

Agenda



Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Member for Community and Wellbeing

Date: Friday, 3 November 2023

To: Councillor D Harvey

Item

Wards Affected

1 2023-24 Church Act Applications October 2023 (Pages 3 - 18)

Contact: Anne Jenkins (Governance Team Leader)
Tel: 01633 656656
E-mail: Democratic.services@newport.gov.uk
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Report

Cabinet Member for Community and Wellbeing

Part 1

Date: 3 November 2023

Subject Applications to Welsh Church Acts Fund 2023/24

Purpose To make decisions on applications for funding from the Welsh Church Act Fund.

Author Head of Finance / Senior Finance Business Partner - Corporate

Ward All

Summary There were nineteen applications received for grants from the Welsh Church Acts Fund during the period September 2022 and August 2023 of which fourteen meet the criteria for use of the fund.

There are another four applications which would be eligible under the scheme, but at the time of the applications being submitted there was a shortfall in overall funding required to complete the projects which were subject to these bids. In previous years, applications have been declined where bidders have not been able to identify how any shortfall will be addressed. It is proposed to amend the criteria of the scheme to enable applications to be approved 'in principle' where they meet the criteria of the grant, but who have not yet identified all of the required funding to complete their projects at the time their applications are being considered. This would have to be resolved prior to the grant being paid, and there would be a time limit of two years from the date of the Cabinet Member decision being published. On this basis, there would be four applications that would be approved in principle.

Proposal Approve the applications as shown in Appendix One, utilising a grant award of 60% of eligible expenditure.

Approve an amendment to the criteria of the grant scheme to allow applications that have not yet identified all required funding sources to complete their projects to be approved in principle, but that it would be subject to this being resolved within two years of the published decision with (i) confirmation of a start date and (ii) confirmation that funding secured to complete the project.

Action by Senior Finance Business Partner / Corporate Administration Team – pay grants in line with decision.

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law & Regulation
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Signed Background

Newport City Council receives an amount each year under the Welsh Church Acts fund to be distributed in accordance with its adopted criteria (Appendix 2 & 3). The period involved covers part 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date.

For 2023/24, the amount available for Newport City Council to distribute is £94,080, which includes £40,979 carried over from 2022/23.

All eligible applications are awarded funds and if they exceed available funds in any period, a consistent percentage of funds applied for is awarded to each application to keep the total within available funds. Any unused funds that may exist are carried forward for future applications.

The number of applications that were received for this year have been considerably higher than in previous years and exceed the total available funds. Due to the fact that some of this year's allocation will need to be kept for any grant applications that are received from September 2023 to March 2024, it is recommended that the amount of grant awarded is 60% of the application value for this period, with the maximum amount £10,000 considered for each organisations (clubs / society's, church etc) application and £1,000 for each individual's application. This is lower than the percentage that has been able to be awarded in previous years but is due to the increased number of applications, as well as the higher than normal values of funds being sought.

Applications Received since Previous Evaluation

The list of applications in the period from September 2022 to date and whether they are proposed to be successful or unsuccessful is included in appendix 1.

There are nineteen in total, and fourteen applications proposed to be approved, in full or part, with four to be approved 'in principle'.

The applications that have been approved in principle will be subject to the following conditions.

- The grant will not be paid across to the recipient until confirmation has been received that the shortfall in funding for the scheme / project has been resolved.
- The scheme or project will need to have a confirmed start date.
- Both of the above will need to be within two years of the published date of the Cabinet member report.

By approving applications in principle, this will allow applicants to have security that their funding has been approved for future cashflow purposes and used to leverage in the balance of funding required with other funding contributors. If an applicant is not able to comply with the conditions set above, the amount of money ringfenced will be given back to the overall Welsh Church fund allocation. They will also be able to apply to the scheme again.

The total sums applied for from the successful submissions amount to £118,990 against a total allocation of £94,080. Therefore, it is recommended that 60% of the applied for funds should be awarded (£71,394). The funding levels approved in the previous 2 financial years has been 75% and 100% and is considered each year based on funding available and applications approved. The number of applications approved at the rate suggested here would leave a balance of £22,686 available to be awarded in the future – for applications received to the end of the current 2023/24 financial year.

Financial Summary

The cost for applications is funded from the Welsh Church Acts Fund and has no financial implications to the Council.

