

Report



Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

Part 1

Date: 12 January 2023

Subject Applications to Welsh Church Acts Fund 2022/23

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

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Ward All

Summary There were eleven applications received for grants from the Welsh Church Acts Fund during the period October 2021 and October 2022 of which eight meet the criteria for use of the fund. Eight applications are recommended for approval.

Proposal (1) Approve the eight applications as shown in Appendix One, utilising a grant award of 100% of eligible expenditure

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

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 2021/22 and 2022/23 to date.

For 2022/23, the amount available for Newport City Council to distribute is £97,017, which includes £48,260 carried over from 2021/22.

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 100% of the application, with the maximum amount £10,000 considered for each organisations (clubs / society's, church etc) application and £1,000 for each individual's application.

Applications Received since Previous Evaluation

The list of applications in the period from October 2021 to date and whether they are proposed to be successful or unsuccessful is included in appendix 1.

There are eleven in total and eight applications proposed to be approved, in full or part.

The total sums applied for from the successful submissions amount to £56,039. It is recommended that 100% of the applied for funds should be awarded (£56,039). The funding levels approved in the previous 2 financial years has been 75% 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 £40,978 available to be awarded in the future – for applications received to the end of the financial year.

Financial Summary

The cost for applications are 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 volume of others doesn't derive proportionately lesser funding than those received in quieter periods.

Given the large balance of funds and relatively small number of applications, a 100% funding is being recommended for this tranche in 2022/23 and therefore it carries the potential risk of leaving insufficient for the rest of the financial year. However, at over £40k and given that there is 3 months left to the end of the year with only 1 new application received, the balance seems healthy and there is no need to go below 100%

Whilst previous and potentially future bids may get a lower percentage contribution; this is an inherent risk to applicants given a fixed sum of resources but two tranches of application considerations per annum.

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.

Preferred Option and Why

All the proposed grants are within agreed policy criteria, and this report does not act to change existing policy.

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, Policy and Transformation

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, There is a strong correlation between the projects proposed for support and the overall purposes of the Fund, with One Newport's Well-being Plan priorities.

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: 12 January 2023

APPENDIX 1: October 2021 – October 2022

Proposed Successful Applications

Ref No	Name and Address of Organisation	Category	Details of Request	Matched Charitable Purpose	Recommendation
Applications\Crindau Community Church.pdf Applications\Grant to Crindau Community Church.msg WCF/FEB2022/01	Crindau Community Church c/o Howard Lewis 2 Malpas Road NEWPORT NP20 5PA		The church currently offers a variety of activities to attract the public. However, they want to convert an outdoor space at the rear of the church into a safe play area or a quiet meeting place £15,125.00	Advancement of Religion Social and Recreational	Benefits the whole wider community Approved £10,000.00
Applications\Pill Boxing Club.pdf WCF/FEB2022/02	Pill Boxing Club c/o Ayed Nasir 24 Alice Street NEWPORT NP20 2HS		New Club – equipment purchase for boxing club £5,300.00	Social and Recreational Relief in Need Probation New set up costs	Benefits the whole wider community Approved £5300.00
Applications\St Dubricus Church.pdf WCF/FEB2022/03	St Dubricus Church c/o Revd J S Waters 24 Mounton Drive CHEPSTOW NP16 5EH		Repairs to church tower £10,000	Advancement of Religion	Approved £10,000.00
Application - East Newport Cycle Speedway Club.pdf	East Newport Cycle Speedway Club c/o Rob Absalom 24 Heaol Teifi Caldicot NEWPORT NP26 4PQ		New committee has taken over the existing Club. Members currently share shirts which is unhygienic/unsafe in the current climate. New Shirts £1,000	Social and Recreational 2019 £1660 Gravel track	Benefits the whole wider community Approved Fencing only Provision of facilities £9,000.00

			Fencing around the ground has been vandalised. Members include young children and vulnerable adults and we need to keep them safe. Fencing £9,000		
Application forms\Application - SOUTHWALES SPORTS CLUB (SWSC).pdf	SOUTHWALES SPORTS CLUB (SWSC) 20 Graham Street Newport NP20 4GH		Equipment needed for Summer Term Basketball Training 3/7/23 – £5000	Social and Recreational New set up costs	Benefits the whole wider community Approved £5,000.00
Application forms\Application - St Davids Church.pdf	St Davids Church, Yeo Close, Bettws, NP20 7RS		Internal repairs to cracks in wall and ceiling of Main Chapel £870.00	Advancement of Religion	Approved £870.00
Application forms\Application - HCPT.pdf	HCPT (The Hosanna House Childrens Pilgrimage Trust) Oakfield Park, 32 Bilton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 7HR Local Base: 142 Cefn Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9EX		Travel expenses for 6 or more local children to visit Lourdes in the South of France at Easter 2023 Each child cost ranges between £850 - £1000. £5100 - £6000	Social and Recreational Relief in sickness Award rec 2016 £4050 Jan 2017 £600 2019 £5440	Approved £6,000.00
Application forms\Application - St Michaels ABC.pdf	St Michael's ABC Unit 34 Albany Trading Estate Shaftesbury Newport NP20 5NQ		Exercise equipment and computer equipment to support the growth and expansion of the organisation £9869.24	Social and Recreational Relief in Need Educational Probation Growth and Expansion	Benefits the whole wider community Approved £9,869.24

				Councillor Cockeram and the Youth Justice Team have supported this application	
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Proposed Unsuccessful Applications

Ref No	Name and Address of Organisation	Category	Details of Request	Matched Charitable Purpose	Recommendation
T:\FINANCE\Welsh Church Fund\Welsh Church Fund\2021- 22 Deadline 31st August 2022\Application - ICE Wales Trust.pdf	ICE Wales Trust c/o Christine Thomas Schools Work Director 91 Ruskin Avenue Rogerstone NEWPORT NP10 0BD		Enter schools to deliver Walk Through the Bible programmes Staffing £1800 Travel expenses £100 Equipment and Marketing £100 £2,000	Churches and Religious groups Equipment and marketing £100	Not Approved - Running costs
2021- 22 Deadline 31st August 2022\Application forms\Application - Allegra Ladies Choir.pdf	Alison Glover Allegra Ladies Choir St. Julian's Baptist Church Beaufort Road Newport NP19 3SY		Summer Gala Concert 2023 £3605.00	Advancement of Religion Social and Recreational Arts and Literary Activities	Not Approved - Running costs
Application forms\Application - Newport Cricket Club.pdf	Newport Cricket Club Newport International Sports Village Spytty Boulevard Newport NP19 4PT		Purchase of a new outfield cutting mower – to increase the time available for community based activities for disadvantaged areas of Newport – Pill,	Social and Recreational Awarded £7,500.00 2021	Not Approved - Applied last year - Day to day running costs

			Maindee, Ringland, Alway. Catchment areas for NISV. £10,000		

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.