

Report to County Councillor Ged Mirfin
Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:
Ribble Valley North East;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Whalley 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 £1,374 towards the cost of two large square planters 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 Ged Mirfin'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	
Whalley in Bloom	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£1,374	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Ribble Valley North East (Cllr Mirfin)	£1,374
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
<p>We have two purple wheelbarrows as a plant display on two main approach roads to Whalley village (Mitton Rd and Clitheroe Rd). Over the years the colour of the wheelbarrows has faded and they look scruffy (though might still be functional as wheelbarrows for future use). The depth of the wheelbarrows is also shallow thereby limiting the type of planting that can be put there.</p> <p>We would like to replace them with two large square planters (identical to the one at the side of Whalley Bus Station, which we purchased last year). The planters are from ARK Plastics made from recycled materials and are very durable, lasting at least 5 times longer than wood, are UV resistant, Vandal resistant and the material is chip, crack and splinter proof.</p>	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
The planters are made to order, so we would order them as soon as the grant was approved.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
<p>The planters would be a beautiful and impressive entrance to the village. It will be an improvement to the existing wheelbarrows and make the areas bright, cheerful and well cared for in line with the rest of the village. This would bring pleasure to both locals and visitors.</p> <p>From an environmental perspective it would reduce whole life costs due to the durability and density of the planters and also enable us to plant more sustainably with perennial plants due to the increased depth of the planters. The planters are made from recycled plastic and the manufacturing process results in no loss or wastage of the raw material, so for every 1kg of "waste plastic" used it produces 1kg of useable material.</p>	
Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.	



Two Black Planters 1000x1000x 750 £512 plus 20% VAT = £612
Total Cost £1224
Free Local delivery
ARK Plastics (a local family company)
Unit 6b, Charter Mill, Charter St, Accrington BB5 0LD

Planting and Compost for 2 planters £150

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.

N/A (Applying for full cost).

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?

If the grant is for just one planter rather than two, we would need to stage additional fundraising events over several years to raise this amount, unless other grants could be secured.

If the grant was for less than one planter again we would have to wait until our reserves could be built up to make the difference, however the 12 month window for spending the grant might make this impossible.

If the grant did not cover the plants and compost then we would aim to cover this through a local plant sale.

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 up-date of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
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C/F from 2023/24		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
		£0.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS		
		£0.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£0.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£2,000.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

