Linwood Centre, Linwood Lane On Thursday, 25 February 2010 Starting at 2:00 pm

This is a special meeting that will consider solely budget applications that have been received.

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

Your Ward Councillors are:

Councillor Dale Keeling Councillor Bill Shelton

Making Meetings Accessible to All

WHEELCHAIR

Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on the details provided.

BRAILLE / AUDIO TAPE - CD / TRANSLATION

If you require this agenda or a particular part of it to be translated or provided on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend on equipment facility availability). In certain cases, subject to the agreement of the local Councillors, translation facilities can be provided at the meeting.

INDUCTION LOOPS - HEARING AT MEETINGS

We provide a loop system at every meeting for people with hearing aids. If you have a hearing aid, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting for further assistance if you think you won't be able to hear what's being discussed. There is also a facility which can help people hear better if you don't have a hearing aid but are hard of hearing, again please speak to the Democratic Services Officer about this.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillors will elect a Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The first main item on the agenda is Declarations of Interest where Councillors have to say if there is anything on the agenda they have a personal interest in. For example if a meeting was due to discuss a budget application put forward by a community group and one of the Councillors was a member of that group, they would not be able to take part in the decision on that budget application.

Councillors are asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4. **COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGETS**

Appendix A

Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

Jerry Connolly, Member Support Officer, gives an update on the current position with regard to the Community Meeting budgets and introduces applications for funding that have been received as follows:

Application 1: Act Up Young People's Theatre Company

Application 2: Dog waste bins

Application 3: Independent education advice.

Help us to make improvements!

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

For further information contact

Heather Kent, Democratic Services Officer or Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer, Resources Department, Leicester City Council, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG

Phone 0116 229 8816 / 8823 Fax 0116 229 8819

Heather.Kent@leicester.gov.uk / Jerry.Connolly@leicester.gov.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

| FREEMEN | WARD BUDGET 2008/9 | AND 20 | 09/10 | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Project description | Applicant | Ward Action Plan | Community Cohesion | Ward Community Fund |
| Carnival Procession | Saffron Arts Forum | | | 2000 |
| 100% Best Attendance | Police | | 350 | |
| Ministry of Food | Catch 22 | | | 405 |
| Youth Crime awareness project | Saffron Young People's Project | 2500 | | |
| Delivering Service Excellence | Leicestershire Police Authority | 50 | | |
| Environmental Improvements | | 1700 | | |
| Kingfisher Sports Centre | Kingfisher Youth Centre | 400 | | |
| Saffron Fete | saffron community enterprises | | 1200 | |
| Community workshops | Saffron Arts Forum | 500 | 400 | 1500 |
| Mobility Vehicle Replacement Project | Saffron Resource Centre | 2000 | | |
| Lancaster Boys Choir Project | Lancaster Boys School | | 400 | |
| Fairytales Move and Groove Project | | | | 2000 |
| Ecological survey | Aylestone Park Residents Group | | | 350 |
| Saffron Fete First Aid etc | Saffron Fete Committee | 980 | | |

| Project description | Applicant | Ward Action Plan | Community Cohesion | Ward Community Fund |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | Speak Easy Theatre | i iaii | Conesion | T dild |
| Acting Up Young People | Company | | | 1500 |
| Acting Up Young People | Speak Easy Theatre Company | | 915 | |
| Health and Safety | Linwood CA | 745 | | |
| Safta's | Saffron Community Event | 950 | | |
| Dog waste bins | Cllr Keeling | 646 | | |
| Shredder/chipper | Aylestone allotments | 1190 | 300 | |
| Uniforms for skating team | Empress skating club | | 400 | |
| Police Transport | Welford Road LPU | | | 500 |
| Totals committed | | 11661 | 3965 | 8255 |
| Total budget | | 16667 | 4000 | 8333 |
| Total available | | 5006 | 35 | 78 |
| APPLICATIO | NS: SPECIAL MEETING - FE | BRUARY | 2010 | |
| Independent education advice | Peter Thompson | 6000 | | |
| Bins for dog waste | Enviro services | Up to 6000 | | |
| Act up | Speak Easy Theatre Company | | 866 | 1436 |

Application 1

Ward Community Cohesion Fund Proposal Form

Please read the Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the **Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund.**

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

Section 1: Budget Proposal

1. Name of Ward

Freeman Ward, Eyres Monsell Ward and Aylestone Ward

2. Title of proposal

Act Up Young People's Theatre Company

3. Name of group or person making the proposal

Speakeasy Theatre Company nd.

