

Community Grant Assessment November 2016

Applicant: Menheniot Explorer Group
Amount applied for: £1377.00
ASSESSMENT
Overview & what benefits to the community (Section B1.5 and B1.7)
The Explorer Group is being set up to take older people (14-17) who are moving up from the Scout group. Funding is for the purchase lightweight tents and camping gear.
Other funding from their own resources and alternative sources. (Section C1.1-1.4)
This is a new start up group, and so funding from themselves is limited. However, the organiser will be applying to the Scout Association for £100, and the existing Scout Group in Menheniot has raised about £2,000 over the last 3 years.
Organisers of the group contribute their own time. This currently estimated as being 180 hours per year, which has a minimum value of £1,413 (based on living wage at £7.85 per hour).
Numbers benefitting (Section B1.7)
The applicant estimates that initially, 15 scouts (later rising to 20) would benefit each year.
Other resources (eg volunteering) (Section C1.4)
There is considerable volunteer time input by Scout Leaders. For the Scout Group at present there are 3 Leaders/Assistant Leaders who input approximately 2 hours a week for 30 weeks a year to the weekly Scout meeting, plus about 4 weekends away each, plus many hours of planning and preparation. The Scout leaders will lead the Explorer group at the outset, with a new assistant leader joining Scouts.
Priorities as identified by the applicant, and those of the council (Section C1.1)
Items highlighted in bold are priorities for the applicant.
1.1 Item Cost £
Lightweight tents x3 Vaude Terratrio 3P £600
Lightweight stoves x3 Vango folding stove £75
Lightweight saucepans x3 Vango aluminium cook set £90
45 litre rucksack x4 £212
If funds available; 2 further lightweight tents £400
TOTAL £977 (£1,377)
Notes
Mr Payne has been prompt and helpful in his replies to my supplementary questions, and has explained in detail about the cost and benefits that setting up the group will bring. This grant is not for running costs of the group as a whole. Individual scouts pay a fee for their camping trips, but this is designed to break even on running costs (eg food, gas, campsite fees).
This group plans to make its camping events as inclusive as possible by taking account of young people who may have disabilities. 'Some examples of how we have enabled Scouts to participate are: - on a wild camping trip on Dartmoor we camped not far from an accessible road, so a Scout who couldn't manage the backpacking could join us for the wild camping - our older Scouts have gone along to a Cub Camp for the weekend to support a Cub who would otherwise have found participation very difficult - the Cub camp was a whole new experience for the Cub

- our older Scouts have to plan and undertake an expedition. One group has specifically planned its activities, centred on a camping trip to Lundy, to ensure that everyone can participate.'

The applicant explains why awarding them a full grant of £1,377 will bring benefits to the group:

'The £977 requested buys 3 lightweight tents - sleeping 9 Scouts "cosily" or 6 Scouts with a bit more room. We have 15 Explorers in the new group, so 3 tents means that we can go on trips but would not have enough lightweight tents for the whole group. The extra (approx) £400 for two further tents would mean that we would have 5 tents and be able to sleep 15 Scouts; effectively the whole group. Having fewer than the 3 lightweight tents requested in the £977 would be quite limiting - even with Leaders taking their own lightweight tents to sleep in, we would have to limit numbers going on each trip, which would be awkward and disappointing.'

Recommend £1,377.

Applicant: Menheniot Parochial Church Council

Amount applied for: £3800.00

SUMMARY

Section A Baseline Standards

The work of graveyard maintenance is carried out as part of the PCC's remit. Applicant has not explained how the work is planned or organised.

They have previously received annual finding from the parish council of £1900.

From March to October 2015, the PCC paid out £2090 for grass cutting, which is £190 more than they were awarded by the council. There are low levels of reserves (£394.18) remaining at the end of October 2015. This figure is £190 lower than the reserves at the start of the year.

Section B Project Details

Maintaining the graveyard in a safe condition is the legal responsibility of the PCC. The applicants explains that going beyond that remit to make the gardens attractive is a benefit to all residents of the parish and visitors. The critical part of this work relates to the final responsibility for maintenance in the future. In 2001, a Parliamentary Select Committee set out that the responsibility for maintaining a closed graveyard would automatically pass to the local (parish) council, which can be transferred to the county council. At the moment, the graveyard will have a useful life until approximately 2056.

The same parliamentary report recognised that *'essential problem remains that neither the Church, nor local authorities, currently have the resources to maintain burial grounds to consistently high standards. We hope, therefore, that an alternative solution may be found, allowing the Church itself to retake responsibility for currently 'closed' churchyards and generate income from them.'*

The report also noted that *'fees and charges for burial rarely reflect what is necessary to keep a grave and its surroundings in good order indefinitely.'* And that *'Under current arrangements, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain cemeteries in a fashion fit and proper for the needs of the bereaved, and many are being left to fall into decay and neglect. The ever-increasing cost of the perpetual maintenance of graves risks raising the cost of burial to an unacceptable level.... A way must therefore be found for cemeteries to maintain a long-term source of income.'*

Section C Budget & Costings

The applicant has described in general terms that the grant will be used to pay for the cutting of grass at a rate of £380 per months for 10 months of each year. If the applicant does not receive the full amount from the parish council, the PCC would make up any shortfall where necessary or they would cut the grass less frequently.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200001/cmselect/cmenvtra/91/9108.htm>