

Report

Cabinet Member for Community and Resources

Part 1

Date: 31 March 2021

Subject Applications to Welsh Church Acts Fund 2020/21

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

Author Head of Finance

Ward All

Summary There were 19 applications received for grants from the Welsh Church Acts Fund up until September 2020 of which 14 meet the criteria for use of the fund.

Proposal Approve 14 applications as shown in Appendix One, for the first round tranche of applications in 2020/21 and agree a grant award of 75% of eligible expenditure

Action by HoF – organise payments in line with decision

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law & Standards
- Head of HR & Transformation
- Ward members in wards affected

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. For 2020/21, the amount available for Newport City Council to distribute is £83,277, which includes £30,422 carried over from 2019/20.

Following feedback that a once per year consideration of applications created unhelpful delays in awarding funds, these will now be considered twice per year. Due to Covid, the second tranche of applications from 2019/20 has been considered alongside the first tranche of applications in 2020/21. The available funds have been split with £56,849 being awarded for this round, which includes the carry forward of £30,422 and £26,428 available for the second half of the year.

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. For this period the amount of grant awarded is 75% of the application, with the maximum amount £10,000 considered for each application.

The list of applications in the period to 30th September 2020 and whether they have been successful or unsuccessful is included in appendix 1.

Applications 1st October to 30 September

These are shown in Appendix 1 and of the nineteen received and listed, fourteen meet the criteria and are recommended to be awarded funds. The total sums considered from these fourteen amount to £73,728 and therefore it is recommended that 75% of the applied for funds can be awarded.

Financial Summary

The cost for this application is funded from the Welsh Church Acts Fund and has no financial implications to the council.

Risks

There are no material risks arising directly from this report.

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 may make awards to qualify groups/organisations as provided by the Criteria.

All the proposed grants are within the agreed policy. This report does not change any of the current policies.

Preferred Option and Why

To make the awards as detailed in the attached schedule and allow the Head of Finance to approve the three applications where additional information has been requested if this satisfactory

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 Head of People and Business Change

There are no human resources implications arising from the report. The grant allocations support community groups which is in line with the sustainable development principle of the Well Being of Future Generations Act.

Local issues

The comments provided by Ward Members on the proposed course of action in respect of their area have been included in the appendix.

Scrutiny Committees

N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

N/A

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

N/A

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

These grants are used to support a number of small community groups. These groups enable various areas of the City to function in a better way and to contribute to the above priorities for the Council.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

These grants are used to support a number of small community groups. These groups enable various areas of the City to function in a better way and to contribute to the above priorities for the Council.

Consultation

Comments received from wider consultation, including comments from elected members, are detailed in each application report in the attached schedule.

Background Papers

None.

Dated: 22 March 2021

APPENDIX 1: 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020

Successful Applications

Ref No	Name and Address of Organisation		Details of Request	Comment/Matched To	Recommendation
Scanned Applications\001 St Mary's Church.pdf	St Mary's Church 9 Stow Hill NEWPORT NP20 1TP	Religion	£10,000 Maintenance - re-render North & North East of the Nave	Advancement of Religion	Approve
Scanned Applications\006 Llandevaud Village Hall.pdf	Llandevaud Village Hall Llandevaud Court NEWPORT NP18 2AD	Belongs to St Peters Church although self-managed, separate accounts The hall once fit for purpose the Hall will be available to book for functions, meetings, clubs and societies	Maximum of £10,000 Bring building up to date – not used for 12 months. Hall received WCF Award 6yrs ago - £10,000	Social and recreational (i)	Approve
Scanned Applications\007 Lliswerry Baptist Church.pdf	Lliswerry Baptist Church Camperdown Road NEWPORT NP10 0JF	Religion	£10,888.26 – maximum award available £10,000 Maintenance to improve access	Advancement of Religion	Approve
Scanned Applications\008 Newport Yemini Community Association.pdf	Newport Yemini Community Association 11 Wallis Street NEWPORT NP20 2DH	Youth Club aimed at Newport's Yemini community to encourage learning through positive activities. Group is open to children all over Newport	£3,289 Equipment and stationery purchase to equip a new youth club	Social and Recreational (i) Educational (v)	Approve