Risks

As noted in the report, the proportionate approach to resourcing is necessary to safeguard resourcing into medium term to sustain future applications. There is also an attempt to keep the level of resourcing provided at a consistent level from year to year to derive an equitable distribution, so that applications received alongside a high volume of other applications does not derive proportionately lesser funding than those received in quieter periods. As is the case here, this is not always possible to achieve and is an inherent risk associated with a fixed amount of annual funding and two application deadlines per year.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Not applicable as funds are used for those bids that meet specific Welsh Church Act criteria.

Options Available and considered

The Cabinet Member has the delegated authority to make awards in respect of qualifying applications where it is consistent with that eligibility criteria.

Update the policy criteria to include approving any applications in principle where there is a shortfall in funding at this time to complete the total project but that this can be resolved and a confirmed start date and funding secured within two years of the date of the published decision.

Preferred Option and Why

All the proposed grants are within agreed policy criteria, and update the policy to include conditions regarding applications approved 'in principle'.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial consequences on Council budgets. The applications recommended for funding are within the agreed criteria and funded from Welsh Church funds.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed action is in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Church Act Scheme and the Council's policy.

Comments of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no human resources implications arising from the report. The grant allocations support resilience, cohesion and prevention which is in line with the sustainable development principle of the Well Being of Future Generations Act. There is also a clear alignment between the proposed projects and the overall purposes of the Fund, with the Council's Corporate Plan and the draft Local Action Plan, particularly in terms of supporting communities, groups and individuals to thrive.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

• Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied are in line with the Well-being Goals for Wales. All the purposes of the Fund would contribute to of the achievement One Newport's Well-being objectives set out in the Well-being Plan for the city. There is a focus on involvement through support for community groups in their delivery of projects and services, and on preventing problems occurring or getting worse.

- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. The Council is a trustee in the application of a proportion of Gwent wide fund, and therefore would not be able to use this funding for other laudable activities. This report is neither a strategic decision nor a policy change and therefore would not necessitate and Fairness and equality Impact Assessment. It is instead the application of awards based on pre set criteria, and it is those Gwent defined criteria that would require periodic reassessment under FEIA requirements. That said the application of the policy continues to address issues involving advancement of religion, relief in need, relief in sickness, elderly and sense deprived.

Crime & Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime & Disorder Act 1988 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. The application of Welsh Church funding is not anticipated to increase levels of crime & disorder.

Consultation

No specific consultation.

Background Papers

None.

Dated: 26 October 2023

APPENDIX 1: September 2022 – August 2023

Proposed Successful Applications

LINK	Name and Address of Organisation	Details of Request	Comment/ Matched to	Recommendation
Application Form\Application Form - St Thomas the Apostle Church.pdf	St Thomas the Apostle Church Church Row Redwick Newport NP26 3DE	Financial support of repairs and reconstruction of the South-West quadrant of churchyard boundary wall £9,120	Advancement of Religion	Approve – Restoration of a Church (No successful application in last 2 years)
Application Form\Application Form - Tabernacle Pentecostal Church.pdf	Tabernacle Pentecostal Church 34 Oak Road Rogerstone Newport NP10 9FJ	To support virtual meetings – PA system and laptop. Digital Speaker system £2,642.40 Digital Mixing Desk £3,539.00 Audiorack Stage Box £1,059.00 Subwoofer £1,508.40 TOTAL: £8,748.80	Advancement of Religion	Approve – Advancement of Religion (No successful application in last 2 years – Not set up on Oracle)
Application Form\Application Form - Glebelands Bowls Club.pdf	Glebelands Bowls Club Bank Street Newport NP19 7HF	To grow the sport for the local area and encourage the younger generation to become members. Kit and bags TOTAL: £749 max	Social and Recreational	Approve – Expansion of club Benefits wider community (No successful application in last 2 years)
Application Form\Application Form - Bethel Community Church.pdf	Bethel Community Church 40 Stow Hill Newport NP20 1JG	Furnishing the community use area of the new building, including sports equipment to provide in house facilities, and IT equipment. £10,000.00	Advancement of Religion	Approve – Advancement of Religion (No successful application in last 2 years - £8,000 awarded in 2019)
Application Form\Application Form - Llanwern Village Hall.pdf	Llanwern Village Hall Station Road Llanwern	New Roof Refurbishment/Replacement	Social and Recreational	Approve - Benefits wider community

