



Report

Officer: Amee Plimmer - Business Administrator
Date: 15th March 2023
Meeting: Town Council - 21st March 2023

Bridgnorth Festival Grant Application

Aim

- To discuss the grant application received from the Bridgnorth Festival.

Background

- The Town Council has a policy on grant applications with the following eligibility criteria:
 1. *Applications should demonstrate a need for seed, crisis, or hardship funding.*
 2. *Applications should contain sufficient information to allow an objective decision to be reached by the Town Council.*
 3. *Applications should be for local community groups.*
 4. *Where applications will also benefit non-Bridgnorth residents, evidence should exist that demonstrates other sources of appropriate funding are being or have been pursued.*
 5. *Applications should not be considered for retrospective grants.*
 6. *Applications from groups that have recently received a Town Council Grant should demonstrate an overriding or particularly novel reason.*
 7. *Applications should cover activities to which the Town Council has a legal power to contribute.*
- *In exceptional circumstances The Town Mayor can exercise some discretion when considering whether an application is eligible for consideration that does not readily fall within the guidance criteria. Examples may include:*
 1. *National charities that are conducting activities in the Town, primarily for the benefit of the residents.*
 2. *Participation in civic events.*
- All grant applications will be put to Town Council, regardless of whether they are recommended or not.
- Full applications will be distributed separately as they contain sensitive information, not suitable for the public domain

Discussion/Comment

- The Bridgnorth Festival plans to put on a music and arts festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.
- The aims of the Festival are to
 - o To promote awareness of Live music and arts.
 - o To provide a platform for local artists.
 - o To encourage tourism to Bridgnorth



- To provide entertainment for residents and visitors.
- To provide opportunities for participation.
- To ensure the festival generates sufficient income to cover its continued operation.
- The grant funding is to be used for the hire of the Castle Grounds and Quayside, as well as electricity costs, hire of events gazebo, hire of barriers, and staff costs for BTC to deliver and collect gazebo and barriers.

Finance

- The group have applied for a grant of £500.
- There is £16,607 left in the grants budget for this financial year.
- The festival has not run since 2019 due to COVID.
- The festival receives some income from sponsors, donations, or financial partners.
- For the 2019 event, the total income was £5936.80, the total expenses were £5583.30. Leaving the group with a positive balance of £353.50.

Recommendation(s)

- It is recommended to award Bridgnorth Festival with a grant of £500.
- Although the festival has taken place in previous years, COVID has meant that they have not run for the past 3 years.
- In this case, the £500 would fall under the bracket of 'seed' funding needed to restart the festival.