

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Special Meeting and Actions

2:00 pm, Thursday, 25 February 2010

Held at: Linwood Centre, Linwood Lane

Councillors in attendance:

Councillor Dale Keeling

Councillor Bill Shelton

35. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Shelton was appointed Chair of the meeting.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Scott Clarke, City Warden and Jenny Hoole, Speakeasy Theatre Company.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were asked to declare any interests in the business on the agenda and/or declare if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act applied to them.

For the avoidance of doubt Councillor Shelton declared that he had received an email in support of the application for Saffron Resource Centre's education advice service. He had also been invited to a production of the Speakeasy Theatre Company, but had been unable to attend.

For the avoidance of doubt Councillor Keeling declared that he had received an email in support of the application for Saffron Resource Centre's education advice service. He had also attended a production of the Speakeasy Theatre Company.

38. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGETS

Jerry Connolly, Members' Support Officer, introduced applications for funding that had been received and gave an update of the current funds available.

It was noted that this special meeting had been arranged to consider budget applications before the end of the financial year. The meeting noted that there were insufficient remaining funds for all of the applications to be approved, so all applications were considered together to reach agreement on how to allocate the remaining funds.

Jerry suggested that the application for dog waste bins be deferred to a future meeting for further discussion on where they were needed. Some concern was raised regarding this application, as it was felt that this was a service function. It was reported, however, that funds were limited and previous requests for bins had not been met.

It was reported that an application that was circulated at the meeting for Saffron Directory had been received within the required time scale, but had not been included with the agenda. This was, therefore, to be considered alongside the other applications. It was felt that the directory was vital for the Saffron area and the meeting agreed to fund the application in full.

Peter Thomson, Advice Worker at Saffron Resource Centre, explained the work of the education advice service, stating that it was currently the only service of its kind in the city and offered vital support, advice and advocacy to parents and young

people. Two parents spoke in support of the service, explaining their experiences and how the service had proved invaluable. Following queries, Peter stated that a large amount of funding sources had been explored, but had been unsuccessful. It was suggested that Peter also apply to the Eyres Monsell and Aylestone Community meetings, as the service would help residents of those wards too.

The meeting considered the application for the Act Up Young People's Theatre. It was noted that they had already received funding for a different aspect of the project earlier in the year. Concerns were raised regarding whether the service was duplication of what was offered at the Knighton Fields Centre, and what proportion of service users were from the Freeman Ward. It was reported that they had a different approach to existing services, reaching disadvantaged young people. It was also felt that there were alternative funding sources for the arts that could be explored.

The meeting considered how to allocate the remaining funds. It was suggested that the Act Up Young People's Theatre Company's application was not time critical, and it was agreed, therefore, that Jerry explain to them that consideration of the bid had been deferred, due to the limited funds available and the more urgent need of the other applications. They would be invited to the next meeting to explain the service further. Following this decision, the meeting agreed to allocate the remaining funds to the Saffron Resource Centre Independent Education Advice Service, with an assurance of sympathetic consideration of the outstanding amount in the next financial year.

AGREED:

- 1) that the application for dog waste bins be deferred to the next meeting for a mapping exercise to take place;
- 2) that £1,150 be allocated to the Saffron Directory from the Community Cohesion fund;
- 3) that £3,850 be allocated to the Independent Education Advice Service, with assurance of sympathetic consideration of the outstanding balance in the next financial year, and the recommendation that applications also be submitted to Eyres Monsell and Aylestone Community Meetings;
- 4) that the application for the Act Up Young People's Theatre Company be deferred to the next financial year, and a representative be invited to the meeting to explain the work of the group.

39. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 3.02pm.

