



To: Finance & Resources Policy Board

On: 26 August, 2015

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

**Heading: JOHNSTONE & THE VILLAGES AND RENFREW & GALLOWHILL
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES - APPLICATIONS TO THE
RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENS FUND AND THE RENFREW
BURGH CITIZENS FUND**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report contains information in relation to one application for funding from the Renfrew Burgh Citizens Fund and two applications for funding from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund that have been recommended for approval by the Renfrew & Gallowhill and the Johnstone & The Villages Local Area Committees (LACs) respectively.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That consideration be given to the awards from the relevant Citizens Funds to Renfrew Development Trust, Kilbarchan Singers and the Mary Barbour monument as detailed in Section 3 below.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The broad purpose of the citizens funds was to promote the welfare of individuals who were 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 are 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.
- 3.3 The Renfrew Burgh Citizens Fund has an available balance of £25,463 and the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund has an available balance of £27,640 which is ring-fenced for Kilbarchan-based projects.

- 3.4 At the May cycle of LAC meetings the following projects were recommended for an award:

3.4.1 **Renfrew Development Trust**

Renfrew Development Trust was established in 2013, and since its inception it has consulted with the community of the town to identify themes and priorities that could be progressed by the Trust in association with the Council and other public and private sector bodies involved in the regeneration of Renfrew Town Centre.

If supported, it is envisaged that the Development Trust will deliver the following:

- New and potential uses for empty properties within the town centre
- Economic benefits for the town including increased footfall and the establishment of new businesses;
- The development of new formal and informal partnerships;
- Testing different approaches to regeneration;
- Building the capacity of the Development Trust and in so doing creating a community anchor organisation capable of playing a major and constructive role in the regeneration of the town centre;
- Progressing the establishment of a Community Hub; and
- Providing a catalyst for wider community engagement in the promotion and activities that take place within Renfrew Town Centre.

The Local Area Committee agreed that the aspirations, action plans and potential outcomes and outputs from a suitably-resourced Renfrew Development Trust would be in keeping with the criteria of the Citizens Fund and to this end it recommended that a grant of £20,000 should be made.

Oversight of the Grant would be provided by Renfrewshire Council to ensure that the funds were used for the purposes in which the Grant was offered and an update would be brought back to the LAC in due course to provide an indication of progress and the benefits that had been secured as a result of the grant support.

The LAC recommended an award of £20,000 from the Renfrew Burgh Citizens Fund.

3.4.2 Kilbarchan Singers

The Kilbarchan Singers have been in existence for over 30 years. They perform a wide range of sacred and secular music from 14th Century madrigals to modern 21st Century songs. Singing brings people together and can improve health.

The Kilbarchan Singers hold two annual concerts in Renfrewshire. One in Kilbarchan at Christmas and one in Paisley in May. For the past two years, the Singers have raised money for the Emma Cameron Memorial Trust. This charity provides music therapy to help young people and older people improve their quality of life.

The grant application is intended to help purchase sets of music for each member of the group, the Musical Director and accompanist. The music would be used each week at rehearsals and for future performances. The grant, if awarded, would also provide honoraria for two singers from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to work and sing with the Singers for a season.

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

3.4.3 Mary Barbour Monument

At a previous meeting of Renfrewshire Council it was agreed that “the Council welcomes and supports moves to build a monument in Glasgow in honour of Kilbarchan born and radical visionary, Mary Barbour, Glasgow City Council’s first female councillor; understands that Barbour pushed for welfare changes including free milk for school children, pensions for mothers, wash houses, laundries and public baths, family planning clinics and undertook ground breaking work in relation to the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act 1915.

Council further will work with interested groups locally to look at ways of recognising the work of this Renfrewshire born pioneer.”

Since then local elected members and officers have been liaising with Kilbarchan Community Council to identify and agree ways to recognise Mary Barbour. Following discussion and consultation, it was proposed that:

- A Mary Barbour Prize be established at Kilbarchan Primary School, to be awarded annually to a pupil identified by the Head Teacher. The purchase of suitable trophy and the recurring costs for engraving will be met by Children’s Services.
- A memorial cairn, park bench and interpretative board be constructed at a site on Low Green, Kilbarchan. The site identified is in the ownership of the council. As Kilbarchan is a conservation area, appropriate planning consent will be sought if required.

The cost of the cairn, park bench and interpretative board will be approximately £6,000 and funding for this amount was recommended from the Renfrewshire Citizens Fund to complete this project.

The maintenance of the cairn, bench and board will incur some additional future costs and the LAC agreed that such costs be met from future LAC budgets.

The LAC recommended an award of £6,000 from the Kilbarchan element of the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The award will be met from existing resources within the relevant Citizens Fund budgets. Available balances (excluding the potential awards detailed in this report) amount to £25,463.14 in the Renfrew Citizens Fund and £27,640 in the Renfrewshire Citizens Fund for Kilbarchan-related projects.

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

4. Legal Implications

Compliance with the Council's Condition of Grants

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

7.

(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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