

Report to County Councillor Scott Smith

Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:
Whitworth & Bacup;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:

Whitworth in Bloom

Contact for further information:

Local Member Grants, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal and Democratic Services,
LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £258.88 towards large poppies, compost, manure and a foldable garden trolley from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

Recommendation

That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

Detail

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division. Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.

For the financial year 2024/25, each county councillor has a budget of £2000. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Scott Smith's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:



Full name of your organisation	
Whitworth in Bloom	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£258.88	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Whitworth and Bacup	£258.88
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
Large poppies, compost, manure and a foldable garden trolley.	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
Spring/Summer 2024	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
<p>Since the refurbishment of the Memorial Gardens in 2012, there has been an uptake in their use and how they are perceived. There are those who seek a floral refuge there and stay a while and those who drive through Whitworth but still appreciate the display. The Gardens come into their own on Remembrance Sunday when residents, the nationally-acclaimed brass band, joint churches and local dignitaries, often numbering 600+ people gather to remember those who have defended, and continue to defend, our country.</p> <p>The 'Sponsor a Poppy' installation organised by a local resident with the help of the Town Council, has proved a striking addition to the aspect of the Gardens. And now the Whitworth in Bloom volunteers would like to support that colourful project by planting large, ornamental poppies in the three beds behind the decorated railings. These would flower earlier than many of the plants already established and so would provide a show of colour in the weeks when other plants are emerging.</p> <p>Since the town's Tourism and Leisure Committee is organising a celebratory Afternoon Team in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, this seems a fitting time to undertake this planting. Additionally, since the poppies are perennial, they should form colourful drifts over time. They also have the major benefit of being magnets for bees and hoverflies.</p>	



The volunteers who manage Whitworth Cemetery have also requested some poppies for the area they manage.

To facilitate this planting, compost and manure will be needed and to help with the hefting of this, the Bloomers would also like to buy a sack barrow.

Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.

Poppies	£191.88
Compost/manure	£25.00
90kg sack barrow.	£42.00

If you are not asking for the full amount of the cost of your activity / equipment, please give us details of where the rest of the funding is coming from. Please also explain what you will do if we give you the grant, but you do not get the other funding.

Requesting the full amount of funding for the project.

If the councillor offers a grant of less than you have asked for, please explain below how that will affect your proposal – for example, will you still be able to complete your project or purchase, will you scale the project back, or seek funding elsewhere?

We will reduce the number of plants we buy.

Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?

- Yes
- No

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.



Finance

An update of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£9.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,009.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
		£0.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,009.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	Stronger Together Carers Group	£500.00
		£500.00
NEW REQUESTS	Whitworth in Bloom	£258.88
		£258.88
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£758.88
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,250.12

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

