

REPORT TO THE FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE



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Date	5th November 2024
Subject	Small Grant Applications

PURPOSE:

1. To provide details of the Small Grant Applications that have been received for the Committees consideration.

BACKGROUND:

2. Colne Town Council has a commitment to encourage, support and promote local community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in Colne for the benefit of the Town.
3. The Town Council currently operates three different grant schemes as follows:
 - Small Grant Scheme
 - Climate Change Grant Scheme
 - Nature Reserve Grant Scheme
4. Colne Town Council has adopted a Small Grants Policy that is reviewed regularly.
5. The agreed budget for the financial year commencing 1st April 2024 includes a total of £6,500 collectively for Climate Change and Community Projects, and a top up to £15,000 for the Nature Reserve Grant.
6. The grants awarded are normally restricted to £1,000 for Small Grants, £1,500 for Climate Change Grants and £5,000 for Nature Reserve Grants, however these limits may be lifted at the Committees discretion.
7. Details of grants already awarded are as follows:
 - Colne Citadel - £1,000
 - Colne Football Club - £1,000
 - Colne Junior Council - £1,000 (£750 + £250)
 - Colne Gala Committee - £2056 (£1,000 + £1,056 for roan closure)
 - Waterside Millennium Green Trust - £800
 - Pendle & Burnley District Angling Association - £1,000
 - Alkincoates Woodland Nature Reserve - £3,372

8. The above grant awards come to a combined total of £10,228, leaving a value of £644 remaining in the Small Grants budget, along with a top up to £11,628 for the Nature Reserve Grants.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

9. Please find information below, relating to the Grant Application that has been received this month:
 - Colne Business Improvement District (BID) – The BID Manager has requested a total of £644 towards the North Valley Roundabout Landscape Improvement Scheme. The project will create a new shrubbed area around the plumbing centre car park and will create wildflower bedding areas to support wildflower regrowth and improve the overall look of the area. The area is perceived to be a key gateway site into the town.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

10. The requested funding is the exact figure remaining in the agreed budget for small grants for 2024/25.
11. The total project cost is £7,098.51, (please see Appendix 1 for details), and a similar request was taken to the last Colne Area Committee meeting for the remaining cost of £6,454.51.
12. Please see the extract from the draft minutes of the Area Committee meeting below:
 - ‘That a contribution of £2,000 be awarded to the North Valley Roundabout Improvement Scheme, with requests that a redesign of the scheme be considered; and the owners of the sections of roundabout not in PBC ownership be asked to contribute.’
13. The request fulfils all the criteria in the Town Council’s grant policy, however it does state in the application that the work is due to commence in Spring 2025.
14. Ideally and in order to comply fully with Council Policy, the works would need to be completed by 31st March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

15. That Members consider the information presented and decide whether this is something that the Town Council would like to fund.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

16. Town Council Members have shown a commitment to encourage, support and promote local community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in Colne for the benefit of the Town.

17. Members should be aware that if this funding request is approved, the Town Council funding pot for small grants / climate change grants will be closed and no further projects could be funded for the remainder of the year.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

18. A grant application has been received by the Colne Business Improvement District.
19. The required amount is still available in the Small Grants budget, as per the Town Council's agreed budget for 2024/25, however approval would close the scheme for the current financial year.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

20. None directly arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

21. Pendle Borough Council

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

22. Appendix 1 – Quotation for the works

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Langley