

Report to	Bradford on Avon
Date of Meeting	16/09/2015
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking funding from the Bradford on Avon Area Board.

Application	Grant Amount	
Applicant: Bradford on Avon Museum Project Title: Restoration of Iron Duke Rubber Calendering Machine	£3000.00	
Total grant amount requested at this meeting	£3000.00	
Total amount allocated so far	£55662	

2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2015/16 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Cabinet member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2015/2016.

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.

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.

3. The applications

Applicant: Bradford on Avon Museum Project Title: Restoration of Iron Duke Rubber Calendering Machine	Amount Requested from Area Board: £3000.00	
This application meets grant criteria 2015/16.		

Project Summary: The Iron Duke is a rare survivor of heavy industrial machinery used in rubber manufacturing in the C19 and C20s in the UK. Built by Stephen Moulton in 1848 and installed in a redundant woollen mill in the centre of the town it was in continuous work until being dismantled in 1969. The Moulton factory produced rubber mouldings for the railway defence automotive and leisure industries and was the town's biggest employer for decades. The Museum and the Preservation Trust plan to refurbish and rebuild the Iron Duke bring it back to Bradford-on-Avon and site it close to where it was a working machine outside Kingston House in the Kingston Mill development. A plinth, shelter and noticeboard will be built.

Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community: Bradford-on-Avon was a very important centre for the development and production of rubber products from mid C19 to 1970. The Iron Duke was a key component in this work and is a unique industrial machine that Bristol Museum has stored since the Avon factory was closed. It is being offered to the town for no cost. The town and its visitors will benefit by seeing a restored Iron Duke sited close to where it came from and learning the remarkable story of how Stephen Moulton set up his business here was the town's main employer for 150 years and brought pioneering innovation and production into the UK rubber industry. The Iron Duke will be on public display at an outside site on Kingston Road and be accessible throughout the year. Events legends displays exhibitions talks films and demonstrations will take place and engagement sought with local schools and other educational institutions. The museums website will carry information to the worldwide web. Visitors will be attracted to visit the town and civic pride will be engendered in honouring a precious and unique piece of our local industrial heritage.

Comments of Conservation Officer: We granted planning permission for its siting in 2013 under planning permission ref W/13/00093/FUL and we gave a further planning permission for an enclosure for it this year under planning permission ref 15/01870/FUL. So the Iron Duke and its proposed housing/enclosure has been assessed against planning policy and all other relevant material planning considerations and granted planning permission for the site adjacent to Kingston House on Kingston Road.

From a conservation perspective, I think it would be a great asset to the town as it is a piece of Bradford on Avon's industrial past and to bring it back and site it on the Kingston Mills development would provide that link back to the origins of the site. It would allow a greater level of interpretation for visitors to the town to understand where they are and what they are seeing. I would therefore support the proposal of bringing the Iron Duke back to Bradford on Avon.

Funding: Total project costs are estimated at over £ 56,000. Dr Alex Moulton has granted £ 10,000 towards the project and further grant applications are being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Prism Arts Fund.

Comments of Community Engagement Officer: I think this project could contribute hugely to the interpretation of the industrial heritage of the town and form part of a wider efforts to promote tourism and visitor spending. A parallel social history project, funded through the Local Youth Network, is bringing together former workers from the Avon Rubber factory through events and a documentary film to remember and celebrate this heritage. It will be essential that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund can demonstrate strong community support for the project. I would recommend that £ 500 of any capital grant awarded be ringfenced for community engagement purposes, including a digital archive and a facebook page for online discussions.

4. Environmental & Community Implications

Grant Funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

Financial provision had been made to cover this expenditure.

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.

8. Safeguarding Implications

The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Report Author:

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