

Report by: Grants Manager, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

To: Area Committee – West and Central, 15 October 2009

Wards: Castle, Newnham and Market

Community Development Grants 2009-10

1. Introduction

This report reminds members of the process for the allocation of Community Development and Leisure grants by Area Committees, confirms the funds available, seeks approval for applications which have been assessed and lists further applications which are still under review.

The application process has been managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) is from April 09. CCF advertise available funds; support potential applicants; assess applications; present applications to an independent grant panel with local knowledge; present recommendations to Area Committees; advise applicants of Area Committee decisions; make grant payments and seek feedback and monitoring from the funded projects.

2. Recommendations

To consider the grant applications and agree recommendations detailed below.

Community Development current applications. Remaining Available: £4,629.50					
CCF ID	Group	Project	Requested £	Recommended from Area Committee Grants £	CCF to offer from other CCF funds £
WEB1173	Friends of Midsummer Common	Planting, management and maintenance of trees.	£1,500	£1,000	0
1811	Social Committee of the Parish of the Ascension	A series of cultural events.	£1,750	£500	0
WEB2636	Windsor Road Residents Association	Running costs.	£250	0	0
Total			£3,500	£1,500	0
Community Dev area committee grant remaining				£3,129.50	

NB All requests have been considered against other funds that CCF hold.

3. Background

The Executive Councillor has approved the following allocation of 10% of the total Community Development grants budget and 5% of the total Leisure grants budget for area committee grants. It has been calculated using population levels and is also weighted to give additional funds to areas of economic disadvantage as defined by the City Council's *Mapping poverty* research report.

2009-10						
Area	Population	Mapping Poverty score	Combined score	Community Development £	Leisure £	Total £
North	29%	40%	36.5%	18,354.00	4,263.00	22,617.00
East	29%	35%	32.8%	16,494.00	3,831.00	20,325.00
South	21%	20%	20.4%	10,258.00	2,383.00	12,641.00
West Central	21%	5%	10.3%	5,179.50	1,203.50	6,383.00
Total				50,285.50	11,680.50	61,966.00

4. West/Central Area Committee 2009-10 Community Development applications

4.1 Community Development spend to date: £550

(Richmond Road Residents Association £250, Under Fives Roundabout £300)

4.2 Grant application background information

West/Central Area Committee 2009-10 grants		CCF ref WEB1173
Applicant: The Friends of Midsummer Common (FoMC)		Ward(s) : Market
Purpose of group: To ensure good management of Midsummer Common, to protect the environment and to follow the principles of sustainable development.		
Project: Funding requested towards a project involving the planting, management and maintenance of a Community Orchard on a site in the south east corner of the common. Breakdown of costs: Tools and equipment £450; trees £1,050.		
Total cost: £1,500.00		Requested: £1,500.00
Expected benefits or outcomes as a result of funding as described by the applicant: The project should strengthen the community. The group of local volunteers working together should bring people together. Once established, the orchard should provide an opportunity for meeting and events that reinforce this togetherness. The availability of free fresh fruit would be a bonus to rich and poor alike.		
Number of beneficiaries: 1000		

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Background information: The creation of a community orchard in this area of the Common was first recommended by the Wildlife Trust in their Management Plan for Midsummer Common, as a way to improve the bio-diversity. FoMC have taken this idea forward with support of local Councillors, its members and the public. FoMC have visited other community orchard projects locally, in Trumpington and Little Downham. The orchard will turn the small area of scrub and bushes on the common, which is currently used to contain cattle when the common is in use by fairs etc. (there is an alternative enclosure), into a pleasant and environmentally-beneficial area for the common's users to enjoy, as well as providing fruit. The project is planned in several stages and will take several years to become established. During this time, if permission granted, FoMC will take over management of the area and volunteers will do required maintenance. FoMC want to buy equipment, but are not clear about secure storage and seemed to view a break-in as unavoidable.

