

REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2018

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018 - 2019

1 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee consider the following applications:

1.1	Auchenblae Defibrillator Group -	£300.00
1.2	Laurencekirk, Memorial Park Group -	£8,000.00
1.3	Dickson Memorial Hall, Laurencekirk -	£3,298.00

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Council has allocated £80,000 to each Area Committee for the financial year 2017/18 for the Area Committee Budget. Members agreed to set aside £20,000 of the budget for a Participatory Budgeting exercise in Portlethen for projects emerging from the Settlement Action Plan.
- 2.2 An application has been received from the Auchenblae Defibrillator Group for £300 towards the cost of purchasing an external defibrillator for outside the Village Hall in Auchenblae. The total cost of the project is £1,224.72 and £924.72 has been raised by the community group.
- 2.3 The Memorial Park Group in Laurencekirk has requested £8,000 towards the purchase of a storage unit and toilet for the Memorial Park. The total cost of the project is £21,816.00 with £13,763.00 having been granted by the Tullo Twinshields Community Benefit Fund, subject to a lease from Aberdeenshire Council before September 2018. As part of a suite of enhancements agreed through community engagement for the Memorial Park, Laurencekirk, one of the items was a bespoke storage unit and toilet facility that would enable sports clubs (football, hockey, tennis etc) to store equipment required for training and games. The Park is currently without a toilet facility and this would be seen as an enhancement for the Park as more facilities are being offered. The community engagement conducted through a Place Standard event, and other engagement exercises assembled the following list of community improvements for the Park:
- Extend the Park Pavilion – long term goal
 - **Additional Storage Space**
 - **Park Toilet**
 - Putting Green
 - Perimeter Path
 - Additional play equipment (for older children)
 - More sports pitches (football)
 - Outdoor Fitness Equipment

The facility suggested will be run and maintained by the Memorial Park Group.

Planning Permission has been granted and the Council are content with the proposal, although a lease is required to be assembled soon to enable the group to access the Tullo Twinshields grant funding.

The Memorial Park Group has worked closely with Aberdeenshire Council Officers, Mearns Area Partnership and the Mearns Community Council to assemble some of the funding required to take forward projects. To date funding has been gathered for the perimeter path, a second sports pitch and goals, a new climbing frame and they are working towards funding the zipwire.

The Memorial Park Group has also entered into a Service Level Agreement with the Council having purchased a lawn mower to share the responsibility of grass cutting and maintenance of the Memorial Park and the former Mearns Academy Playing Fields.

- 2.4 An application has been received from the Dickson Memorial Hall in Laurencekirk for £3,298.00 for hall refurbishment, to include work on the wooden floor, purchasing a specialised cleaning machine for wooden floors and redecoration. The total project cost is £6,596.40 with half being met by hall funds already in place. The Dickson Memorial Hall is owned by the congregation of Laurencekirk Parish Church and managed by a committee, comprising of Church and community representation. The Hall was refurbished to a high standard in 2010 and has increasingly become widely used on a daily and weekly basis. Since the closure of local authority owned buildings in Laurencekirk, the reliance placed upon the Hall as a venue for use by a range of groups for different activities has increased. The current users include fitness classes, children's group, Church Guild, Ladies Social Club, etc. In addition, the Hall is in demand by individuals to host family celebrations and by different organisations for cultural and music events, conferences and meetings. On a monthly basis, the Hall organises either afternoon teas or lunches which have proved extremely popular. It is also frequently used as a venue for funeral teas, the catering for which is provided by Hall volunteers. The Hall is self-funding through the programme of events detailed above. The Hall is run by volunteers for the community ensuring financial viability by maintaining a good cohort of talented volunteers and a programme of activities adapted to suit the community. Free transport to events is offered to enable those less able to attend events. As a result of the constant use of the Hall since its renovation in 2010, the natural wooden floor is in need of refurbishment. The purchase of a machine to clean the refurbished floor will help to maintain its condition and the work associated with this, together with the need to refresh the paintwork and wood staining in some areas of the Hall, means that re-decoration work is needed. The Committee will offer the specialised cleaning machine to other halls.
- 2.5 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report, their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.6.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of

Governance as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Area Committee Budget.

4 Implications and Risks

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommended actions will not have a differential impact on people with protected characteristics. Access to both resource is available to all members of the community.
- 4.2 There are no particular staffing implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 The management of this budget will be undertaken within existing Area Manager's resources. The proposals outlined in this report are in line with the allocation of financial resources as contained in the 2018/19 Revenue Budget for Area Managers.
- 4.4 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with other organisations. No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.
- 4.5 The content of this report has been considered against the Town Centre First Principle and would have no impact upon the identified town centres in Kincardine and Mearns, therefore a Town Centre First Impact Assessment is not required.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Karen McWilliam, Area Committee Officer
(Kincardine & Mearns)
03.04.18



KINCARDINE and MEARNES AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET						
FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19						
APPLICANT	PURPOSE	DATE RECEIVED	BUDGET AMOUNT REQUESTED	DATE TO COMMITTEE	£104,500 AMOUNT AGREED	RUNNING TOTAL
FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19						£80,000.00
Portlethen Participatory Budgeting	Participatory Budgeting Event	20.03.18	£20,000.00	20.03.18	£20,000.00	£60,000.00
Auchenblae Defibrillator Group	Defibrillator	08.03.17	£300.00	24.04.18		
Laurencekirk Memorial Park Group	Storage Unit and Toilet	02.04.18	£8,000.00	24.04.18		
Dickson Memorial Hall, Laurencekirk.	Refurbishment and floor cleaning machine.	03.04.18	£3,298.00	24.04.18		