

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CENTRAL NORTH AND CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEES - 5 MAY 2009

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - FUTURE FUNDING OF BOWLING CLUBS

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To consider options with regard to the future funding of Bowling Clubs including an option to cap the amounts given, and the possibility of sharing of equipment, as well as presenting a summary of possible external funding opportunities for Bowling Clubs.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At the Central North Local Grants Committee on 24 February 2009, the Committee received for consideration applications for funding from the following three Bowling Clubs - Northwest Kilmarnock Bowling Club (CG 4091); Kay Park Bowling Club (CG 4140); and Portland Bowling Club (CG 4153).
- 2.2** The Central North Local Grants Committee agreed to defer consideration of these applications and requested that the Head of Democratic Services provide a report on options for future funding of Bowling Clubs, including options to cap the amounts given and the possibility of sharing equipment and that meantime the Clubs be asked to explore external funding opportunities for their projects.
- 2.3** The Central South Local Grants Committee at its meeting on 24 February also agreed to defer its consideration of the applications from Kay Park Bowling Club (CG 4140) and Northwest Bowling Club (CG 4091) pending the outcome of the reports requested by Central North Local Grants Committee as that Committee had the majority share of the cross-boundary portions of these applications. In respect of Northwest Bowling Club, the Committee also agreed to receive information on the possibility of the Council's Parks Service being able to assist with the loan of equipment for grass cutting/maintenance of Bowling Greens.
- 2.4** In relation to the application from Portland Bowling Club (CG 4153), Central South Local Grants Committee have made an award of £1,340 following receipt of a satisfactory assessment.

3. CURRENT POSITION - OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM BOWLING CLUBS

3.1 Northwest Kilmarnock Bowling Club (CG 4091)

3.2.1 Confirmation has now been received that Northwest Kilmarnock Bowling Club have successfully received developer contribution funds for this project for the full amount of grant requested in the sum of £5,283.35 subject to the Council's standard Conditions of Grant and subsequently the Group have withdrawn their Community Grant application. The Club had applied for the purchase of a thatch away walk behind machine.

3.2 Kay Park Bowling Club (CG 4140)

Confirmation has now been received that this application has been accepted for consideration under developer contribution funds and is currently being assessed. The Club had applied for funding to replace grass bankings and to improve access onto the green by building ramps.

3.3 Portland Bowling Club (CG 4153)

3.3.1 As Central South Local Grants Committee (following receipt of a satisfactory assessment, and determined by the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Chair and Councillor Linton) have agreed their portion of the grant - £1,340, there only remains for consideration a potential award of £620 from Central North Local Grants Committee. The Club has also been advised to contact the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer to see if external funding is available for this portion of the application, however, the Club have not yet been in touch and this element of the application remains to be determined by Central North Local Grants Committee (assessment attached).

4. PAST FUNDING OF BOWLING CLUBS - CENTRAL NORTH AND CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEES - LAST TWO FINANCIAL YEARS

4.1 In order to assess the potential future level of funding from both Committees, a list of all Bowling Clubs is presented at Appendix A together with a note of any grant awards to these Clubs over the past two years, i.e. financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 (Appendix B).

4.2 As can be seen from Appendix B, grants to Bowling Clubs in the last two financial years (including the outstanding grant portion from Portland Bowling Club) fall into the following three areas:-

(a) Works to Bowling Greens e.g.

- Artificial banks and levelling green edges;
- Irrigation system;

- Building ramp to improve access to green for people with a disability; and
 - Green maintenance.
- (b) Repairs, Maintenance, Running Costs of Clubhouses, e.g.
- Repair to main veranda of Clubhouse; and
 - Contribution to electricity and water rates.
- (c) Equipment, e.g.
- Purchase of specialised wheelchair for use on Bowling Greens; and
 - Purchase of junior bowls.
- 4.3** Total Community Grant funding to Bowling Clubs (covering both Grant Committee areas) in financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 is £7,852.58. This equates to less than 5% of the total budget for both areas (the current portion for Central North Local Grants Committee for Portland Bowling Club of £620.00 has not been included in this figure as it is still to be determined).

5. FUTURE OPTIONS

- 5.1** Taking into account the information presented above, the following three options are presented in terms of Central North and Central South Local Grants Committees future consideration of Community Grant applications from Bowling Clubs.
- 5.2** The Committees should note that there remains for consideration the 'portion' of the application from Portland Bowling Club (CG 4153) for consideration by Central North Local Grants Committee.

5.2.1 Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo

The Committees could decide to simply deal with applications from Bowling Clubs as they have in the past, i.e. each application on its merits.

Advantages

- This option continues to afford full flexibility to Groups who can put forward their applications as and when the projects develop; and
- The Committees retain the flexibility to consider applications on an ad-hoc basis, set against the budget available at any given time, and the financial situation of the Bowling Club.

Disadvantages

- Should the Committees at any point receive several large scale applications from Bowling Clubs, they will be back in the same situation

with no available “tool” or formula to apply in consideration of the applications.

5.2.2 Option 2 - Capping the amounts given to Bowling Club

The Committees could decide to adopt a policy whereby a cap is put on the amount of grant given to a Bowling Club.