4. Short description of proposal. Please include information on how the money will be spent, who will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when the proposal has been successful.

It is important that your answer to this question is clear, because we will only pay the costs when we can see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been achieved. You can provide further details in your supporting information if you want to.

After re-establishing Act Up youth theatre this year we are now moving to develop the project further. Act Up will now be offering a free weekly after school session throughout the year alongside the intensive project weeks which will run three times a year during both February and October half term and for a week during the summer holidays. This will allow for targeted and age specific social and theatrical skill development that can also be linked to schools' curriculum.

We will target Act Up's projects to enhance common educational concerns in the area, targets such as improvement of speaking and listening or using inventive approaches to make meaning, thereby offering an informal curriculum linked learning environment that all children and young people can access. To do this we will be in regular consultation with the schools in the area to find out the areas they feel could be improved and therefore discover common targets.

We will investigate any barriers to participation analysing current successful participation and targeting areas where participation could be improved. We will also look to determine project sustainability by establishing and linking up partnerships and investigating the possibility of using existing resources and extra curricular budgets.

The skills that the young people develop will not only enable them to become performers, expand their imagination, and increase their creativity, but will also benefit

many aspects of their lives: education; social interaction and personality. Their social skills will improve through teamwork and peer mentoring techniques gained from working with young people of all ages. They will learn the importance of compromise when working with others, as well as techniques that enable them to speak out and communicate opinions and ideas. They will gain an increased interest in literature, live performance and other cultural activities that they may not experience without Act Up's input.

Through workshops and performances 'Act Up!' allows young people and their families to socialise with other members of their community; enabling community cohesion and encouraging their sense of citizenship. Ownership of the work they create is forged because the young people are consulted at every stage, their opinions are listened to and their work within the team is praised. The achievement they experience and the skills they learn help to build their confidence and self esteem enabling them to achieve in all areas of life. Act Up also allows young people to demonstrate to the rest of the community what they are capable of and in turn give the community exposure to cultural activity that wouldn't exist without Act Up's input. Act Up will contribute to the young peoples' personal development building self esteem and aspirations, helping them to become confident, independent and well rounded individuals.

The weekly sessions themselves will concentrate on skills development this may involve bringing in other specialist artists to lead sessions in other performance arts mediums aside from theatre or indeed other aspects of theatre itself such as lighting or sound. All in all this will give the young people opportunities in an area of interest that is beyond what is currently offered. This therefore allows the young people to discover their skills as well as possibly opening up career opportunities to them.

We will continue to evaluate the young peoples' progress throughout their time at 'Act Up'. The intensive performance weeks will act as a marker and help us to see how much the young people have learnt from the weekly sessions as they put their theatrical skills into practice. We will also ask for audience feed back after every production which will contribute to us understanding what has been learnt and where improvements can be made. We will also be in contact with the young peoples' schools to discuss and record any changes or improvements that may have occurred due to a young person attending 'Act Up'. After every intensive week and regularly throughout the year we will ask the young people to complete a self evaluation this will help us to understand how they feel they are developing. We will collect photographic evidence (where proper permissions are provided) to give us visual evidence of the young peoples development. We will also form an 'Act Up' members committee or steering group who will be involved in peer evaluation at regular intervals throughout the year.

