

TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE GILSTRAP AND WILLIAM EDWARD KNIGHT CHARITIES

19 MARCH 2020

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider an application made to the Gilstrap Charity for grant funding to support the Newark Book Festival.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In 2017, the Trustee Board refreshed and approved a funding criteria for grant aid support from the Gilstrap Charity. The Charity's Scheme has been amended a number of times in recent years, firstly when Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) built a library in Newark (thereby obviating the need for the original use of the Gilstrap Building as a library) and secondly when the Gilstrap building had been leased to NCC for use as the Registrar's office. However, whilst the objects have been reviewed over the years, the original concept has been reaffirmed with emphasis on education and promoting knowledge of the history of Newark.

2.2 The current approved criteria is as follows:

2.1.1 Preference will be given to funding applications which promote education and understanding of historic buildings within Newark and the history of Newark generally to reflect the original Trust purposes.

2.1.2 Funding applications will be required to demonstrate a direct benefit to the community of Newark or a section/s of that community (eg projects involving local schools).

2.1.3 Applicants will be required to provide full details of any match funding or third party funding.

2.3 It should be noted that the area of benefit for the Charity, whilst previously defined as the area of the former borough of Newark, was amended when the Scheme was last reviewed in 2013 to cover the parish of Newark.

2.4 A copy of the background information that is included on the Charity's website concerning how potential grant applications will be considered is attached to this report as Appendix A. Applicants are requested to complete a pro-forma application form that gives full details of their project, its objectives, budget and other funding secured.

3.0 Application Received

3.1 An application has been received for funding to support the Newark Book Festival. Newark Book Festival is usually an annual, two-day not-for-profit literary festival that aims to celebrate books, literacy and the word through a range of events taking place across Newark that focus on author visits, talks, guest speakers, illustrators, street theatre, music and poetry, with a children and young people's programme running through the core.

- 3.2 The theme is 'A Festival through the ages' and the organisation is working closely with both museums and the castle along with other venues in Newark and increased schools/volunteer and young person programme. In particular the Festival's programme is to include educational talks and events on history including the civil war and the creation of a literary walk around the town which will take in heritage, culture and historical locations.
- 3.3 The overarching objectives of the festival are:
- To develop & manage a literature festival that celebrates books and all that they encompass in the market town of Newark, Nottinghamshire;
 - To ensure that the festival is inclusive and accessible;
 - To work with venues & partners across the town to increase footfall, enhance events & artistic offer;
 - To artistically programme a wide range of high quality diverse authors and book related events;
 - To support opportunities for local author involvement and promotion;
 - To focus upon the growth of audience development, including family targets;
 - To encourage and support literacy and reading skills; and
 - To help promote Newark as a tourist destination and to the local communities.
- 3.4 The festival last applied for funding from the Gilstrap Charity towards their 2017 event, in the sum of £500. However, this request was refused since the date of the event had passed by the time it was considered by the Board. The Board also considered that the application did not match the Trustees stated priorities at that time.
- 3.5 The organiser has been asked to complete the pro-forma application form, and at the time of preparing this report this has not yet been received. They have indicated that they would be looking for between £250- £500 to help towards the Festival's costs. Their completed application form will be circulated at the meeting for the Board's consideration.

4.0 Financial Comments

- 4.1 As per last financial years audited statement of accounts the amount of reserves available for grant applications or other opportunities, excluding the revaluation reserve, is £266,902.60. Also the accounts are currently forecasting an in year surplus of around £36,000 for financial year 2019/20.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board consider and determine the application received from Newark Book Festival for funding.

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact Karen White on extension 5240.

Karen White
Clerk to the Gilstrap Trust