CCF Comments: Constituted group. FoMC Chairman is very committed to seeing through the project and believes his committee has the support of those who live by and use the common. They are yet to obtain permission from the City Council who own the land, but believe they will obtain permission. *Following correspondence with Jackie Hanson of City Council on 18/08/09 Chairman was told that a decision on funding cannot be made until permission to use the land has been granted. Permission will be considered during a review of tree planting proposals in the Autumn although these discussions have been cancelled due to staff illness.

Previous funding from this Area Committee: £750 in 06/07 to cover start up costs of resident's group.

CCF recommendation: Award £1,000 but hold payment until permission to plant trees is granted by the Council. If the permission is not received by 31st Jan 2010, funding to be reallocated with the Chair's approval.

West/Central Area Committee 2009-10 grants		CCF ref 1811
Applicant: Social Committee of the Parish of the Ascension		Ward(s) : Castle
Purpose of group: This application relates to a series of cultural activities taking place at St Augustine's Church, Richmond Road which seek to enhance the life of the local community by offering at an accessible and affordable venue cultural and social activities of the highest quality.		
Project: towards holding a series of cultural events.		
Breakdown of costs: admin £100; Artists fees £1,000; expenses for visiting speakers £150.		refreshments £200; publicity £200; heating and lighting £100
Total cost: £1,750.00		Requested: £1,515.00
Expected benefits or outcomes as a result of funding as described by the applicant: Local children will contribute to musical events and through this, connect to other members of the community. Local people are hugely appreciative of the opportunity to see artists and lectures of outstanding quality. Events draw members of the community together for common activities. Number of beneficiaries: up to 200 at one event.		
Background information: This committee seem to have run some high-quality events in the church, including their Friday evening events where high-calibre speakers are invited to talk on a range of topics, and concert events. Funding requested to continue to run these events until March 2010. Around 25 people attend the Friday evening events, and up to 200 people attend concert events. Events are open to all local people and all are welcomed. PM (Chairman) says the events are good for the local area as they are accessible for people with limited mobility who often can't attend similar events. Entrance is free for events with a collection for donations, which allows people to give as much as they are able. CCF Comments: Range of speakers lined up: Music Extravaganza, Romans in and around Cambridge, Memories of an Ecumenical Churchman, The Sky at Night, An Introduction to Buddhism. Funding also requested towards the New Year Gala concert. This will bring children from the Mayfield Primary School Orchestra together in a concert with local musicians. If not successful with this application, they will not be able to hold all of the events they are planning to. PM has been asked to expand on who the events are targeted at and how they are made accessible to people who may not normally attend such events.		
Previous funding from this Area Committee: St Augustine's Church (same group) received £200 for talks, £500 for holiday clubs and £410 for concerts in 08/09.		
CCF recommendation: A £500 contribution to the Gala Concert - when the organisation has expanded on who the events are targeted at and how they are made accessible.		

