



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL - 21ST SEPTEMBER 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 (budgeted)	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. As can be seen in paragraph 2.1 below, the value of applications received this financial year, to date, already exceeds this figure.

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. Currently, all such applications are being held pending completion of the review. At present, 79 such applications have been received in the current financial year, whose value would amount to £15,790 under the criteria applied in 2008/09.

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

A total of 8 new applications have been received since the last meeting. All applications received for the year to date (27 in total) are detail below for consideration. The total of amounts requested for applications listed in this report is £23,392.74. In addition, there are a number which do not specify amounts.

2.2 **Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership**

This Communities First Partnership is seeking an award of £304.68 to cover the cost of expenses to send two members to Bournemouth to receive a Green Pennant Award (relating to parks, gardens or woods maintained by voluntary organisations) and attendance at the Royal Welsh Show. The Partnership received a grant of £2,500 in 2006/07, in respect of administration costs. Awards in respect of similar supplementary applications from Communities First Partnerships, for specific events, have been limited to £100.

- 2.3 **Girlguiding, Rhymney Valley Division**
The Division is seeking a grant of £1,000 to assist adult leaders with the cost of residential training for qualifications. It has previously been the Panel's practice to fund individual Guide troops, rather than the district organisations.
- 2.4 **Manmoel Welfare Association**
The Association wishes to purchase the freehold on the village hall in Manmoel (the current lease expires in 2011 and the Trustees of Llanover Estate wish to sell the property). The anticipated purchase price is some £100,000 plus costs. The Panel approved a Welsh Church Fund award to this organisation, for this purpose, at its last meeting. The Panel's budget is not usually used to fund capital spend of this nature.
- 2.5 **Llanfach Village & Community Hall**
A grant of £250 is sought to help meet the running costs of the hall. A similar application, in 2005/06, was awarded £200.
- 2.6 **New Start 4 Life**
This group seeks to promote healthy living opportunities and support people who have suffered cardiac illnesses. A grant of £100 is sought to help meet running costs. In the past, similar groups have been awarded £50.
- 2.7 **Islwyn Canal Association**
The Association is seeking a grant of £350 towards the cost of boat and portaloos hire for a planned 'Canal Awareness' day in Ty Sign, Risca. Previously, similar groups have been awarded £50.
- 2.8 **Springfield Community Group**
A grant of £500 is sought towards the cost of room hire, stationery, postage and printing to promote social welfare and reduce crime. Similar groups have been awarded £50 in previous years.
- 2.9 **Ystrad Fawr Juvenile Ballroom Team**
Financial assistance is sought towards the cost of purchasing dresses, shirts, trousers and shoes to enable the under-12 team to compete in the British Championships in Blackpool. No amount is specified. In previous years £90 has been awarded.
- 2.10 **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.
- 2.11 **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.
- 2.12 **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.
- 2.13 **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.

2.14 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.

2.15 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.

2.16 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.

2.17 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.

2.18 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.

2.19 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.

2.20 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.

2.21 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.

2.22 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.

2.23 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.

2.24 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).

2.25 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.

2.26 Eisteddfod y Cymru 2009

The first Valleys Eisteddfod was held in Caerffili County Borough during October 2007 and was well supported by local schools and community groups. The 2009 event will be held on 16th October at Lewis Girls School and financial assistance is again requested. Last year £100 was awarded.

2.27 Rotary Club of Pontllanfraith

The above club has been in existence since 1984. The club will be inviting upwards of 100 OAPs to attend a St David's Day concert with the costs of transport and assistance provided free-of-charge. This is a first application and a sum of £400 is sought. Previously, similar applications have been awarded £100.

2.28 Cyfeilion Bro Allta

This organisation has twelve members and seeks to promote Welsh Language and Culture in the local community. A grant of £790 + VAT (approx £910) is sought for the purchase of a noticeboard and re-usable banner. This is a first application. Previously, similar applications have been awarded £50.

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 normal annual allocation from the Fund is £46,045. However, Monmouthshire County Borough Council have advised that additional funding of £30,697 has been allocated for 2009/10, as a one-off increase, giving a total for this year of £76,742.

At the meeting of 13th July 2009 Members agreed that in future, officers would approve applications from those groups meeting the Church Act Fund criteria, using delegated powers. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.

Since that meeting, two new applications have been received:

- St Mary's Church, Penllwyn - £1,500 (maximum grant)
- St Gwladys Church, Bargoed - £1,500 (maximum grant)

This brings the total awards approved this year to 20, with a value of £26,511, of which £9,944 has been released.

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. This matter is also referred to in the separate report on the review of criteria.

5. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

- 5.1 No applications have been processed during the financial year to date pending completion of the review of criteria.

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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