

**To: Finance & Resources Policy Board**

**On: 24 August 2016**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: APPLICATIONS TO THE RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENS FUND**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report contains information in relation to three applications for funding from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund that have 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 Agricultural Society, Kilbarchan Singers 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 ringfenced for Kilbarchan based projects remain.

3.3 At the meeting of the Johnstone & the Villages LAC held on 19 May 2016 the following projects were recommended for an award as follows:-

3.3.1 **Kilbarchan Agricultural Society**

The Kilbarchan Agricultural Society holds an exhibition of livestock, rural crafts and home produce in the local area. The show day encourages the local community in the participation of rural activities and provides a social day out for local families to see farm animals and vintage machinery.

In more recent years the show has expanded to include a dog show and light horse section.

The application relates to the need to bring the light horse section show equipment up to new health and safety standards as intimated by committee members who are involved in the equestrian community and who receive information from the British Show Jumping Association. The upgrading of equipment will provide quick release of a pole which will reduce the risk of injury to horse and riders as they will be more flexible. It will enable the society to comply with outdoor equestrian event health and safety regulations for horse shows.

**The LAC recommended an award of £1,850 from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.**

3.3.2 **Kilbarchan Singers**

The Kilbarchan Singers applied for the purchase of sheet music and to provide honoraria for two singers from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to work with the Singers for a season.

The Kilbarchan Singers need to keep up with new music and compilations of music which become available on a regular basis. The Kilbarchan Singers feel it is important for young people starting out in a singing career to have the opportunity to work with an established choir, expanding their repertoire both as a member of a choir or chorus and as soloist.

New music and compilations are identified by the Musical Director and will be purchased by the Kilbarchan Singers' librarian. The group will provide honaria to two students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to assist them in working with them.

The Kilbarchan Singers will add to cultural and musical life in Renfrewshire , both for the Singers and audiences. Singing and performing improves self-esteem and builds confidence in the individual . The Singers gives the members a challenge, performing difficult repertoire, and the enjoyment of performing on a regular and ongoing basis.

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

- 3.4 At the special meeting of the Johnstone & the Villages LAC held on 28 July 2016 the following project was recommended for an award as follows:-

3.4.1 **Kilbarchan Community Council**

The community council has been successful in securing match funding from the British Heart Foundation to purchase 2 defibrillators having run a successful fundraising drive within the village to raise the community's share of the funding. Unfortunately the Foundation could not supply or fund the specialist storage cases needed to keep the defibrillators in a climate controlled environment and accessible 24 hours a day. Assistance was therefore sought with the part funding of these cases. Each case costs £600 (including delivery VAT and fitting) meaning the Community Council needs to raise £1200. The LAC was requested to consider recommending the award of 50% of this sum from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.

Agreement has been reached with the British Heart Foundation and Scottish Ambulance Service that the best location for the defibrillators would be at Kilbarchan Scout Hall and Kilbarchan Bowling Club with both organisations happy to support this scheme.

**The LAC recommended an award of £600 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.

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**List of Background Papers**

None

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