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Applicant: Windsor Road Residents Association	Ward(s) : Castle
Purpose of group: established in March 2008 with 84 member households. The Association arranges social gatherings and a helping hand service; addresses environmental and security issues; represents resident's interests to other organisations; provides a forum for residents to raise issues of interest or concern. The Association is run by a committee of 5, with 10 regular volunteers.	
Project: Running costs. Breakdown of costs: Post, telephone, stationery etc £20.00; Member events/Socials £180.00; Newsletters, circulars, consultations etc £30.00; Helping Hand Telephone costs £20.00.	
Total cost: £250.00	Requested: £250.00
Expected benefits or outcomes as a result of funding as described by the applicant: There are between 160 and 180 people of all ages in the present membership of 81 dwellings. Circulars and newsletters is how normal contact is made. However where there is an important issue affecting the whole of the road the 109 dwellings are circulated both informing them of WIRE and the issue we are considering. It is also intended to offer a welcome to all households to social activities again to actually encourage membership and community. The plan is to keep members informed continually on current activity or issues. Four "social" type activities are proposed to continue to give residents the opportunity of meeting others and continue to promote the sense of community. To call other more formal meetings when any important issue arises which impacts on the area to allow all views to be shared. Number of beneficiaries: 180	
Background information: During their first year of operation, the association has contributed to 4 public consultations, established a 'Helping Hands' service, gained new committee members and is actively working on a number of other issues. This is one of several residents associations in neighbouring roads that plan to work together to achieve their aims. The first year's income has come from members subscriptions. The association produces 2 newsletters, one for members and one with general information for all residents of the street. Residents are diverse inc. the elderly and language school students. CCF Comments: Constituted group. Awarded £355 towards running costs by CCF in July 09. Current request for funding towards 10/11 running costs, but due to an event being postponed BW (Treasurer) is not sure if the original grant will be spent in full this year. BW is happy that they are achieving their aim to create a greater sense of community in the area, with more residents talking to each other and events are well attended. Little information is recorded re. the helping hands scheme, people are put in touch with help needed but the outcomes are not followed up.	
Previous funding from this Area Committee: Discussed at the June 09 meeting, funding awarded from an alternative CCF fund.	
CCF recommendation: CCF understand that the Area Committee do not wish to contribute to ongoing running costs and will reconsider when BW (Treasurer) has confirmed the status of the current grant and provided monitoring information.	

4.3 Applications under review

Newnham Nursery

Request £2,000 for new Desks, chairs, bookshelves, trolleys, toys, learning materials, books, paints, paper, pens, crayons etc.

Further information is being gathered on whether Area Committee funding is suitable and on management structure of Nursery.

Cambridge Street Pastors

Request £5,812.50 to buy extra uniforms and to continue funding a paid part-time Coordinator.

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health is considering the request for funding from another source.

5. South Area Committee 2009-10 Leisure applications: none

5.1 Leisure 09/10 spend to date: none

If the above recommendations are agreed, the following budget will be available for later applications

2009-10	Budget £	Allocated £	Remaining £
Community Development	5,179.50	2,050	3,129.50
Leisure	1,203.50	0	1,203.50
Total	6,383.00	2,050	4,333.00

BACKGROUND PAPERS and research used in the preparation of this report:

Grant applications.

Telephone interview.

To inspect these documents contact Marion Branch on 01223 410535 or

marion@cambscf.org.uk

Appendix 1
Area Committee grant conditions

Community development grants enable projects which provide services or activities to benefit people living in one of the four areas of Cambridge City. Priority will be given to projects that are aimed at those people whose opportunities are restricted by disability, low income or discrimination.

1. Funds may also be used to meet any needs specific to its area as determined by the area committee.
2. Each area committee may decide to reserve part of its budget for one or more of these purposes. Grants may be awarded for capital or revenue expenditure.
3. Applications will be invited from:
 - constituted voluntary and not-for-profit organisations.
 - groupings of local residents able to meet basic accountability requirements.
 - partnerships of constituted group(s) and local residents.

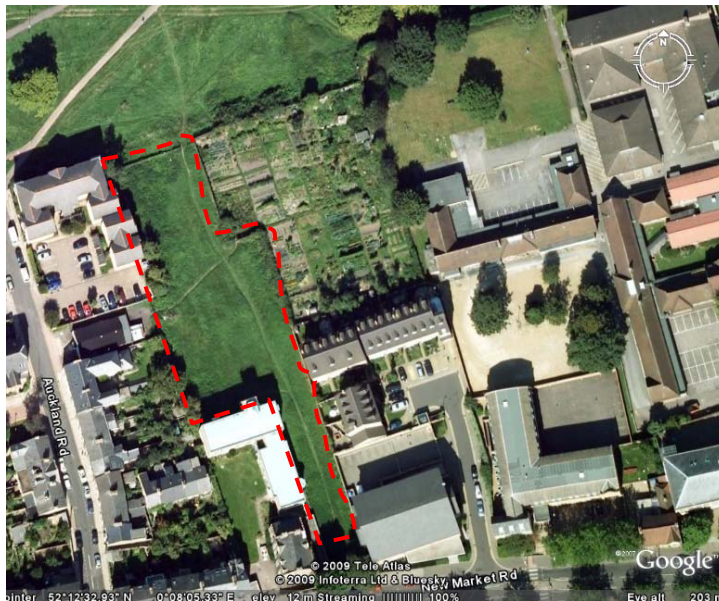
Statutory agencies (such as Parish Councils and Schools) and commercial ventures are not eligible to apply.

