

Report to	Salisbury Community Area Board
Date of Meeting	22 July, 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants Lanterns for Salisbury

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to reconsider an application submitted by Circular Arts, a charitable organisation seeking to secure a grant for £5,000 to fund an 8 – 10 week community workshop project called Lanterns for Salisbury 2010 leading to a Christmas lantern parade which is a highly regarded annual event in the City. This application was deferred at the last meeting for further information. Further information has now been provided by the applicant and the Council's arts professionals.

The Community Area Manager

recommends that an award of £5,000 is made subject to the following:

1. the Salisbury Area Board supports the Salisbury Lanterns project and wishes it to continue as an annual event into the future;
2. the funding allocated by the Board is provided to cover the cost of materials £2,700 and a contribution of £2,300 towards professional fees;
3. This award is made subject to Circular Arts securing a minimum of £5,000 of match funding from other external funding organisations or individuals.
4. that the applicant be informed that it is not permissible to seek funding from more than one Board for the same project and consequently any further applications to other Boards should be for separate projects that benefit the community area concerned;
5. that it be made clear to the applicants that the Area Boards are unable to fund annual running costs and consequently this grant represents a one-time, once only award for the Salisbury Lanterns project; and
6. that in view of the Board's desire to see the continuation of this well regarded local event, a meeting be convened of interested parties with a view to finding a longer term and sustainable funding model for the Salisbury Lanterns project beyond 2010.

1 Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report. However, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4 The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

2 Main Considerations

- 2.1 At the Salisbury Area Board meeting held on 20 May, 2010, a bid made by Circular Arts for Community Area Grant funding of £5k was considered by Members. The Board proposed that a decision on the application be deferred until the next meeting scheduled for 22 July, 2010, pending further information being made available that would clarify the relationship between Circular Arts and Toozalii Community Arts Ltd, details of other bids for Wiltshire Council funding together with more detailed budget breakdowns.
- 2.2 In terms of the relationship between Circular Arts (CA) and Toozalii Community Arts Ltd (TCAL), Circular Arts was registered as a charity (No.1113460) in 2006 and as a company limited by guarantee (Company No 5165362) – the sole objects of the company are charitable. Since that time all community arts projects delivered by the charity have been provided by a private limited company - Toozalii Community Arts Ltd (Companies House Number: 04606261). In the Circular Arts' annual report is a 'related party disclosure' indicating that Toozalii is the 'preferred provider' of services on behalf of the charity. The charity's administration office and warehouse is currently based free of charge in TCAL's premises. Two volunteers who work for the Charity are also connected with the Company. CA is regulated under the provisions of the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989 and by the Charities Act 1993.
- 2.3 Although complex, there is nothing obviously wrong with this arrangement. TCAL provides protection and limits the liabilities of professional artists while CA provides the charitable framework for fundraising to support local arts projects; the Lanterns project is wholly in accord with the charitable objects of CA. The relationship between the two companies is openly declared in CA's annual report and accounts and the arrangement is clearly advancing the objects of the charity.

Indeed, the Council's Head of Arts, Peter Tyas advises that it is not uncommon for arts professionals to work within private and charitable structures of this kind.

- 2.4 Because the application is submitted by CA it is not impeded by the 'not for profit' rules in the Community Area Grants Criteria.
- 2.5 In terms of other grant applications made by CA and/or TCAL to Wiltshire Council, it is confirmed that in addition to the Lanterns project there are two other applications pending.
- A Community Grant Application was submitted by Zouch Primary School to the Tidworth Area Board held on 17 May, 2010 for a military civilian cohesion project called 'Happy Days'. TCAL had been approached by Zouch Primary School to help create and source funding and provide project advice. CA was also asked to support the 'Happy Days' project through fundraising and project advice. A decision on this application was deferred by the Tidworth Area Board for further information and will be reconsidered at its meeting on the 19 July, 2010.

It is clear that this application is for a separate project for the benefit of residents within the Tidworth Community Area and it is not part of the current Lanterns application.

- Circular Arts have also submitted an application to Wiltshire Council Arts Service's annual arts project grant scheme for funding of £2,200 for a Willow House Project. This is a town and rural initiative working with 15 pre 18's alongside community artists, training those not in full time education or employment (NEET) to make small willow houses.