5. Which Ward Community Cohesion Fund criterion or criteria does your proposal support? Please give details of how it does this for each criterion (Add further rows or continue or a separate sheet if needed).

| Criterion | Details of how your proposal supports the criterion |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| no. | |
| 1a) | This project will allow young people from all cultural backgrounds to work closely together on a theatre project that develops their skills and knowledge as well as giving them an understanding of each other, their needs and their community. |
| 2a) | This project will offer high quality participatory arts activity for young people that will widen cultural awareness and develop their social skills. |
| 2b) | This activity will create numerous opportunities for different generations within the community to share in the same experiences through performances and workshops where parents and guardians could be invited to participate. |
| 3a) | Through community performance the group will gain confidence in their ability. They will demonstrate their potential to the wider community and in turn improve the self-esteem of each other and their audience. |
| 3b) | Act Up builds a strong sense of citizenship in its members by showing them the importance and the benefits of being members of a community. As the young people develop we encourage them to take on leadership responsibilities, enabling them to move forward though life with strong leadership skills. |

| 6 | Have | VOL | provided | anv | Sunr | ortina | inform | ation? | > |
|----|--------|-----|----------|------|------|---------|--------|--------|---|
| u. | ı ıave | you | provided | ally | Supp | JULLING | | aแบบ : | |

| Tick if yes | |
|-------------|--|
|-------------|--|

7. What is the total cost to the Community Meeting? £2600.00

(This figure is to be funded between the three ward meetings to a total of £866.00 per ward.)

8. How have you estimated or calculated the cost? Please show each item of expenditure and say whether it is an estimate or an actual cost.

| Item | Cost £ | Estimate | Matched or applied for |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| item | COST L | | iviatoried or applied for |
| | | or actual | |
| | | cost? | |
| Planning and staffing of project 18 w/s 3 staff + p/w | | Actual | THF £6560.00 / Ward |
| x2 4 staff = | £8,800.00 | | Community fund £2240.00 |
| | | Actual | Ward Community Cohesion |
| Project planning development = | £2,600.00 | | fund |
| Marketing = | £450.00 | Actual | THF |
| | | Estimate | THF£350 / Ward community |
| Hire Costs = | £700.00 | | fund £350 |
| Venue costs = | £450.00 | Actual | in kind Leicester Libraries |
| Contingency = | £500.00 | Actual | HC |
| Curriculum and Skills Development = | £1,000.00 | Actual | THF |
| Website Development = | £1,000.00 | Actual | HC |
| Members Incentives = | £500.00 | Actual | HC |
| Design Fee = | £1,000.00 | Actual | Ward Community fund |
| Planning Staffing Project delivery 14 w/s 3 staff and | | Actual | Children in Need £2400.00 / |
| 1 p/w 4 staff = | £5,600.00 | | SEAK £3200 |
| Marketing = | £450.00 | Actual | HC |
| Hire Costs = | £350.00 | Estimate | SEAK |
| | | Actual | Ward Community fund £720 / |
| Curriculum and skills development = | £2,000.00 | | CiN £1030 / HC £250 |
| Venue costs = | £390.00 | Actual | in kind Leicester Libraries |
| Writers fees = | £800.00 | Actual | HC |
| Performance rights = | £750.00 | Estimate | HC |
| Group Identity and development = | £750.00 | Actual | HC |
| Design Fee = | £1,000.00 | Actual | CiN |
| Workshop and Design space= | £1,000.00 | Actual | CiN |

| Total | £2,600.00 | |
|-------|-----------|--|
| | | |

9. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

We have been awarded £4000.00 From extended schools services.

We have also placed a bid to Trust House Foundation for £8360.00

The High Cross community fund for £5000.00 and to Children in need which is £15650.00 for the 1st year and then £13500.00 For the following 2 years.

10. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

| Name of contact person | Jenny Hoole |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Your position in organisation or group | Development worker |
| Name of organisation or group | Speakeasy Theatre Company |
| Address: | |
| Unit 16 Linwood workshops | |
| Linwood Lane | |
| Leicester | |
| LE2 6QJ | |
| | |
| Phone number | Email |
| 0116 283 6646 | jenny@speakeasy.fsbusiness.co.uk |

Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)

11. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

| Name of contact person | Jenny Hoole |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Your position in organisation or group | Development worker |
| | |
| Name of organisation or group | Speakeasy Theatre Company |
| Address: | |
| Unit 16 Linwood workshops | |
| Linwood Lane | |
| Leicester | |
| LE2 6QJ | |
| | |
| Phone number | Email |
| 0116 283 6646 | jenny@speakeasy.fsbusiness.co.uk |

12. Declaration

I have read the *Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund* and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

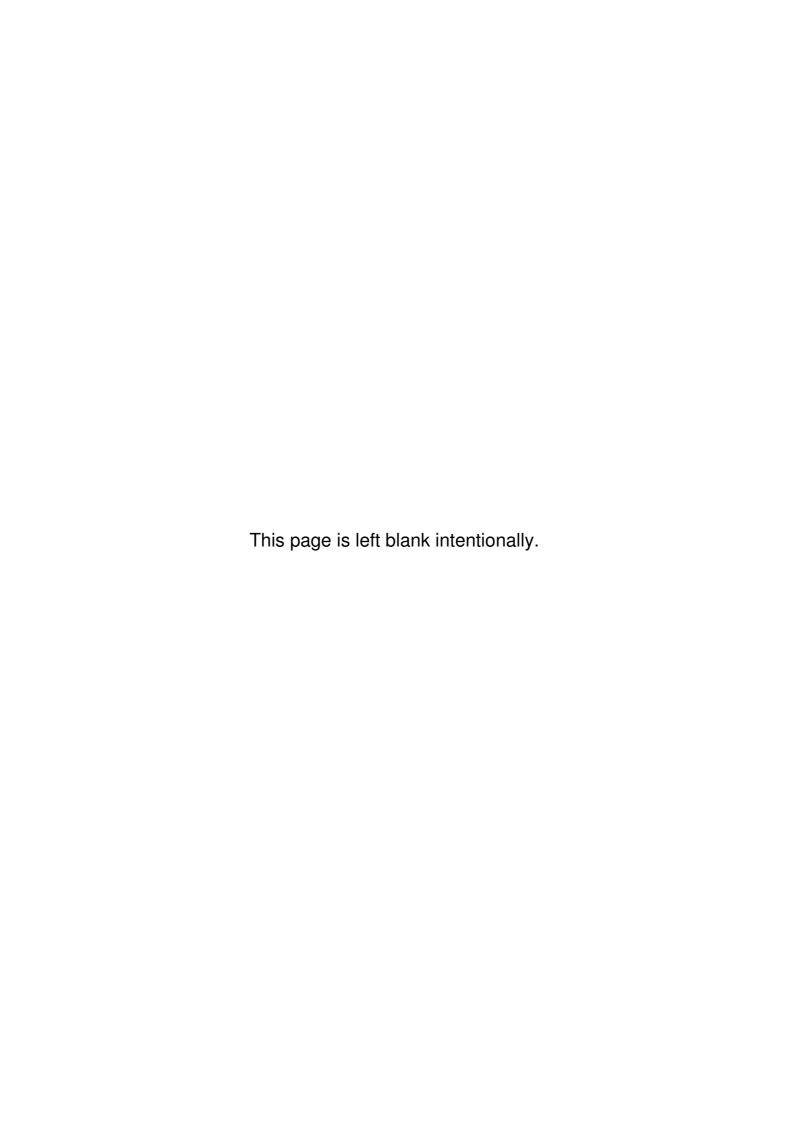
| Name | Jenny Hoole |
|-----------|-------------|
| Signature | J A Hoole |
| | |

| Date | 04/01/2010 |
|------|------------|
| | |

Please send this completed form back to:

Bhawna Arya, Member Support Team, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Leicester City Council, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG.

