

Supplementary Agenda



Vale of Leven Fund Committee

Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018

Time: 11:30

Venue: Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall,
Dumbarton Road, Clydebank

Contact: Scott Kelly, Committee Officer
Tel: 01389 737220 scott.kelly@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Dear Member

ITEM TO FOLLOW

I refer to the agenda for the above Meeting of the Vale of Leven Fund Committee which was issued on 22 February 2018 and now enclose a copy of the undernoted report which relates to Item 6, 'Grant Application – Vale of Leven Fund – Alexandria Library (West Dunbartonshire Council)', which was not available for issue at that time.

Yours faithfully

JOYCE WHITE

Chief Executive

Note referred to:-

6 GRANT APPLICATION – VALE OF LEVEN FUND – ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY (WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL) 11 – 14

Submit report by the Strategic Lead - Resources providing information on a project to create a community garden within Vale of Leven Library and to recommend funding from the Vale of Leven Fund.

Distribution:

Councillor J. Bollan
Councillor I. Dickson
Councillor C. McAllister
Councillor J. McColl
Councillor J. Millar
Councillor S. Page
Councillor M. Rooney

All other Councillors for information

Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform

Date of Issue: 26 February 2018

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Strategic Lead, Resources****Vale of Leven Fund Committee****7 March 2018**

**Subject: Grant Applications – Vale of Leven Fund – Alexandria Library
(West Dunbartonshire Council)**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide information on a project to create a community garden within Vale of Leven Library and to recommend funding from the Vale of Leven Fund.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to agree the recommendation for a community garden to be sited at the Alexandria Library as detailed at 6.1; and note that if this application is approved that the funds will be fully utilised and this will close the fund.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Vale of Leven Fund is administered by West Dunbartonshire Council and grant applications are reported to this Committee for consideration. The Fund was set up for the benefit of the people of appropriate voluntary organisations who provide support to the people of the Vale of Leven area who are in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.
- 3.2.** At a Council Meeting on 31 August 2016 it was agreed to disburse the full value of the fund for the Trust's purpose by publicising the availability of the Trust to provide support to appropriate voluntary organisations within the Vale of Leven area which undertake activity aligned to the Trust's purpose.
- 3.3** The value of fund as at 31 March 2017 was £8,369 which includes interest received during 2016/17 of £44. To date, there have been no amounts awarded in 2017/18. Interest has still to be applied for financial year 2017/18 but it is anticipated that it will be in the same region as previous years.
- 3.4** There is currently one other application which is being considered in a separate report to this Committee valued at £2,000 and the recommendation is that this amount is paid. Assuming this is the case a balance of £6,369 excluding interest for 2017/18 would remain within the Fund.

4. Main Issues

4.1 Grant Application

West Dunbartonshire Library Services have applied for £6,585 to create an accessible Sensory Community Garden on land adjacent to Vale of Leven Library. The garden would be available for all members of the community, with particular focus on people who are in need due to age, disability or ill health or who are in financial hardship. The patch of land, roughly 40 square metres, is currently undeveloped grass and our proposal is to use the funds to turn this into a functional, attractive garden with comfortable tables and seating as well as a covered area which would offer shelter from inclement weather. Ensuring that the space is easily accessible for people of all levels of mobility is at the heart of these plans.

The garden is close enough to the library building that it is within reach of the WiFi signal, meaning the garden could also be used as a working space for library users, as well as for meetings, reading and contemplation.

Studies have shown that a visual connection to the outdoors can increase focus and productivity and this connection also provides a sense of wellbeing. Library users and staff would all benefit from the addition of the garden.

Ensuring that the garden is fully accessible for users of all levels of mobility would involve the extension of an existing ramp and the installation of paving stones. Raised beds and adapted furniture would also add to the overall accessibility of the garden

The Leamy Foundation and other community groups would benefit greatly from this garden, while links to local primary schools would also help turn an unused area of grass into a beloved space suitable for all members of the community.

Funding required: The Leamy Foundation has estimated costs based on the creation of a small Sensory Garden containing a paved storytelling area and have also factored in costs to fund resources and events to engage the community for a six month period after completion, including Author events, Bookbug sessions and a Summer Reading Challenge.

4.2 As noted above at 3.4 there is £6,369 excluding current year interest and assuming that the other application received is awarded £2,000. While this does not cover all the costs of developing the garden it would cover the majority of costs.

4.3 It is anticipated that the maintenance of the garden will be minimal and will be maintained both physically and financially within current resources within the library and in conjunction with community groups and primary schools in the area.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 The amount recommended to be paid from the Vale of Leven Fund totals up to £6,369 plus the interest due to the Fund for 2017/18 up to point of closure.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 No risk analysis was required

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

8.1 No issues were identified in a screening of applications.

9. Consultation

9.1 All organisations are consulted regarding recommendations of grant prior to the report being submitted to committee.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 Consideration of Trust Fund applications facilitates meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged.

Stephen West
Strategic Lead - Resources
Date: 23 February 2018

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: Registered Charitable Trusts Report August 2016
Minutes of Council Meeting August 2016

Wards Affected: Wards 1 and 2

**Vale of Leven Trust Fund
for consideration on 7 March 2018
(2017/18)**

Organisation	Purpose of organisation	Grant requested	Purpose of grant	Comments
West Dunbartonshire Council – Library Services	Provide Library Services on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council.	£6,585	To create a Community Garden within the grounds of Alexandria Library which will focus on people within the area who are in need due to reason of age, disability, ill health or financial hardship.	<p>Total cost is £6,585.</p> <p>Group contribution</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance costs</p> <p>Recommendation: Up to £6,369 plus any interest accrued during 2017/18</p>
Number of members	How often does it meet	Other grants applied for/ awarded	Bank Balance	Accounts balance
N/A	N/A	N/A.	N/A	N/A