It is clear that this application is for a separate project and is not part of the current Lanterns application

- 2.6 It is clear from an examination of the two other applications that they are not linked to the current Lanterns project. Therefore, there is no barrier presented by Community Area Grants rule of 'double dipping'.
- 2.7 The Board has asked for additional financial information to be provided to clarify whether the level of fees associated with the Lanterns project is reasonable and justified.
- 2.8 CA operates by using volunteers and enlisting professional help by contracting individual professional artists to deliver its community involvement projects – all of whom are contracted from TCAL. Professional fees incurred to provide the Lanterns activities (event coordination, workshops, the event itself and associated professional work) is costed within the application at £137.50 per day (below the £200 per day recommended by Southern Arts). This means the Lanterns project receives the equivalent of 72 days of input from professional artists. Indeed, CA has confirmed that there will be 72 workshops run in Salisbury and South Wiltshire as part of this project.

- 2.9 The Community Area Manager has sought advice from Wiltshire Council's Head of Arts Peter Tyas who confirms that *"as with other professions, artists do require a fee and they will vary from one initiative to another depending on the nature of the project, experience of the artist, number of practitioners engaged per workshop and length of project. They may charge hourly rates, daily rates or weekly rates. For example, daily fees for artists can range from £150 to £500. With fees of £9,900 (Lantern Parade), a project would be expected to provide a minimum of 40 days of professional input. The additional financial information provided by CA confirms that the Lanterns project includes 72 days of professional input from Oct – Dec 2010, in which case the fees are well within a reasonable range."*
- 2.10 There is no hard and fast rule on professional fees within the Community Area Grants funding criteria, and it is a matter to be judged in the light of the advice received from Wiltshire Council's Head of Arts. As the Lanterns project is based on the delivery of 72 workshops and a parade of over 1000 participants, each workshop will involve around 10-15 participants. The event also draws a large crowd of spectators, estimated at 4,000 in 2009. In accordance with the charitable objects of CA, the workshops and the parade are targeted at socially excluded and other minority groups within the local community.
- 2.11 It is considered that the level of professional fees associated with the Lanterns project 2010 is reasonable, given the level of support sought from the Council. However, it is considered that there may be more efficient ways of delivering this project in future years and consequently it is recommended that the organisers and other interested parties should meet after the 2010 parade to identify ways of putting the Lanterns event on a more sound and sustainable basis for the future.
- 2.12 The application also makes clear that match funding is being sought to cover the full cost of the event which is £16,000. It is a standard condition of the grant award that this match funding is secured.

3 Recommendation

In view of the foregoing, the Community Area Manager recommends that an award of £5,000 is made subject to the following:

1. the Salisbury Area Board supports the Salisbury Lanterns project and wishes it to continue as an annual event into the future;
2. the funding allocated by the Board is provided to cover the cost of materials £2,700 and a contribution of £2,300 towards professional fees;
3. that this award is made subject to Circular Arts securing a minimum of £5,000 of match funding from other external funding organisations or individuals;
4. that the applicant be informed it is not permissible to seek funding from more than one Board for the same project and consequently any further applications to other Boards should be for separate projects that benefit the community area concerned;

5. that it be made clear to the applicants that the Area Boards are unable to fund annual running costs and consequently this grant represents a one-time, once only award for the Salisbury Lanterns project; and
6. that in view of the Board's desire to see the continuation of this well regarded local event, a meeting be convened of interested parties with a view to finding a longer term and sustainable funding model for the Salisbury Lanterns project beyond 2010.

Reason for recommendation

The application is for a well established and well supported community event in Salisbury that aims to involve 1000 participants and 4,000 spectators. It targets socially excluded and minority groups which is a priority for the Board. Without the Council's support in 2010 it is unlikely that the event will take place in anything other than a very much reduced form. In supporting this application it is recognised that funding arrangements need to be put on a more secure and sustainable footing for the future and it is on that basis that this recommendation is made.

4. Environmental & Community Implications

- 4.1. Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area; the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Salisbury Area Board.
- 5.2. If the grant is awarded in line with officer recommendations, Salisbury Area Board will have a balance of £71,247.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

7. HR Implications

- 7.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

8. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 8.1 Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

Appendices:**Appendix 1 – Grant application (Circular Arts)**

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report

- Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11
- Salisbury Community Area Plan

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