Scanned Applications\01 1 Raven House Trust.pdf	Raven House Trust 276-278 Cromwell Road NEWPORT NP20 4EG	Support families in need across Newport , providing furniture and food	Approximately £11,000 Maximum award available £10,000 Purchase of new van for delivering furniture Newport wide.	Relief in need	Approve
Scanned Applications\01 2 Hungarian Cultural Community in Newport.pdf	Hungarian Cultural Community in Newport 30 Windermere Square NEWPORT NP19 7BS	Classes and activities for Hungarian families keeping alive traditions, language and culture. Run by volunteers	£10,000 to purchase equipment to help families communicate in Hungarian (Hungarian library books, dance costumes, games, IT)	Educational (v)	Partial Approval of £5,661 recommended
Scanned Applications\01 4 Menter Iaith Casnewydd.pdf	Menter Iaith Casnewydd , Llawr D, Prifysgol De Cymru, Usk Way, CASNEWYDD NP20 2BP	An organisation dedicated to enabling the communities of Newport live and work in Welsh	£1,213.14 Development of Welsh resources specifically welsh board games in conjunction with students from Ysgol Gyfun Is Coed. Split into 3 parts Prt 1 = £588.64 for board games Prt 2 = £624.50 printing of games and workshop costs	Social and Recreational (ii)	Partial Approval of £588.64 recommended
Scanned Applications\01 5 The Warehouse Church.pdf	The Warehouse Church 23a Mill Parade NEWPORT NP19 8YY	Formerly Newport City Church Trust – non-dominational – with outreach groups through Pillgwenlly	£ 11,400 set up of new outreach groups Storehouse: £1,250 Renovation £650 Running costs £1,400 Initial supplies to begin the programme	Relief in need	Partial Approval of £3,000 recommended for The Storehouse Project Partial Approval of £790 recommended for The outreach group - Coffee & Co

			<p>£3,000 Food parcels & packaging £350 Equipment (outreach group) Coffee & Co: £1960 Running Costs £2000 Cultural/Educational excursion £230 Storage cupboard £560 Equipment</p>		
Scanned Applications\017 Newport Cricket Club.pdf	Newport Cricket Club 1 Holland Close NEWPORT NP10 0AU	Newport Cricket Club based in the Newport Sports Village	Maximum award available £10,000 to purchase main & repeater Scoreboards	Social & Recreational (i)	Approve
Scanned Applications\018 Hartridge Rugby Football Club.pdf	Hartridge Rugby Football Club 47 Windermere Square, Old Barn, NEWPORT NP19 9LH	A club working alongside WRU , local schools and sport teams delivering a range of learning opportunities through sport from under 5s to over 65s	£6,948.84 £3,024.84 Equipment £3,924 Hiring fees	Social & Recreational (i)	Partial Approval of £3,025 recommended
Scanned Applications\019 St Mary's Church.pdf	St Mary's Church Llanwern	Religion	£1,500 Roof repairs	Advancement of Religion	Approve

Scanned Applications\002 Amazing Grace Spaces.pdf	Amazing Grace Spaces Grace House 2 West Park Road NEWPORT NP20 3EH	Supporting the homeless & people recovering from additions etc by providing education practical help and support	£1,256 IT equipment to enhance client experience within current provision	Social and recreational (ii)	Approve
Scanned Applications\003 Authentic Voices DLB.pdf	Authentic Voices DLB The Warehouse Church, Newport NP20 2JR	Educate and support services and service users about domestic abuse through the sector and nationally recognised Freedom Programme.	£3,889.11 Group based in Newport needs equipment to expand provision	Social and recreational (ii)	Approve
Scanned Applications\010 Pride in Bettws.pdf	Pride in Bettws 13 Meon Close Bettws NEWPORT	PiB work in partnership with NCH, Millbrook School and others – volunteer group aims to improve the environment to promote wellbeing	£728.76 Equipment to help improve Bettws area for residents	Social and Recreational (i)	Approve

Unsuccessful Applications

Scanned Applications\004 Charlie-Beth Smith.pdf	Charlie–Beth Smith Mr G Smith 9 Lobelia Close NEWPORT NP19 0LS	Personal application applying for funding to help with fees for daughters vocational ballet school	£1000 towards fees for attendance at a vocational Ballet School	Educational (v)	Decline As per the terms and conditions there will be a presumption against making grants to individuals for education, health, sporting, artistic or other personal development matters
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Scanned Applications\005 HCPT.pdf	HCPT 142 Cefn Road Rogerstone NEWPORT NP10 9EX		No amount specified on application form	Award received in 2016 £4,050 Jan 2017 - £600 2018 - £5,440	Decline. As per the terms and conditions Grants will not be made to the same organisation in successive years, unless it is a church application
Scanned Applications\009 Oakley Jenkins Street Gate Project.pdf	Oakley Jenkins Street Gate Project c/o A W Morgan Oakley Street NEWPORT NP19 0FX	Application from residents of Oakley Street – Lane used for fly tipping and anti social behaviour. Ground owned by Newport City Homes	£2,881.74 Build gates to improve community safety		Decline As per terms and conditions grants will only be considered to groups, organisations and charities which can demonstrate that they are of benefit to the wider residents of Newport
Scanned Applications\016 Our Chartist Heritage.pdf	Our Chartist Heritage 12 Allt-yr-yn Court NEWPORT NP20 5GF	The advancement of education for the public benefit in the history and heritage of the Chartist movement by provision of arts events and activities etc	£9,429 professional fees	No – consecutive years	Decline. As per the terms and conditions Grants will not be made to the same organisation in successive years, unless it is a church application
	Newport Mediation Bettws in Bloom Building 1 Lambourne Way Bettws NEWPORT NP20 7TL		Tutor/Learner support New form to be submitted		Decline New form not submitted in time

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.