



To: Finance & Resources Policy Board

On: 16 March 2016

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: APPLICATIONS TO THE RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENS FUND

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report contains information in relation to two applications for funding from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund that has been recommended for approval by the Johnstone & the Villages Local Area Committee (LAC).
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That consideration be given to the recommended awards from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund to Kilbarchan Improvement Project (KIPCo) and Kilbarchan Community Council as detailed in Section 3 below.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The broad purpose of the citizens funds is to promote the welfare of individuals who are in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage and to foster good citizenship and community wellbeing and regeneration by giving financial assistance by way of grant to those living or working in the area to further voluntary activity or to contribute to the regeneration of the community in the area.
- 3.2 Funds were made available to all five LACs with further restrictions being included within the purpose of the funding available to the Johnstone & the Villages LAC insofar as awards would be available to Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan based projects only. This restriction reflects the nature of the bequests amalgamated into the Citizens Fund for that LAC area. Only funds ring-fenced for Kilbarchan based projects remain.

3.3 At the meeting of the Johnstone & the Villages LAC held on 18 February 2016 the following projects were recommended for an award as follows:-

3.3.1 **Kilbarchan Improvement Project (KIPCo)**

The boiler in the Old Library building, Kilbarchan has become unreliable and inefficient. In colder weather it struggles to heat the building and various faults leave the centre too cold for some activities to take place and expensive electric heaters have to be used to heat certain areas.

The boiler has been fully serviced and maintained but the repair bills are becoming heavier. The Centre has been advised that the boiler is no longer up to modern standards and requires to be replaced. While KIPCo can cover the running and maintenance costs, the boiler replacement represents a substantial sum. The Old Library hosts a number of groups such as pilates, yoga, toddlers' music and an elderly group of women who host a memories club. The computer suite is open for public use and for tuition and other rooms are used for various community activities.

The LAC recommended an award of £3,500 from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.

3.3.2 **Kilbarchan Community Council**

The Community Council requested funding to help purchase new Christmas tree lights to light two cherry trees on Barn Green, Kilbarchan. This is to enhance the current Christmas lights supplied by Renfrewshire Council. As a result of Health and Safety concerns the Council and its contractors are no longer able to light the Steeple Spire. This has greatly reduced the effectiveness of the festive lights and it was felt by the local community that by extending the display they can make a better impact.

The project will allow the purchase of sufficient lights to cover 2 of the established cherry trees at Barn Green Kilbarchan. A power supply has already been installed at these trees to allow lights to be fitted. Improved village appearance during the festive period.

The improved display will help promote pride and cohesion within the village and foster good citizenship and community wellbeing.

The LAC recommended an award of £3,000 from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**
The award will be met from existing resources within the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

Empowering our Communities	The awards of funding will strengthen the social and cultural fabric of the local community
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4. **Legal Implications**
Compliance with the Council's Condition of Grants
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None.
6. **Information Technology Implications**
None.
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**
(a) The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because membership of both groups is open to all members of the community. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety Implications**
None.
9. **Procurement Implications**
None.
10. **Risk Implications**
None.
11. **Privacy Impact**
None.

List of Background Papers

None

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