As listed in Appendix A, there are 6 Bowling Clubs in the Central North area and 7 in the Central South area.

The Committees could decide to apply a cap of e.g. £1,500 to any one Bowling Club in a financial year. Applying this level of capping would mean that the maximum spend to Bowling Clubs in any one financial year would be £19,500. This equates to 21% of the combined budget for both Grants Committees (£94,631) with each Committee being responsible for its pro-rata share within the £1,500 cap.

This is of course the maximum amounts which Bowling Clubs could access under this example of a cap and it is unlikely that applications would be received from all 13 Bowling Clubs in any one financial year, and the percentage spend would therefore likely to be less than 21% of the combined budgets.

Advantages

- The Grants Committees would know at the start of each financial year that their total spend for applications from Bowling Clubs would not exceed the agreed amount set by the Committees; and
- Bowling Clubs could make application, with a realistic expectation of the maximum amount of award they would receive.

Disadvantages

- Bowling Clubs would be limited within a “set” amount of funding each financial year;
- Large scale projects could not be accommodated;
- Bowling Clubs would be unable to apply twice in one financial year for different projects, i.e. an unexpected repair application would not be accepted if the Club had already received a previous grant to the level of the cap, the same financial year; and
- The fairness of singling out Bowling Clubs to be subject to a cap over other voluntary organisations who access Community Grant funding.

5.2.3 Option 3 - Sharing Equipment

The Local Grants Committees at their meetings on 24 February 2009, agreed to investigate the possibility of Bowling Clubs sharing equipment.

With regard to the possible sharing of equipment by Bowling Clubs, Outdoor Amenities have been consulted, and whilst cannot state the position of every Bowling Club on this matter, generally would hold that the sharing of equipment like scurrifiers and grass cutting equipment would not be practicable. Bowling Clubs can cut their greens three to four times a week in the main season, with the scurrifier being used perhaps once a week. There could also be issues in terms of responsibility for the machinery, and insurance implications. One type of machine which could perhaps be shared (subject to an investigation into the insurance implications) could be a hollow-tining machine which is only used occasionally. It is also known that Kay Park and Townholm Bowling Clubs already have scurrifying machines and do not usually like to lend them out.

The Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer has been consulted and would comment that the sharing of equipment is a sensible idea but the 'territorial' nature of some clubs and in some cases 'competitive' approach towards the sport might preclude clubs from sharing. The logistics of collecting or delivering substantial pieces of machinery and the ability to use the equipment when it was needed (bearing in mind the clubs all work towards the same time of year for starting their season) might also prove difficult. As far as youth development is concerned, the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer advises that perhaps a "pool" of bowling equipment could be accessed on a need by need basis and collectively clubs could incorporate training sessions and youth competitions to complement the normal adult bowling season however it would be for each individual bowling club to ensure that their insurance policy covered this, and the storage of such equipment.

Advantages

- Value for money in terms of the Community Grants budgets; and
- Clubs could potentially gain access to a wider range of equipment than they could individually hope to afford or access through the Community Grants budget.

Disadvantages

- Logistics;
- Insurance Implications - Individual Bowling Clubs would require to ensure that they are covered for the sharing of equipment, and there would potentially be an associated cost;
- Responsibility for maintenance/repairs could be blurred by the sharing of equipment; and
- Competing demands for equipment.

6. EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 6.1** With regard to the issue of external funding, the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer advises that Bowling Clubs within East Ayrshire have access to a range of external funding opportunities, in the majority of cases for capital projects, e.g. improvements to Bowling Green banks, new playing surfaces, drainage, equipment etc. The most obvious sources are Awards for All - Big Lottery Fund, SCORE Environment and East Ayrshire Council's Developers Fund.
- 6.2** The Developers Fund is for sports, leisure and recreational based capital projects and depending on whether there are sufficient funds (based on geographical/ward criteria) and if the project is assessed as being for wider community benefit, then Bowling Clubs, like other sports clubs, can apply, using the standard East Ayrshire Council grant application.
- 6.3** Awards for All give grants of between £500 and £10,000 and SCORE Environment administer landfill tax payments with the applicant having to obtain 10% of the total projects from a contributing third party, i.e. from another funding source.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Section 83 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended provides powers to Councils to make grants to voluntary organisations which in their opinion are in the interests of the area or any part of it. Local Grants Committees can also set their own individual local priorities.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** The overall grants scheme to local organisations supports the main themes of the Community Plan.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** Should the Grants Committees opt for the option whereby Bowling Clubs share equipment it would be the responsibility of the individual clubs to ensure that they had adequate insurance arrangements in place.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1** Any of the proposals listed can be accommodated with the existing Community Grant budgets.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1** The Local Grants Committees are asked to:-

- (i) consider whether they wish to adopt any of the options as presented in Section 5 with regard to the Committees' future consideration of applications for Community Grant funding for Bowling Clubs;
- (ii) consider any other options which may be presented to the Committees;
and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

