

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**BRIEFING NOTE  
GRANT REQUEST – TAVISTOCK LIONS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Normal arrangements for the allocation of Grants to community organisations annually are - advertisement of scheme in October, a November deadline for receipt of applications, determination December/January, and payment in the succeeding April/May (i.e. early in the new financial year).
- 1.2 Applications for Grants outside of these times are not normally considered until the next available Grant round, thereby reflecting the need for fairness through consistency of approach, comparability of projects and limited budget.
- 1.3 On this occasion, and following informal consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, this particular application has been brought forward early in recognition that:
  - a) there is a potential wider community benefit which could be prejudiced by not proceeding (should the application be successful), at this time (see below);
  - b) the Community Grant budget for 2023-24 was not fully expended previously.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A general background to insurance cover for road closures is that there has been a material change in the attitude/views of insurers and underwriters recently. This has led to withdrawals (or restrictions) of cover, for both voluntary organisations and local Councils alike.

**3. THE APPLICATION**

- 3.1 The detailed application from the Lions Club of Tavistock has previously been circulated. In summary it is for financial assistance toward the cost of insurance cover to *either*:
  - i) (single event cover) enable on road working by the Lions to deliver the road closure for Remembrance Sunday 2023 (cost £644.80)

Or

ii) (annual cover) to enable on road working by the Lions to deliver the road closure for Remembrance Sunday 2023 *and* to enable the facility to provide similar support to other community events (cost £1350.10)

#### **4. REVIEW**

- 4.1 As a general matter of public policy, the Council would not normally provide Grants to meet the ongoing insurance costs of community organisations. This reflects, *inter alia*, both the breadth of precedent which could be established, and the importance of organisations operating on a self-sustaining basis year on year. Accordingly, it is submitted that it would not be appropriate for the Council, for example, to meet the insurance cost of the Lions Club in delivering the Carnival (i.e. its own event).
- 4.2 However, the Council has longstanding and collaborative relationships with both the Lions and many of the organisations with whom they work such as the Royal British Legion and the street related activities the Lions support which benefit the community.
- 4.3 Given the difficulties the Council itself continues to encounter in securing insurance cover for certain street event activities there is clear potential, through working with the Lions, to find a collaborative way forward which secures broad community benefit and supports significant events in the community calendar, such as Remembrance Sunday.
- 4.4 The recommendation below respects that approach whilst recognising that, for reasons already outlined, it would not be appropriate for the Council to cover the insurance cost of the Carnival. Consequently, the figure arrived at is derived from the deduction of single event cover from annual cover, with the Council meeting the balance.
- 4.5 If endorsed this approach will thereby enable delivery of Remembrance Sunday 2023 alongside support for other community events/partners with whom the Lions (and Council) work.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 To that end it is recommended that the Council
  - a) Agree that, in the exceptional circumstances of this case, and in view of the extent of potential community benefit involved, this application be considered at this time with any award, if made, being funded by the residue in the Community Grants budget;

- b) Subject to (a) above, make a Grant to the Lions in the sum of £705.30 toward the cost of annual insurance cover to enable the Lions to administer activities on road for community activities such as road closures including for Remembrance Sunday;
  - c) Express its appreciation to the Lions for the initiative and, on a without prejudice basis indicate that, if/as appropriate and subject to review, it would be prepared to consider future year applications from the Lions for same in view of the potential community benefit associated with the proposal.
- 5.2 The instructions of the Committee and Council are sought.

**CARL HEARN  
TOWN CLERK  
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 2023**