	Newport	First quote £9,860.00		(No successful application in last 2 years - £7,382.40 awarded in 2020)
Application Form\Application Form - Active Angel's Group Ltd.pdf	Active Angels Group Ltd 78 Greenhill Road Sebastopol Pontypool NP4 5BQ	Dance Equipment £600.00 Utility Costs £520.00 Study Materials £1,320.00 Printed materials £340.00 Volunteer Expenses £900.00 Sessional Staff £2,215.20 £5,895.20	Social and Recreational Medical and Social Research – preservation and protection of physical and mental health of society.	Approve – Dance Equipment, Study Materials and Printed Materials (£2,260) Decline – Utility Costs, Volunteer Expenses and Sessional Staff (Ongoing costs) (No successful application in last 2 years – Not set up on Oracle)
Application Form\Application Form - Penylan Baptist Church.pdf	Penylan Baptist Church 202 Christchurch Road Newport NP19 8BD	Replace current wooden gate to advanced metal gate £1,140	Advancement of Religion	Approve – Restoration of a church (No successful application in last 2 years - £994.98 awarded in 2019)
Application Form\Application Form - The Raw Performance.pdf	2346. 12 Quarella Crescent Bridgend CF31 1JU Based at: Glebelands Park Newport	Equipment for enhanced fitness sessions – Slam Bags x 20 = £441.40 Kettle Bell x 20 = £619.80 Power Bag x 20 = £415.60 Pilates Bar x 20 = £619.80 Jump Boxes x 2 = £250 £2,346.60	Social and Recreational	Approve – expansion of a group Benefits wider community (No successful application in last 2 years – Not set up on Oracle)
Application Form\Application Form - 28th Newport Scouts.pdf	28 th Newport Scouts High Cross Scouts and Community Hall	Transformation of St Anne's Church and Hall to Community Centre.	Social and Recreational	Approve - Benefits wider community

	Church Close Rogerstone Newport NP10 9SH	7 Tables and 2 Trolleys = £3,034 Small preschool chairs x 20 = £460 Preschool Tables, set of 3 = £468 Adult Chairs x 40 @£25.90 = £1,036 Kitchen Equipment = £100 Outside tables x 2 @£329.99 = £659.98 Renovation of the Male Toilets = £4,200.00 Total = £9,957.98		(No successful application in last 2 years – Inactive on Oracle)
Application Form\Application Holy Trinity Church.pdf	Chris Vick Holy Trinity Church Christchurch Newport NP18 1JL	Building and maintenance £10,000.00	Advancement of religion	Approve – Maintenance of a church (No successful application in last 2 years – Awarded £1,500 in 2013)
Application Form\Application Form - Pill Harriers RFC.pdf	Alex Hills Pill Harriers RFC Belle Vue Terrace Newport NP20 2LD	Equipment and Personal Safety Equipment Match Day Kits under 10s x 20 @ £50 each Match Day Kits under 12s x 20 @ £50 each Rhino Junior Pro Headguard (Multiple Sizes) x 20 @ £24.95 each Rhino Mouthguards (Multiple Sizes) x 50 @ £2.95 each	Relief of Poverty (Pillgwenlly - low income families are higher than City average.) Social and Recreational Medical and Social Research – preservation and protection of physical and mental health of society	Approve – Start up of Under 10s and Under 12s team. Benefits wider community (No successful application in last 2 years)

		Rhino Kids Rapide Rugby Boots (Multiple Sizes) x 25 @ £29.95 each TOTAL: £3,395.25		
Application Form\4th Newport West Guides.pdf	4 th Newport West Guides 71 Capel Dewi Hall Road Newport NP20 2QP Held in St. Martin in the Gaer Church	Camping Equipment Total £1513.91	Social and Recreational Education	Approve Benefits the wider community (no successful application in last 2 years)
Application Form\Pride in Bettws 2019.pdf	Janet Cleverly Pride in Bettws 2019 13 Meon Close Bettws Newport NP20 7DN	Community group run on a voluntary basis. Aims to improve the environment to promote wellbeing Litter picks with local schools Garden upkeep in local churches Shed £345 Loppers £25.50 Secateurs £8.50 Hand Shears £10.00 Litter pickers £79.14 Bag holding Hoops £30.48 Total £498.60	Social and recreational	Approve - Benefits the wider community (no successful application within the last 2 years)
Application Form\The Warehouse Church.pdf	The Warehouse Church 23a Mill Parade Pillgwenlly Newport NP20 2JR	A Church that serves the community and the wider area of Newport. Pillgwenlly is one of the most deprived areas of Newport.	Social and Recreational Relief of Poverty (Pillgwenlly - low income families)	Approve - Benefits the wider community (no successful application within the last 2 years)

		Request for video equipment in order to train young people to become proficient in Music and Video Production. £9,400.00	are higher than City average.) Advancement of Religion Educational	
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Proposed Approved 'In Principle' Application

