



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 13TH JULY 2009

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

1.1 The Panel's budget for 2009/2010 is £203,246. The following amounts have been allocated to date:-

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief	173,195
Grants awarded by Panel	
Grants determined by Officers in consultation with Chairman and Vice Chairman Trophies, footballs etc	
Total Expenditure	173,195

Therefore, the balance available for grants to the voluntary sector is £30,051.

The total of amounts requested for applications listed in this report is £17,829.56. In addition there are a number which do not specify amounts.

2. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2.1 The general criteria for awarding financial assistance are under review and subject of a separate report to this meeting.

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

A total of 13 new applications have been received and are appended below for consideration.

2.2 **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, supporting pupils through St Cenydd School. In past years £100 has been provided.

2.3 **Smart Money Credit Union Ltd (formerly Caerphilly & District)**

The Union has paid business rates of £5,012.25 in respect of 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.

- 2.4 **The Salvation Army, Risca Corps**
The above has recently started a puppet ministry group that aims to reach out to the community through the puppets. The group is currently taking the ministry into schools and residential homes and has requested a grant of £1000 in order to purchase a new stage and curtains. The Welsh Church Fund may be a more appropriate source of funding.
- 2.5 **Stepping Stone Church, Aber Valley**
This new organisation is part of Beyond Imagination Ministries, a registered charity based in Tredegar, that aims to provide youth work, childrens work and support for senior citizens. A grant of £5000 is sought towards the cost of rent, travel, art and learning materials. Churches and Chapels are normally only supported from the Welsh Church Fund, for capital expenditure rather than consumables. A separate Welsh Church Fund application has been received, but cannot be brought forward at this time as additional information on costs is required.
- 2.6 **Stepping Stone Church, Rhymney**
The Church is part of the same organisation as 2.5 above. A grant of £4500 is requested towards the cost of equipment, rent, volunteer expenses, tutor fees and running costs. Churches and Chapels are normally only supported from the Welsh Church Fund, for capital expenditure rather than consumables. A separate Welsh Church Fund application has been received, but cannot be brought forward at this time as additional information on costs is required.
- 2.7 **Crosskeys College Choral Society**
The Society held its annual concert at Risca Leisure Centre on the 16th May with guest soloists and Orchestra. The total cost of the production will be in excess of £10,000 and financial assistance is requested. In past years £500 has been awarded in respect of similar productions.
- 2.8 **Crosskeys Silver Band**
The Band wishes to purchase 9 extra uniform jackets for new members at a cost of £2900 and has requested financial assistance. In previous years the Band was awarded £500 annually under the agreed criteria. Additional funding for uniforms may be more appropriate for Welsh Church Fund consideration.
- 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.
- 2.10 **Machen Over 50's Club**
The above has 35 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.
- 2.11 **Rhymney Valley Music Club**
The above aims to promote the advancement of music by arranging eight concerts of high quality classical music each year. A grant of £500 is requested to help with the cost, which is estimated at £3,000. In past years £100 has been provided.
- 2.12 **Crosskeys Community Gardening Group**
This is a recently formed group which aims to organise and manage the 3 Community Gardens in Crosskeys. A grant of £200 is sought towards the cost of an Open Day and publicity. Similar groups have been awarded £50 in previous years.
- 2.13 **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. Last year £50 was provided.

- 2.14 **Gilfach Fargoed Primary – Friends of the School Association**
A grant of £1,000 is requested to help fund the school's centenary celebrations. The Council does not normally support Council establishments such as schools.
- 2.15 **Britannia Community Association**
A grant of £150 is sought to cover the costs involved in producing a quarterly newsletter and organising weekly quiz night. Similar groups have been awarded £50 in previous years.
- 2.16 **Bargoed, Aberbargoed & Gilfach Credit Union**
The Union has paid business rates of £397.31 in respect of its premises. A grant of that amount is requested. The Panel has provided similar grants of in previous years (£378.63 in 2008/09).
- 2.17 **Cobden Street Allotments Association, Crosskeys**
A start-up grant of £500 is requested to provide for stationary, postage, meeting-room hire etc to promote allotments as a leisure and social pastime. Allotment Associations may be awarded £50 under the standard criteria.

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. Seventeen new applications are appended below. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £28,011.

- 3.2 **Ebenezer Baptist Church, Llanbradach**
The Church has recently purchased new stacking chairs and is also upgrading power circuits. Total cost is £4788 and a grant of £1500 is requested.
- 3.3 **Hafodyrynys Congregational Church**
New floorboards and carpet have recently been installed at accost of £1898. A grant of £633 would represent one third.
- 3.4 **Blackwood Town Cricket Club**
The Club intends to purchase new sight screens and netting to surround the playing area. Estimated cost is £4100 and a grant of one third (£1,367) is requested.
- 3.5 **2nd Pontllanfraith Scout Group**
A grant of £1500 is sought towards the cost of modernising the Scout Hall, estimated to be in excess of £6,000.
- 3.6 **Llanbradach Community Centre**
The Centre has obtained grants of £100,000 to build an extension. Urgent additional works have resulted in a funding shortfall of £10,000 and a grant of £1,500 is requested.

3.7 Manmoel Welfare Association

The Association are hoping to purchase the Village Hall when the current lease expires. If they are successful they will then develop a coffee shop for the community and visitors. The cost of the project will be in the region of £100,000 and a grant of £1500 is sought.

3.8 Trecenydd Community Centre

The Management Committee is raising funds in order to refurbish the Centre. A total of more than £150,000 is required and a grant of £1500 is requested.

3.9 Aion Baptist Chapel, Gilfach

The chapel needs to carry out repairs to the roof estimated at £9,500. Grants totalling £8,000 have been sought/received from other sources leaving a shortfall of £1,500 and the maximum grant is sought.

3.10 Calfaria Baptist Church, Nelson

Repairs to the roof estimated at £13,500. Grant of £12,000 is being sought from the National Churches Trust leaving a shortfall of £1,500 and the maximum grant is sought.

3.11 St. Peter's & St. Cenydd's Church, Senghenydd

The provision of 6 car parking spaces as part of the extension of the church hall (Planning Consent P/06/070/) cost some £2,900. A retrospective grant of one third (£967) is sought.

3.12 Trinant Sports Club RFC

The club wishes to upgrade its shower area at an estimated cost of £3,500. A grant of £1,167 would represent a third although a grant of £1,500 is requested.

3.13 212 (Risca) Squadron ATC

The Squadron wishes to purchase a mini-bus at a cost of £1,600. A grant of £533, equivalent to one third is requested.

3.14 Zion Baptist Church, Cwmcarn

A grant is requested for the installation of a sound system, incorporating the 'Loop' system for those with impaired hearing. The total cost is £2,531 and a grant of £844 would represent one third.

3.15 St Barrwg's Church, Bedwas

The total cost for repairs and refurbishment to the church is some £91,000. A grant of £1,500 would be the maximum that could be awarded.

4. TROPHIES, FOOTBALLS ETC

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.

Last year £1,000 was allocated for this purpose and the Panel is asked to consider whether to continue this practice. This matter is also referred to in the separate report on the review of criteria.

5. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

No applications have been processed during the financial year to date pending completion of the review of criteria reported separately to this meeting.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications are those set out in the foregoing report

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members assess the applications for awards.

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