

Otley Town Council

Community Development Committee

Date: 27th July 2015

Subject: Report on Community Development Grants for 2015-2016

Report by: Community Development Officer

1. Purpose of report

To inform members of the community development grants available for 2015-2016.

2. Background

During the 2015-2016 financial year Otley Town Council are administering four types of Community Development funding support. The existing mechanism for community groups and organisations to apply for funding support are through:

- ❖ Voice Your Choice (Participatory Budgeting)
- ❖ Grants General
- ❖ Community Service Support
- ❖ Sponsorship

These grant support activities are undertaken under S137 of the Local Government Act 1974. This enables the Council to give a grant to another group or organisation that provides recreation, information provision and community facilities within the parish of Otley.

3. Participatory Budgeting (Voice Your Choice)

Otley Town Council is committed to allocating part of the 2015-16 Community Development Committee budget through Voice Your Choice.

Voice Your Choice invites Otley residents to spend £10,000 of Otley Town Council's 2015/16 budget through what is known as participatory budgeting. This is undertaken under the friendlier title of 'Voice Your Choice'. Key to the process is not the assessment of an application form, but the votes of the local community.

Participatory Budgeting has been trialled by Rural Action Yorkshire across North Yorkshire, where parish councils were encouraged to generate project ideas from their local community, with the successful projects decided by votes cast by the public at a meeting or a ballot. In Otley, this is the fourth year of Voice Your Choice.

The closing date for project ideas was Monday 22nd June. The public vote is intended to be held in the first two weeks of September. This is carried out with ballot papers in the September edition of Otley Matters and at various public voting locations.

4. Grants General

These are one-off grants made to organisations or groups that operate in Otley and have a significant number of Otley beneficiaries – the Council cannot give a grant for an activity that takes place entirely outside the parish or to a single individual.

Grant applications are received by the Community Development Committee which has delegated authority to award grants on behalf of the Council. The Community Development Committee has further delegated £500 for the Community Development Officer and Executive Officer to spend within the financial year.

An organisation/group are requested to provide a completed application form and four items of information to support the grant application. These are:

- Copy of their most recent accounts;
- Current constitution;
- Bank account details;
- Names of officers.

The Community Development Officer is able to assist them with this if they have not got the required documentation. On receipt of an application, the Community Development Officer checks that the Council has a legal power to support the organisation.

Otley Town Council's practice is to consider grant awards based on the supplied information and with the press and public excluded.

An allocation of £4,000 is provided within the Community Development Budget for this financial year. Generally grants will not exceed £500 and a group/organisation may only receive one grant in any financial year.

5. Community Service

This is an annual award made payable to organisations that are identified as providing specific services that address the Council's priorities. The seven organisations that received Community Service Support funding during 2014-2015 were:

- Citizen's Advice Bureau (£2,500);
- Behind Closed Doors (£500);
- Otley Action for Older People (£500);
- Otley and District Road Safety Quiz (£500);
- Otley Blind Club (£500);
- Otley Food Bank (£500);
- Otley and District Talking Newspapers (£200).

There is also an allocation of £300 for training and workshop support activities for local community groups and organisations.

An allocation of £3,000 is provided within the Community Development Budget for 2015-2016 as the Citizen's Advice Bureau allocation has been moved to its own budget line. Generally support will not exceed £500 but more can be paid for specific services to be undertaken.

6. Sponsorship

This is a four year grant programme made payable to groups/organisations that are running or plan to run an annual event or festival within the parish of Otley. There were seven groups/organisations that were recipients of £500 sponsorship during 2013-2014:

- ❖ Otley Carnival;
- ❖ Otley Walking Festival ;
- ❖ Otley Mini Mountain Festival;
- ❖ Otley Market Street Festival;
- ❖ Otley Folk Festival;
- ❖ Otley Science Festival;
- ❖ Otley Victorian Fayre*.

Under the terms of their sponsorship agreement the above events then received sponsorship support of £300 each from the 2014-2015 budget and £200 from the current budget.

In 2014-2015 two further events/festivals were granted sponsorship of £500 and now £300 for 2015-16. These were Otley Cycle Festival and Otley Choral Society Concert Series.

There are two key challenges for the Town Council in terms of administering future sponsorships:

1. To ensure that the existing events/festivals continue to prosper and are not threatened due to a dependence on sponsorship support from Otley Town Council;
2. To support other groups/organisations that currently run or would like to run an event/festival in Otley in the future, to be able to access sponsorship support.

An allocation of £3,800 has been set aside for the 2015-16 budget, enabling two further events/festivals to qualify for sponsorship in this financial year. This is demonstrated in the table below.

An additional amount of £800 has been earmarked for Otley Folk Festival in 2015. It is proposed to take the Otley Folk Festival out of the existing sponsorship cycle with this additional support, and identify it as a strategic event. The Town Council wishes to signal its renewed commitment to what is a major community and cultural contribution to the life of the town, adds to our national profile and also draws in many visitors and supports the local economy. In doing this, for 2015 an additional effort will be made to decorate the town and really bring a festival feel on to the streets as well as in the music venues. The Town

Council will actively support the Folk Festival and its other sponsors in plans for festival decoration in 2015.

Otley Town Council Sponsorship programme (Phased reduction with no break)								
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22
Otley Carnival	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Walking Festival	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Market Street Festival	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Folk Festival	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Science Festival	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Victorian Fayre*	500	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Otley Mini Mountain Fest	500	300	200	100	500	300	200	100
Otley Cycle Festival		500	300	200	100	500	300	200
Otley Choral Society		500	300	200	100	500	300	200
ABC			500	300	200	100	500	300
DEF			500	300	200	100	500	300
GHI				500	300	200	100	500
JKL				500	300	200	100	500
MNO				500	300	200	100	500
TOTAL (£)	3500	3100	2800	3200	5000	3900	3300	3200

*Note that after Year 1 the Otley Victorian Fayre, now operated by Otley Town Partnership, no longer receives support from Otley Town Council as they resolved to rely on their income from the event.

**Note that Otley Town Council also supports the Otley Town Cycle Race and Yorkshire Week with £1,000 from a separate budget line and is responsible for the Christmas Lights switch-on event.

7. Legal and financial implications

The Council is empowered by the 1972 Local Government Act to expend money on community projects of the nature suggested.

There are financial implications flowing from this report accounted for in the Town Council budget of 2015-2016.

8. Sustainability

This report is compliant with the Aalborg Commitments.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and resolve to determine:

- ❖ Organisations to be supported through the Community Services programme for 2015-2016;
- ❖ Consider applications for sponsorship and determine which are to be supported in 2015-2016;
- ❖ To determine whether to support the Otley Folk Festival with an additional £800 from the 2015-2016 budget;
- ❖ Consider the applications for grants general and determine which are to be supported.