

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of Lynda Turner, Executive Member for Localism, Community and Environmental Services

To: Cabinet: 14 February 2012

(Author: Sam Dawson - Arts Development Officer)

Subject: Breckland Council Grant Funding: Funding Round 4 2011/12

Purpose: This report summarises the funding recommendations that were made by the Grant Panel for Funding Round 4 which was held on 15 December 2011 and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of Match Funding.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Note for information the following match funding applications which have been approved by delegated decision:
 - Dereham Festival (£2,000 or 15.83% of the total project costs)
 - Festival on the Farm (£1,750 or 50% of the total project costs)
 - Ashill Allotment Improvements (£843.80 or 45% of the total project costs)
 - Swaffham Cricket Club (£3,000 or 10% of the total project costs)
 - Breckland Basketball Academy (£2,550 or 50% of the total project costs)
2. Note for information the grants awarded under the Activity, Access Arts and Gifted & Talented Grant schemes

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

1. Information, Issues and Options

1.1 Background

As detailed in an earlier Cabinet report 4th August 2009 all funding applications for Breckland Council Match Funding, Pride in Breckland grants, Activity grants, Access Arts and Gifted and Talented grants are now reviewed by a Grant Funding Panel prior to consideration by Cabinet.

This approach ensures that: -

- a) A strategic and joined-up approach is taken to grant giving
- b) Maximum funding opportunities are available to applicants
- c) A clear audit trail aligned to the Authority's priorities is maintained
- d) A consistent approach is taken to grant giving across the Authority

The fourth meeting of the grant panel for the 2011/12 financial year has taken place and all applications received prior to this date have been considered

1.2 Issues

Match Funding

Eight applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Grant Funding Panel meeting on the 15th December 2011. Five applications

have been successful through delegated decision.

1. Dereham Festival

Dereham Festival have been awarded £2,000 match funding through a delegated decision to support the festival in 2012. A new element to the Dereham Festival is the introduction of the community events element, which are promoted free of charge in the festival programme. This provides a new platform for local groups to promote their work, increase membership, increase fundraising. This generates a more sustainable model for the future of the Dereham Festival, in a coordinated approach with community groups / events.

With 14 events being held at the Dereham Memorial Hall, this is supporting a newly refurbished venue and will assist with the Town Council to build new audiences as a result of the Dereham Festival.

The festival held in 2010 attracted approximately 5,000 people. The committee have reviewed their approach to the festival and are being more inclusive to promote community events taking place during this time. In addition, there has been more thought to the Festival's legacy through the introduction of the education / learning workshops, increased community involvement through the partnership with Dereham Arts Festival and working with Dereham 6th Form students.

This award of match funding is a one off award, and it has been made clear that Dereham Festival should not rely upon Breckland Council's financial support in the future.

2. Festival on the Farm

As a finale to the Festival of Breckland, and the opening weekend of the London Olympics, the Sustainable Communities team would like to host an event to celebrate arts, sports and the natural environment, within the Breckland area. The event aims to be interactive, enabling visitors to learn about local community groups, and get involved in new activities. The event will engage with local groups, and encourage greater community engagement.

This event will build on the success of the NatureFest event last year, which was well attended (over 400 visitors) and received a lot of positive feedback from those visited.

The total estimated cost of the event is £3,500. 50% of which will be paid for out of the current Sport and Arts budgets. Therefore £1,750 is being requested as match funding.

3. Ashill Allotment Project

Ashill Parish Council manages an allotment site in the village. Almost all of the plots have now been let and managed by local residents.

The site and up to 12 plot holders are disadvantaged by a number of overgrown trees on the site causing the land to be very dry and difficult to cultivate. There is no water supply to the land, therefore plot holders have to bring their own water to the site in plastic bottles, which is difficult and time consuming.

Some youth groups that tried to harvest the land found it too difficult and had to give up but would like to return if the land were a little easier to manage.

The total cost to improve the site, including the installation of a water supply, a token metre for the water and clearing the overgrown trees is £1875.11. Ashill Parish Council is putting in 55% and is requesting £843.80 from Breckland Council.

4. Swaffham Cricket Club

Swaffham Cricket Club has been awarded £3,000 towards their double bay net project, with the English Cricket Board contributing 75% of the total project costs and Swaffham Cricket Club adding 15% of funding. The new facility will provide a modern, high specification ECF approved training area that will allow participants of all ages to train and develop in a safe environment. This club is only one of thirty in the county to have achieved Clubmark status.