4. There is no upper limit on application or grant award levels.
5. Members will generally be asked to consider and decide on applications twice a year.
6. Grants may be made between meetings if the applicants can demonstrate that they are unable to wait for the next scheduled grants meeting. CCF will consult with the Chair and, where relevant, ward members. The full committee will be notified at the next appropriate meeting.
7. Grants will not generally be made retrospectively.
8. Grants will be publicised, administered and monitored by CCF.

MIDSUMMER COMMON – ORCHARD PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

- Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust was commissioned in 2008 to produce a Management plan for Midsummer Common. Consultation was undertaken with stakeholders of the site, which included Council Officers, Friends of Midsummer Common, Brunk and the current grazier.
- The establishment of a community orchard within the Southern Pound (see plan) was one of a number of recommendations made within the Management Plan.
- This pound area is currently used as a temporary holding area for the cattle when the common is being used for short-term events, which last one – two days. Discussion is required with the Pinder, but it is felt the Eastern pound area could fulfil this role in the future.



LAND ISSUES

- The land is registered as Common land under the 1965 Commons Act, as shown on Cambridgeshire Country Council definitive plans.
- Initial discussions with Head of Legal Services and Head of Property Services indicate that it is believed there are no legal restrictions as to why this land couldn't be used as for the purposes of a Community Orchard.
- Current access rights through this area of the common will be unaffected.

PROCESS

- A total of 40 trees would be planted over a phased planting programme (three stages). The trees would be staked, tied and mulched as per young tree maintenance guidelines.
- Volunteer group would be developed with Friends and Brunk with the support of the Council and Wildlife Trust. The group will be involved in planting and maintenance of the orchard. (As well as other tasks on the common such as meadow area) (Insurance can be provided through BTCV)

TIMESCALES

- Tree planting season is October – March
- Friends of Midsummer Common may wish to identify tree stock in the coming weeks to ensure they have the quantity, quality and variety required, although financial commitment should not be made until permission is given.
- Consultation with Local residents, Allotment Holders and internal stakeholders to be undertaken by the Council during October and concluded by early November, with the completion of a report by mid November.
- Agreement in writing between the Council and Friends to be formulated and approved, giving permission for use of land and practical issues concerning the management of the site. Timescale for a final decision will be by mid December at the latest or earlier if West Central Area Committee is willing to agree in principle to the grant and the conditions in 2.a. below, at its meeting on 15th October.

OPTIONS

We suggest:

1. Approval in principle for the grant request by Friends of Midsummer Common to enable the planting of a Community Orchard is given at West/Central Committee on 15th October, subject to;
 - a. Permission for use of land formally given by Executive Cllr for Arts & Recreation as a formal decision.
 - b. Consultation with local residents, Allotment Holders and internal departments such as the Arboricultural, Nature Conservation and Street Scene to inform the Executive Councillor's decision.
2. A report will be produced based on the results of the consultation by mid November, which could be either;
 - a. Emailed to West/Central Committee members to give their views electronically prior to an out of cycle decision.
 - b. Formally presented at West/Central Committee on 10th December for final consideration / approval prior to an out of cycle decision.

West Central committee will be asked for their views on how they wish to proceed at the meeting on 15th October.