

Note of Bradford on Avon Area Board - Grants Advisory Group - held on 16 December 2011

Present: Bil Bailey, resident of Limpley Stoke
Matthew Midlane, resident of Monkton Farleigh
Peter Dunford, Bradford on Avon Community Area Manager (secretary)

Comments received from Steve Figures, resident of Staverton, via email.

New applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme:

- i) Wiltshire Music Centre requesting £ 4, 987 to present 6 family music concerts to engage young people in a wide variety of music

Wiltshire Music Centre is a large and successful organisation with an income of £ 700,000 per annum and there are some doubts as to whether support to this sort of professional organisation is a priority for the grant scheme. However, any steps to bring the WMC closer and more accessible to the community are to be welcomed in order to overcome some perceptions of elitism. The targeting of activities at under 7's, over 7s, and older children is supported. The funding request for less than 30 % of total costs represents good leverage. The grant scheme does not allow support for recurring costs so this would be a one-off grant.

The Grants Advisory Group recommends approval of the application in full, this to be one-off support for the coming year only.

- ii) Bradford on Avon Community Area Network Sports Festival Group requesting £ 5, 450 for the Bradford on Avon Community Sports Festival and Olympic Torch Event

Celebrating the Olympics and the Torch Relay in Bradford on Avon are a once in a generation opportunity, but there is concern as to some of the costs of the event, such as £ 2,250 for a reception for the torch bearers and £ 1,750 to decorate the torch route, which is considered rather profligate. Might this not be better spent on the sports events themselves? The project appears to be reliant on an unsecured grant from Sports England of over £ 5,000. What is the fall-back position if this grant is not forthcoming? The value of time in-kind at £ 3, 880 seems high; fundraising is low at only £ 200. There is no business involvement or sponsorship at present which seems a missed opportunity. The sum requested is in excess of the normal £ 5, 000 grant threshold.

Subject to receipt of further details of the costs of the reception event and the decoration of the torch route, the Grants Advisory Group is minded to recommend a reduced sum of £ 4,000 towards this project in 2 tranches of £ 2,000 and recommends the balance of costs be raised through commercial sponsorship.

iii) Monkton Farleigh Parish Council requesting £ 850 towards a Diamond Jubilee Tea Party and Barn Dance at Monkton Farleigh Manor on 4 June 2012

Matthew Midlane declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion other than to answer questions. The project was considered to be a good opportunity to bring the community together and the event location at Monkton Farleigh Manor it seems is a good choice to unite all sides of the village. A great many fundraising events have or will take place including coffee mornings, wine tastings, whist and bridge drives, a garden party and plant and cake sales. The Parish Council is contributing to costs and the total sought from the Area Board is less than 30 % of total costs.

The Grants Advisory Group recommends approval of this application in full.

**Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager for Bradford on Avon
December 2011**