

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 January 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Aggregates Quarry Fund (Thirstone Quarry) – Grant Application - Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider an application to the Thirstone Aggregates Quarry Fund from Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust of up to £7,500 towards the implementation of property improvement works and upgrading of display infrastructure.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Enterprise Resources Committee of 23 November 2011, approved the Aggregates Quarry Fund (Thirstone Quarry) and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.2. The Fund is financed from a payment from Loudon Contracts. The company has made payments into the Fund of £16940.29.
- 3.3. The Aggregates Quarry Fund is administered by Regeneration Services who have responsibility for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.
- 3.4. Grant awards from the main Community Fund require approval at the Council's Enterprise Services Committee with grant awards of up to 50% of eligible costs being achievable. Grant awards for successful applications to the Community Fund Small Grant Scheme (up to £5000) are delegated to the Head of Regeneration Services for approval. Applications to the Small Grant Scheme (up to £5000) benefit from a grant intervention level of 100% of eligible costs.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture was adopted as a Charitable Trust in 1999 and opened as a museum in 2000. Over the past 12 years it has built up an extensive Collection - unique in its entirety, giving insight to past life in rural Southern Uplands.

The museum attained Registered status in 2004 and full accreditation from Museums and Galleries Scotland in 2011. It is managed by the Trustees, helped by a growing group of volunteers. The organisation is supported by The Friends of Crawfordjohn Heritage, a separate charity, who raise funds on behalf of the Museum Trust by way of collecting annual memberships and holding charity events.

- 4.2. The aim of the project is:
 - To preserve the building
 - To protect the collection
 - To improve access
 - To create a more comfortable environment for visitors and volunteers.
 - To attract a wider audience and increase visitor numbers.
- 4.3. The museum, a former church purchased for £100 in 1988, is in need of refurbishment if the organisation is to continue to conserve the museum for future generations. In order to do this, priority has been given to securing the external fabric of this old property, in particular, repointing of the external stone walls, replacement and refurbishment of the numerous leaded windows and draught exclusion works have been identified. It is intended to install secondary glazing to all the windows which will conserve heat within the building and give further protection to the collection - particularly the large selection of paper documents, photographs, costumes and textiles, that are prone to damage if not kept in appropriate conditions.
- 4.4. To improve access and encourage visitors to the building it is intended to carry out improvements to an underused entrance to create a new wheelchair friendly access. Plastering, re-decoration and refurbishing one of the display areas will improve the interior of the museum and blinds on the south facing windows will protect the collection from light damage when the museum is closed.
- 4.5. The total eligible costs within the project are £31,617 and the organisation is seeking £7,500 from The Aggregates Quarry Fund (Thirstone Quarry). This application scored 27 points during the assessment process. This score permits intervention level of up to 50% of eligible costs. This therefore allows a grant of up to £7,500 to be awarded. The organisation has indicated that it has made further external funding applications to fund the delivery of the project.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The Aggregates Quarry Fund (Thirstone Quarry) has received income of £16,940.29. This is currently available to support eligible projects.
- 6.2. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available to meet the grants award of £7,500 for Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust. A balance of £9440.29 will therefore be available for future grant awards.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programmes. The applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within present budgets subject to agreement on any changes to their proposed project. This is unlikely to have an impact on the Council.

7.2. Delays to the programmes will have no impact on the Council. Without the contributions from the Fund, it is highly unlikely that the project outlined will proceed.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

8.2. All necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

12 December 2012

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Effective and efficient use of resources
- Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- Report to Enterprise Resources Committee of 1 October 2008 – Aggregate Quarries developers' Contributions
- Report to Enterprise Resources Committee of 23 November 2011 – Aggregates Quarry Fund: Thirstone and Annieston Quarries

List of Background Papers

- Application form and supporting material.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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