. A group of 14 athletes who live within the County Borough and attend Brooklands ATC, are hoping to compete as part of the Welsh Team. The cost for each athlete is £450 and the Staff and Coaches are currently fund raising in order for the athletes to achieve their goals. Similar applications were received in 2002 and 2004 and grants of £1,100 were awarded to the team (£100 per member). No application has been received since.
- 2.11 **Trinant Primary School – Lesotho Exchange Visits**
Trinant Primary School is preparing to take part in a Global School Partnership with Christ the King Primary School in Lesotho, South Africa. Teachers from both schools will participate in exchange visits during 2009 and the Partnership will also involve other Community groups. A British Council grant will cover half the cost of the exchange visit but the School has to raise £2,000. Sponsorship is sought but no amount has been specified. The Panel has not supported exchange visits in the past and does not normally support Council establishments such as schools. Five years ago £250 was awarded to Dolen Cymru, an organisation that organises Wales-Lesotho links.
- 2.12 **Friends of Ynysddu Youth**
The above aims to provide recreational, social and educational activities for all young people in the local area. A grant of £200 is requested. Last year £100 was provided.
- 2.13 **Ynysddu Ladies Bowls Club**
This is a newly-formed Club which has 20 adult members and no juniors. A grant of up to £2,000 is requested to purchase Club T-shirts and other uniform clothing for members. The Club has received a Community Chest Equipment grant of £1,000. The Panel normally supports only sports clubs with a junior membership.

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 £39,798, and therefore the balance available is £6,247. Five new applications are appended below. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £5,777.

- 3.2 **St Margaret's Church, Blackwood**
The maximum grant is sought towards a new heating system and kitchen refurbishment. Total cost is estimated to be in excess of £6,000.
- 3.3 **Moriah Welsh Independent Chapel, Rhymney**
A programme of works has recently been completed to prevent rainwater penetration and repair damage. Total cost was £7,390, and the maximum grant is requested.

3.4 **Hills Community Church, Aberbargoed**

The Church has recently been rewired and has fitted new signs due to a change of name. Total cost is £1,990 and £663 would represent one third.

3.5 **St Michael's Church, Tirphil**

The Church is trying to raise £3,000 for repairs to windows and equipment caused by vandalism and also to carry out prevention measures. A grant of £1,000 would represent one third of the cost but it is unlikely that the Church members can raise the additional two thirds.

3.6 **St Paul's Church, Newbridge**

Repairs to the roof and guttering are estimated to cost £3,343. A grant of £1,114 would represent one third.

2009/2010 Applications

The following organisation has submitted an application to the Welsh Church Fund but is not eligible until 2009/2010. Therefore any grant approval will be paid from next year's allocation.

3.7 **St David's Church, Oakdale**

A grant of £1,500 is requested towards an extension to the Church. Total cost of the project is in excess of £130,000.

4. CRITERIA FOR GRANT AID 2009/2010

- 4.1 At the meeting of 19th November 2008, Members made reference to alternative funding arrangements and questioned whether a review of the grants criteria was due. In order to consider this, Members requested a background paper of the existing criteria together with guidance on other grants available from the County Borough.

Further information has been gathered from various Service Areas and a summary is attached at Appendix 1. In addition, a number of projects and organisations that contribute to the Council's strategic priorities are supported via Service Level Agreements.

Support for Voluntary Organisations is also made available via Community First Partnerships.

Should Members require further information on any of these funding sources then a report can be brought before the Panel a later date.

- 4.2 The current general criteria for financial assistance are listed above at 2.1.

Expenditure on the various categories over the past four years is listed below :-

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 (To date)
	£	£	£	£
OAP Associations	4,440	4,200	4,220	3,450
Junior Sport Clubs	7,045	6,185	6,030	3,900
Individuals	10,720	12,520	15,550	13,800
Jazz Bands	180	0	0	0
Choirs	920	1,410	560	920
Scouts/Guides etc	1,925	3,170	2,430	1,915
Youth Associations	3,375	1,880	2,340	1,410

5. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

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

Ref	Name of Organisation	Grant Awarded £
156/08	Darran Valley 55 Club (OAP Association)	130
157/08	Machen Good Companions (OAP Association)	130
158/08	Penllwyn Senior Citizens	130
159/08	Pontlottyn OAP Association	130
160/08	St Martins Ward OAP Association	130
161/08	1st Abercarn Scout Group	135
162/08	1st Blackwood Brownies	90
163/08	1st Cwmcarn Brownies	90
164/08	Cwmcarn Rainbows	45 + 45
165/08	1st Fleur de Lys Brownies	45
166/08	1st Oakdale Rainbows	45
167/08	Rhymney Valley Senior Section Guides	45 + 45
168/08	Cascade Football Club	450
169/08	Caerphilly Inline Skater Hockey Club	135
170/08	Cefn Fforest Boys & Girls Football Club	360
17108	Sophie Adams, Caerphilly – Kickboxing	250
172/08	Carla Parfitt, Pontymister – Football	250
173/08	Jonathan Cook, Blackwood – Karate	130
174/08	Daniel Petrie, Bargoed – Karate	130
180/08	Thomas Baker, Blackwood – Cricket	250
182/08	Ystrad Mynach Boys & Girls Club	470
183/08	Harriet Coates, Caerphilly – Cricket	130
184/08	Lewis Coates, Caerphilly – Cricket	130
185/08	Benjamin Goode, Rhymney - Kickboxing	250
186/08	Matthew Hook, Blackwood - Karate	130
187/08	Caerphilly Aged Persons Welfare Committee	250

188/08	Gilfach OAP Association	130
189/08	2nd Nelson Brownies	90
190/08	1st Trinant Brownies	45
191/08	1st Trinant Rainbows (1st application)	45 + 45
192/08	Bargoed & District Table Tennis Club	90
193/08	Josh Haslam, Llanbradach – Ice Hockey	250
194/08	Darren Morgan, Fleur de Lys – Snooker	250
195/08	Lauren Selway, Caerphilly – Bowls	250
196/08	Ian Slade, Crosskeys – Bowls	250
197/08	Lucy Main, Oakdale – Netball	130
198/08	Joshua Price, Aberbargoed – National Youth Theatre	130
199/08	Sammy-Jo Williams, Abertridwr – Netball	130
200/08	Stephanie Williams, Abertridwr – Netball	130
201/08	Jake Palmer, Gelligaer – Pool	130
202/08	Gerwyn Davies, Caerphilly – Snooker	250
203//08	Pentwynmawr Ladies Choir	70