Fax No: 0116 229 8827



Application 2

Ward Community Fund Proposal Form

Please read the Guide to the Ward Community Fund before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

Section 1: Budget Proposal

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the **Guide to the Ward Community Fund**.

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

| 1. Name of Ward | Freemen |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Title of proposal | DOG WASTE BINS |
| 3. Name of group or | person making the proposal |
| Member Support C | Office |
| • | of proposal. Please include information on how the money will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when een successful. |
| costs when we can | our answer to this question is clear, because we will only pay the see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been provide further details in your supporting information if you want |
| Installation of up to requirements. | 10 waste bins to augment existing services to meet local |
| _ | n programmes are already fully allocated and there is a for this facility, subject to community consultation |
| | |
| | |
| 5. Have you provid | led supporting information? Tick if yes |
| 6. What is the total | cost to the Community Meeting? |

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|--------|-----------|--|
| T. \ | 61111 | |
| 74 | :)()() | |
| ~ ' | ,000 | |

7. How have you estimated or calculated the cost? Please show each item of expenditure and say whether it is an estimate or an actual cost.

| Item | Cost £ | Estimate or actual cost? |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| cost of supply, installation and emptying of one bin | 450 | actual |
| | | |
| Total cost of 10 bins | 4,500 | actual |

8. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

| Existing mainstream programmes are already fully allocated |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| |
| |
| |

9. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

| Name of contact person | Jerry Connolly | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Your position in organisation or group | Member Support Officer | |
| Name of organisation or group | Leicester City Council | |
| Address | | |
| Town Hall | | |
| Leicester | | |
| LE1 9BG | | |
| | | |
| Phone number 0116 229 8823 | Email jerry.connolly@leicester.gov.uk | |
| | | |

Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)

10. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

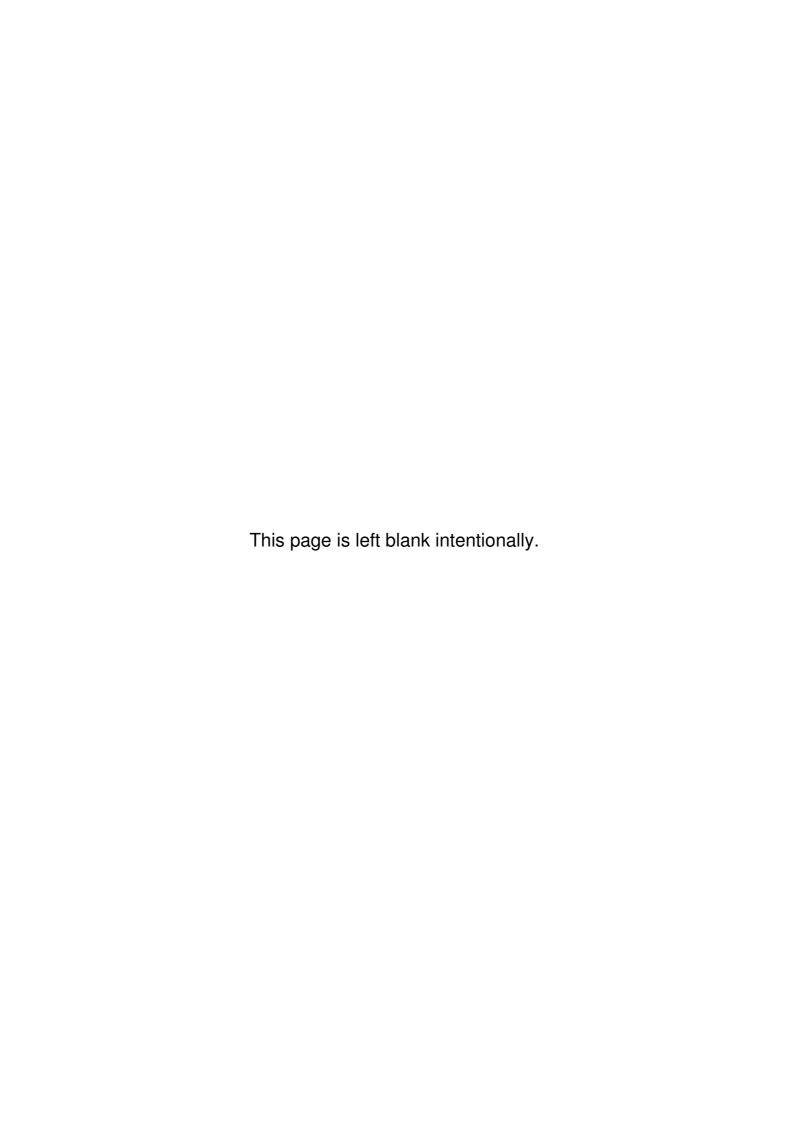
| Name of contact person | As above |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| Your position in organisation or group | |