Application Form\Application Form - St Michael and Angels Church.pdf	St Michael and Angels Church Lower Machen Newport NP10 8GU	Maintenance and Repairs – Repointing of the Church Tower and repair of the tower roof and parapets. Max £10,000 towards a total project cost of £120,000	Advancement of Religion	Approve – 'in principle' Any shortfall in funding at the date of the published decision must be secured and a start date confirmed within 2 years
Application Form\Application Form - Newport Yemeni Community Association.pdf	Newport Yemeni Community Association 11 Wallis Street Newport NP20 2DH	Refurbishment of disused/derelict building to New Community Hub Max £10,000 towards a total project cost of £501,000	Relief of Poverty (Pillgwenlly is 10% of the most deprived area) Social and Recreational	Approve – 'in principle' Any shortfall in funding at the date of the published decision must be secured and a start date confirmed within 2 years
Application Form\Application Form - St Cadoc's Church.pdf	St Cadoc's Church High Street Caerleon Newport NP18 1AG	Max £10,000 towards a total project cost of	Advancement of religion	Approve – 'in principle' Any shortfall in funding at the date of the published decision must be secured and a start date confirmed within 2 years
Application Form\Maindee Unlimited.pdf	Maindee Unlimited Llyfrgell Maindee Library 79 Chepstow Road Newport NP19 8BY	£10,000.00 towards the cost of £30,000.00 for equipment replacement and building improvements.	Social and Recreational Educational Medical and Social Research	Approve – 'in principle' Any shortfall in funding at the date of the published decision must be secured and a start date confirmed within 2 years

		<p>Has already applied for £9960.00 from Moonface Foundation (waiting for a decision).</p> <p>Community hub providing education classes, job clubs, mental health group sessions, parkinsons café, hard of hearing group etc.</p> <p>Total: £10,000.00</p>	<p>– preservation and protection of physical and mental health of society.</p> <p>Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries</p>	
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Proposed Unsuccessful Applications

Application Form\Application Form - Duffryn Community Link.pdf	<p>Mary Jones Community Co-ordinator Unit 6 Duffryn Shopping Centre Newport NP10 8TE</p>	<p>Food Bank Expenditure</p> <p>Annual Project Cost - £24,620</p> <p>Seeking £6,218 from WCF</p>	<p>Relief of Poverty</p>	<p>Decline - Ongoing costs.</p> <p>(No successful application in last 2 years)</p>
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APPENDIX 2

WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied

The Advancement of Education

Educational

1. The provision of benefits which are not readily available from other sources for persons of any age in one or more of the following ways –
 - (i) The award of scholarships, bursaries, loans or maintenance allowances to enable or to assist study at any school, university or other place of learning, approved by the Council, which may if the Council think fit include allowances to dependants;
 - (ii) The provision of financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments, other equipment, or books or loans to enable pupils or students on leaving school, university or any other educational establishment to prepare for, or to assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling;
 - (iii) The award of scholarships or maintenance allowances or loans to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education;
 - (iv) The provision, or assistance towards the provision of facilities of any kind not normally provided by a local education authority, or a grant maintained school, for recreation, social and physical training at a school, university or other educational establishment;
 - (v) The provision of financial assistance to enable pupils and students to study music or other arts;
 - (vi) The provision of financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to undertake apprenticeships.

Libraries, museums, art galleries etc

2. The advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the arts and literature of Wales and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
 - (i) the establishment, maintenance, replenishment or aiding of charitable institutions, libraries, museums, art galleries; or art, scientific or industrial exhibitions (including exhibitions relating to industrial archaeology); whether national or local, for the principal use and benefit of the Welsh people;
 - (ii) the assistance of charitable societies for study and research in subjects connected with Welsh history, topography, literature and life;
 - (iii) the provision of lectures, exhibitions and equipment;
 - (iv) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents;
 - (v) the provision of suitable premises (by erection, purchase, lease or hiring for occasional use) for any of the purposes authorised by this paragraph.

The Relief of Poverty

Relief in need

3. The relief either generally or individually of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by the making of grants of money or the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Advancement of Religion

Places of worship and burial grounds

4. The contribution towards the restoration and maintenance of any place of public worship or any burial ground.

Other Purposes Beneficial to the Community

Relief in sickness

5. The relief in cases of need of persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm by the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist the recovery of such persons, but which are not readily available to them from other sources.