28 April 2009
JM/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APPENDIX A

Bowling Clubs in Central North

Glenfield Bowling Club
Hurlford Bowling Club
Kay Park Bowling Club
Kilmarnock Bowling Club
Northwest Bowling Club
Townholm Bowling Club

Bowling Clubs in Central South

Bellfield Bowling Club
Crosshouse Bowling Club
Howard Park Bowling Club
Portland Bowling Club
Riccarton Bowling Club
Springhill Bowling Club
West Netherton Club

APPENDIX B

PAST FUNDING OF BOWLING CLUBS - CENTRAL LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM 2007/2008 AND CENTRAL NORTH AND CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEES 2008/2009

2007/2008

<u>NAME OF BOWLING CLUB</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF GRANT AND DATE OF GRANT APPROVED</u>	<u>PURPOSE OF GRANT</u>
Bellfield Bowling Club	£1,000.00 - 4 September 2007	Artificial banks at Bowling Green; Irrigation system and levelling green edges
Howard Park Bowling Club	£390.58 - 14 May 2007	To repair the main veranda at the Clubhouse
Springhill Bowling Club	£474.00 - 5 June 2007	To purchase junior bowls, lignoid bowls and target bowls diamond

2008/2009

<u>NAME OF BOWLING CLUB</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF GRANT AND DATE OF GRANT APPROVED/COMMITTEE APPROVED</u>	<u>PURPOSE OF GRANT</u>
Crosshouse Bowling Club	£1,000.00 - 14 May 2008 (Central South Local Grants Committee)	Specialised wheel-chair for use on bowling greens
Howard Park Bowling Club	£3,648.00 (Central North Local Grants Committee - £1,140.00; and Central South Local Grants Committee - £2,508.00) - 19 December 2008	Green maintenance and maintenance of machinery with the remainder for a contribution to electricity and water rates
Portland Bowling Club	£1,340.00 - 20 March 2008 (Central South Local Grants Committee)	To introduce bowling to school pupils (coloured bowls etc)

3 April 2009
SR

grant assessment form

1	Aims and objectives of the organisation
	To promote the sport of bowling
2	Purpose of the grant (including breakdown of costs)
	In conjunction with EAC Active schools Coordinator, Stephen Hughes, to introduce year 7 pupils of Gargieston Primary – Approx 45 children of both sexes – to lawn bowls. Each class will receive four morning sessions of coaching and play during April and May 2009. Thereafter interested pupils may join Portland Bowling Clubs Junior Section where they will receive further coaching and assistance. If successful the scheme can be repeated the following season.
	Breakdown of total costs 12 sets of coloured bowls @ £150 each - £1800 24 carriers @ £5 each - £120 2 coaching courses for assistants - £100 Storage Cabinet - £120 Rules and Safety documents (printing etc) - £60 Total Cost - £2200
3a	How many people are on the organisation's Management Committee?
	11
3b	What is the organisation's total membership?
	258
3c	How many members usually attend the organisation's meetings or events?
	36 - 96
3d	How many members of the organisation would benefit from the grant?
	Junior section
3e	How many members of the community would benefit from the grant?
	45
4	How will the grant :-
	(a) develop the organisation; or
	Will encourage local youths and to participate in the sport and will link into themes of the Community Plan
	(b) benefit the local community.
	Will develop social experiences, provide leisure opportunities for the young community in a safe and friendly environment. Through developing their skills the club will fully support the young participants

5	Total cost of project		£2200
	Amount of grant requested		£2000
	Bank Balance(s)	Date 24 December 2008	£2237.99
	Where the group has more than one bank account all balances should be recorded		
	Cash in hand	Date 6.01.09	£0
Value of any other financial assets		Date 6.01.09	£0
Name of other funding sources			
none			
Amount and date of grant			
£		Date	

6	If latest balance (including other financial assets) exceeds the cost of the project or is substantial, are these funds ring-fenced for the normal activities of the group or can they contribute to the cost of the project?
	Yes – to pay wages of greenkeeper and cleaner. Also will be used to pay council tax and all utility bills plus ad-hoc general expenditure.

7	Recommendation		
	Support	√	
	Refuse		
	Defer		
	Amount Recommended	£2000	
Reason for recommendation			
This money will assist in paying for the equipment and services necessary for delivering the sport to the younger community. As well as this, it will be equipment that will last for years to come therefore benefiting future young bowlers.			
Management Risk Ranking	L √ / M / H	Child Protection Risk Ranking	L √ / M / H
Risk Ranking based on Grant Application and Financial Information used to determine appropriate levels of monitoring and evaluation.		Applications with a HIGH ranking are not recommended for support	

8	If there are any revenue implications how will they be met in future years?
	none

9	Does the project represent value for money?	Yes √	No

10	Cross boundary grant (if applicable) and division per committee (the calculation should identify the corresponding number of individuals within the respective Local Committee areas who will directly benefit from the grant award)

		Nos	Amount	%
Northern Local Grants Committee				
Central North Local Grants Committee		80	£620	31
Central South Local Grants Committee		171	£1340	67
Southern Local Grants Committee	Cumnock Area			
	Doon Valley			
Other areas outwith EA		5	£40	2
Method of Division				

All questions on this form must be completed