

TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE GILSTRAP AND WILLIAM EDWARD KNIGHT CHARITIES
2 OCTOBER 2020

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider two applications made to the Gilstrap Charity for grant funding to support:

- (i) the Newark Book Festival; and
- (ii) the Newark Civic Trust

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 objectives 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 Applications Received

Newark Book Festival

3.1 An application has been received for funding to support the Newark Book Festival. Due to the Covid Pandemic the usual format of the Festival has been re-imagined and has now been split into 5 Chapters, spread across the year and into early 2021, using new technologies to ensure engagement with local communities, schools and to provide ongoing wellbeing activities, positivity and hope for Newark residents during this difficult time.

- 3.2 Events will include a new literary walk around Newark, developing a new partnership with a Blue Badge Guide, running a literature village in Newark Market, talks and engagement with authors, a commissioned poem for all venues to use to help building confidence, wellbeing writing workshops and developing partnerships with venues such as the two museums. The children's educational programme has been separated. This will entail engaging with local artists and authors throughout.
- 3.3 The overarching objectives of the festival are:
- To develop a literature festival that celebrates books, stories, literary and heritage stories across the market town
 - To ensure the festival is inclusive and accessible
 - To work with partners to enhance the offer and reach
 - To programme a wide range of high quality events and activities
 - To focus on the growth of audience development, reaching targeted audience areas (young people/over 50s/those in deprived areas etc)
 - To encourage literacy and reading skills through the schools and educational programme
 - To develop talent, skills, confidence and social mobility locally
 - To promote the heritage offer of the town through connecting our museums, galleries, theatres, Castle with events and educational talks and activities that promote the local offer
 - The literary walk will increase awareness and create a long term product that highlights key heritage and literary stories – Donald Wolfitt at the Theatre, the story of the Tallents diarist and beginnings, Lord Byron at porters/old printing press.
- 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 originally submitted an application form in March 2020. This has now been revised and is attached as **Appendix B** to the report. As detailed in the application form, the organiser is looking to secure for the shortfall, or a contribution towards this, as detailed in the overall budget sheet, attached to Appendix B. The shortfall is noted as £9,634.00.

Newark Civic Trust

- 3.6 An application has been received for funding to support the Newark Civic Trust. The project is to update a series of 8 town trails which were originally produced 10 years ago. The trails guide locals and tourists around the town with each being dedicated to a specific aspect of the town's history/built environment e.g. the Civil War, brewing, timber-framed buildings. These now require updating to incorporate new research and changes to the town.
- 3.7 The objectives are as set out in the application form, attached as **Appendix C**, but it is proposed to revise 6 of the 8 original trails and to introduce a new trail – Graffiti and Wall Paintings. It is noted that important changes have taken place in Newark with the closure of the Millgate Museum and the TIC and the opening of the National Civil War

Centre/Visitor Information Centre. It is proposed that the trails would be rewritten as new information came to light and that they would be 'future proofed'. The trails would be available free of charge at the NCWC or downloadable from the Newark Civic Trust's website.

- 3.8 The application form notes that the total cost of the project is £3,836 and they are seeking a contribution of either £2,500 or £1,918 (50% of the total project costs) as a minimum with the shortfall being made up from the Trust's limited saving.

4.0 Financial Comments

- 4.1 As per the current draft statement of accounts the amount of reserves available for grant applications or other opportunities, excluding the revaluation reserve, is £302,957.85.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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
Director – Governance & Organisational Development