5. Breckland Basketball Academy

Breckland Basketball Academy has been successful with their application of £2,550 towards equipment, kit and the establishment of community sessions for age 8 – 16s afterschool activity sessions and adult's Saturday Basketball sessions. This offer is unique to the area, given that the nearest club within the district is Dereham Basketball club who train once per week and is adult only. The Academy will be developing league teams, in order that participants can compete in league competitions. Installation of equipment must be an approved installer for Breckland Council and the equipment should remain in the hall if the Academy ever closes.

Activity Grant:

Yaxham Community Led Plan

Your Yaxham have been awarded £400 towards the creation of a community led plan (Parish Plan or Village Appraisal) to produce a plan for change, improvement and development over the next few years in the village of Yaxham. Your Yaxham, plan to find out the opinions of all residents in the Parish, giving them the opportunity to have their say and feel included. All members of the community will benefit, especially those usually less able to make their voices heard.

The group will produce a report that will go to each household in the parish as well as local councils and agencies to assist them in making plans for the future of Yaxham.

Breath Easy Thetford (Support Group for British Lung Foundation)

This group have been awarded £500 to enable them to raise awareness of breathing related illnesses through various community groups. An estimated 1 in 7 people are affected by breathing difficulties. The group want to reduce fear and apathy about breathing related illnesses by:

- Training volunteers in First Aid, Risk Assessment and Lung related breathing aids
- Purchasing special equipment – Breathing apparatus, Oxygen equipment & Spirometre
- Specialist training for specific ailments and light exercise
- The production of advertising material to promote this help group
- Regular meetings

Access Arts Grant:

New Buckenham Players

New Buckenham Players have been successful with their application to the Royal Shakespeare Company Open Stages Project, a national 2012 project by the RSC. This group are one of three in Norfolk to be selected and there are approximately 260 groups performing their adaptation of a Shakespearian themed play. £500 has been awarded through the Access Arts grant scheme, subject to other funds being secured. The Access Arts funding will go towards costs for rehearsal spaces, set and prop construction, costumes, outdoor lighting and sound system.

The play is an adaptation of The Merchant of Venice, 'The Merchant: A Banker's Dilemma', which will be performed on the Green and Market Cross, New Buckenham.

Danielle Haylett

Danni is an extremely talented musician, having previously been accepted to the Junior Guildhall at the Barbican. Danni has been awarded £300 funding from the Access Arts grant scheme, which will allow Danni to be part of the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic band tour of Malaysia, providing new cultural and educational experiences and performing to much larger new audiences. The references clearly demonstrate support for Danielle's practice and dedication. Financial support has already been secured and additional funding is being sought.

Gifted and Talented Grant:

Stephanie Jackson

Aged 17, Stephanie is the current Norfolk Ladies Champion Archer, and also National Champion for her age group. Stephanie has been awarded £500 (subject to other funding confirmed) towards higher standards of coaching outside of the district, in order that she can reach her potential.

Liam Craigie

Aged 13, Liam is a member of the Easton Gymnastics Club and now competes regularly with the County Gymnastics squad, as well as training regularly with the regional squad. £250 has been awarded towards training, transport, accommodation and coaching costs. (Subject to other funding confirmed)

Mollie Callaghan

Mollie is one of eleven girls selected from the countywide age group trials to secure a place in the Norwich City Football Academy. £250 has been awarded to support travel costs to and from Norwich. Whilst the England Scouting set up does not begin until age 15, Mollie is still considered to be one of the best 300 girls in the country in her age group. Members of the Grant Panel awarded £250 Gifted and Talented funding, subject to confirmation on the possibility to share transport with the application below.

Nicole Costin

Nicole is eight years old and is one of eleven girls selected from the countrywide age trials to secure a place in the NCFE centre of excellence. Nicole is the youngest player in this squad and has been awarded £250 towards travel costs to attend the Academy. Members of the Grant Panel awarded £250 Gifted and Talented funding, subject to confirmation on the possibility to share transport with the application above.

2. Risk and Financial Implications

2.1 Risk

2.1.2 No risk identified.

2.2 Financial

2.2.1 Please see the following Proforma B's for the match funding projects:

Appendix 1 – Summary of match funding financial status

3. Other Implications

a) Equalities: Assessments have been completed for the entire match funding projects.

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: None
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

4. Alignment to Council Priorities

1. Building Safer and Stronger Communities:
 - Promote the sense of community belonging and pride
 - Contribute to improving the health of our district
2. Prosperous Communities:
 - Develop flourishing rural communities
 - Protect and enhance our town centres

5. Ward/Community Affected

- 5.1.1 Towns of Dereham, Swaffham and Attleborough are affected by the Match Funding projects, as well as the wards of Springvale and Scarning, Wissey.

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only): not a key decision

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix 1: Summary of match funding financial status