Elderly persons

6. The provision or assisting in the provision of accommodation for elderly persons who by reason of the infirmities and disabilities of age have need of such reception, care and attention. The provision of funds to organisations promoting the welfare of elderly persons.

Social and recreational

7.
 - (i) The provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation being facilities which are available to the members of the public at large and which are provided in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving the conditions of life of the persons for whom they are intended and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof, the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, playing fields, other sporting facilities, parks, open spaces and centres or halls for meetings, lectures or classes;
 - (ii) Sub-paragraph (1) is intended, in particular, to be concerned with the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities etc to persons in need by reason of their youth, old age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

Aesthetic, architectural, historical and scientific matters

8. The advancement of the education and public benefit of the Welsh people by promoting their interest in aesthetic, architectural, historical or scientific matters relating to Wales and in particular in furtherance of those matters but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
 - (i) the acquisition and preservation of –
 - (a) land of special interest in relation to science and natural history;
 - (b) land, buildings or objects of beauty or of historic or architectural interest.
 - (ii) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents of historic interest.

Medical and social research, treatment, etc

9. The preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
- (i) the advancement of education in the theory and practice of medicine;
 - (ii) the promotion of medical and social research and schemes for the prevention and treatment of disease and publishing the results of such research;
 - (iii) the provision of nursery and convalescent homes and hostels.

Probation etc

10. Making grants in cases of need for the assistance of –
- (i) persons placed on probation, or children and young persons from community homes or any other Institution of a substantially similar nature established under statutory authority;
 - (ii) the families of any such persons, children or young persons;
 - (iii) discharged prisoners,

People who are Blind or Visually Impaired

11. Provision for the welfare of persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the provision of charitable homes and holiday homes.

Emergencies or disasters

12. The contribution towards the alleviation of the effects of emergencies or disasters involving destruction of or danger to life, and property and directly assisting persons in need as a result of such emergencies and disasters.

Other charitable organisations

13. Contributions towards charitable organisations, the purposes of which are consistent with the provisions of this Scheme or the Welsh Church Acts 1914 to 1945.

APPENDIX 3

Newport City Council – List of Criteria for Welsh Church Fund Act.

When deciding applications to the Welsh Church Acts Fund, the application, in the first instance must fall within the Charitable purposes identified in the Welsh Church Fund Act (Appendix 2)

List of Additional Criteria set by Newport City Council

1. Financial limits on grants will be imposed at £1,000 for individuals and £10,000 for groups and organisations
2. Grants will only be considered to groups, organisations and charities which can demonstrate that they are of benefit to the residents of Newport. This can include national organisations which have a base in Newport serving Newport residents. The groups and organisations that will benefit from grant allocations are;
 - i. Churches and Religious Groups
 - ii. Church Parishes
 - iii. Community Groups and Charities
 - iv. Sports and Recreation Clubs
 - v. Environment group
 - vi. Individuals that have an identified and proven need of financial assistance
 - vii. Other deemed charitable causes by the Cabinet member and the Section 151 officer.
 - viii. The fund will not support general Adult Groups for recreational activities
 - ix. The fund will not allocate funds to Community and Town Councils
 - x. There will be no allocations to Private business and other public bodies
3. Grants will not be provided to support the day to day running costs of groups and organisations, especially where these are likely to create an ongoing dependency on the fund for future financial assistance. Group and organisations should be self-sufficient and will have access to other funding. Day to day running costs include, but not limited to:
 - I. Hire of vehicles
 - II. Room hire
 - III. Equipment
 - IV. Rent of a premises
 - V. Travelling expenses
 - VI. Annual trips
 - VII. Outing / Trips
 - VIII. Salaries
4. Grants for equipment will be considered if it is for the setup of a new group or organisation that will benefit the people of Newport. Or if that an established group / organisation is developing or expanding in order to reach a wider number of Newport residents.
5. Grants will not be made to the same organisation in successive years, unless it is a church application and applications will only be considered if it is for a different and distinct purpose.
6. Grants to individuals will only be considered where they are a resident of the City of Newport and can clearly demonstrate there is an identified and proven need of financial assistance, and there is no alternative source of funding available for the intended purpose.
7. There will be a presumption against making grants to individuals for education, health, sporting, artistic or other personal development matters
8. Grants will not be provided in the form of a loan

Notes

9. The Welsh Church fund will pay future awards by BACS payment and for organisations and groups the payment will only be made to a company bank account.
10. All evidence is required to be submitted to the council six months after the grant has been paid.
11. Where a shortfall in funding is identified, all funding must be secured and a start date for the project confirmed within two years of the published decision date.

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