| Name of organisation or group | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Address | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Phone number | Email |
| | |

11. Declaration

I have read the *Guide to the Ward Community Fund* and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

| Name | Jerry Connolly |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Signature | |
| | 16 th February 2010 |
| Date | , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , |



Application 3

Ward Community Cohesion Fund Proposal Form

Please read the Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund.

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

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Section 1: Budget Proposal

-8 JAN 2010

1. Name of Ward

Freemen Ward

RECEIVED

2. Title of proposal

Independent Education Advice

3. Name of group or person making the proposal

Peter Thomson, Saffron Resource Centre

4. Short description of proposal. Please include information on how the money will be spent, who will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when the proposal has been successful.

It is important that your answer to this question is clear, because we will only pay the costs when we can see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been achieved. You can provide further details in your supporting information if you want to.

Most Saffron Resource Centre service users live in Freemen Ward.

Saffron Resource Centre is seeking to put together a funding package to guarantee an education advice service over the next six months. Freemen parents continue to seek independent advice and representation to challenge discrimination and school choice.

Regular reports on education advice work are available.

For further information please see: www.srcentre.org.uk

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | | | |
| 5. Which | Ward Cam | | |
| proposal s | Ward Community Cohesion upport? Please give details er rows or continue or a sepa | Fund criterion c | or critoria |
| (Add furthe | er rows or continue or a sepa | of how it does to | nis for each orito- |
| Criterion no | | 110 | ~ucu1 |
| - Monon ne | Details of house | | |
| 1b | Social integration. Ass choice appeals. There | istance with sch | the criterion |
| | choice appeals. There dissatisfaction on school | is a high level of | of Leicester |
| | new arrivals find och | -1.0100 101 111-1 | erm admissions |
| | | | |
| | Curving Will (Accel -) | 1 | SOOISI IOW INA- |
| | faith and single sex school | ools Freemen W | ard parents as- |
| 2a | 90,1001 | 11111000 | Comprahanai |
| 4.0 | MINOIVING VOLIDA DOGEL | - | |
| | researchers have measu truancy in Freemen Ward | red regular sec | University |
| | truancy in Freemen Ward a starting point for success | at a high 33%. | School inclusion |
| | a starting point for succes | ssful community | involvement |
| 1984 | 744 | | 774 |
| | | | |
| | The state of the s | 7 | |
| 6. Have you pro | Ovidad == | | 75 |
| you pit | ovided any supporting inforn | nation? | Tick if yes |
| | | L | rick ii yes |
| /. vvnat is the | total cost to the Community | Meetings | 750 |
| | | | £6000 |
| 8. How have yo | ou estimated or calculated the say whether it is an estimate | | |
| expenditure and | ou estimated or calculated the say whether it is an estimate | ne cost? Please | show each item of |
| Item | - Oodinat | e or an actual c | ost. |
| | 77984 | Cost | Estimate or |
| Salary for six moths half time | | 3 | actual cost? |
| Salary on-costs (12%) | | 5184 | Total COST! |
| | commodation (20%) | 622 | |
| Management/acc | 1 - 10 | 1161 | |
| wanagement/acc | | 1 | 7744 |
| Management/acc | rom this fund | 2000 | |
| Management/acc | rom this fund further £4000 of funding | 2000 | |

| applications) | 186.5 | - | |
|---------------|-------|------|--|
| Total | | | |
| | 7 | 2000 | |

9. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

Through the City Council Saffron Resource Centre approached the Community Law Advice Centre for funding for education advice. Saffron Resource Centre has made formal application to Parenting Fund application (2 year funding). Equality and Human Rights Commission application (3 year funding). Local External School Services funding applications (3 months).

The most recent funding for education advice was awarded by Saffron Neighbourhood Management and expired in March 2009. Internal and external resources for this service are now exhausted.

10. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

| Name of contact person Your position in organisation or group Name of organisation or group Address | Peter Thomson (Half-time) Advice Worker Education Advice | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Saffron Resource Centre 432 Saffron Lane Leicester LE2 6SB | | |
| | | |
| | Email peter.thomson@srcentre.org.uk | |

Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)

11. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

| Name of contact person Name of organisation or group Address Saffron Resource Centre 432 Saffron Lane Leicester LE2 6SB | Peter Thomson Education Advice |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phone number 0116 283 7212 | Email peter.thomson@srcentre.org.uk |
| 12. Declaration | The state of the s |

I have read the Guide to the Ward Community Cohesion Fund and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

| D : | onanges. | , or the |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Name | Peter Thomson | |
| Signature | AThenson | |
| Date | 8/1/10 | |
| Please send this cor | mnleted for | 770 |

Please send this completed form back to:

Karen Shelton, Member Support Team, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Leicester City Council, Leicester, LE1 9BG. Fax No: 0116 229 8827

Resource Centre campaigns to cut the cost of schooling in Freemen Ward

Saffron Resource Centre is located on Saffron Lane and has been providing quality services for local people for 35 years. Remember we provide services for the whole of Freemen Ward. Think of us as the Saffron and Freemen Ward Resource Centre! Around half of our service users are Freemen Ward residents. The majority of our enquiries relate to welfare benefits and resulted in awards of just under £500,000 during 2009.

Groups such as the Child Poverty Action Group and The National Union of Teachers have long been concerned about providing help to families with school costs. There is much to be gained, for example there are over 1000 Leicester children where the parent has failed to claim entitlement to free school meals.

Peter Thomson is part of the Resource Centre advice team and he provides information on school choice. He will almost always advise parents to look first at the nearest school but there is evidence that some Freemen Ward families have been pushed or pulled to schooling out of the local area. Local Authorities have certain duties to assist with school transport. And there is a relatively new scheme brought in (September 2008) to promote school choice for low-income families.

- ☐ There is no means test for free school transport if the nearest school with a place available is more than three miles away (two miles for children under 8 years of age).
- □ The Local Authority has a duty to provide free transport to those eligible for free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit to attend any of the three secondary schools closest to their home where these schools are more than two and less than six miles away. Alternatively pupils may choose a school between two and fifteen miles away where the nearest suitable school is preferred on the grounds of religion or belief.
- □ A child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs may receive transport assistance even if they live within three miles of their school. However this is only granted if there are special reasons included in their Statements.
- ☐ If your child is admitted to primary school since September 2007 and your child is aged between 8 and 11 years and you live more than two miles from the school and they are entitled to free school meals or your family gets the maximum level of Working Tax Credit apply to the City Council for free transport.

Peter Thomson is available to assist Freemen Ward families who may need independent advice to challenge a City Council decision on free school transport. Peter says, "If the parent and the school feel the school transport decision is unfair and there are special circumstances there is a limited amount Saffron Resource Centre can do to help, but if the City Council decision appears to be unlawful there is plenty we can do to assist the parent to take matters further. Leave a message for me on 0116 283 7212"

