

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (top-left: a saltire, top-right: a stag's head, bottom-left: a ship, bottom-right: a bird), and a motto scroll at the bottom with the text 'A NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 4

**Application for Financial Assistance,
Bo'ness Community Council**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance, Bo'ness Community Council

Meeting: Bo'ness Common Good Committee

Date: 1 November 2017

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Bo'ness Community Council for funding towards the erection of the Harcus Strachan Memorial.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **Members of the Committee are asked to agree:-**

(1) The award of £2,500 from Bo'ness Common Good Fund towards the erection of the Harcus Strachan Memorial.

3. Background

- 3.1 This project will erect a monument acknowledging the contribution made by an individual during the First World War.
- 3.2 This is part of a government initiative to commemorate Victoria Cross holders in local communities. Harcus Strachan was awarded the Military Cross and the Victoria Cross in 1917.
- 3.3 Bo'ness Community Council are seeking funding for an engraved memorial stone to hold the plaque provided by the Government and act as the centre piece around which a memorial garden can be developed. This will be erected on land owned by Falkirk Council.
- 3.4 An event is to be held in Bo'ness on 20 November 2017 to celebrate and acknowledge his First World War achievements. The event will involve visiting dignitaries, Military Bands, Pipers, school participation at the reception following the dedication and members of the community at the dedication of the stone plaque.
- 3.5 The memorial and future development of a memorial garden will offer school children studying the First World War a local connection to the history. Members of the local community will be able to enjoy the open space and memorial garden. Harcus Strachan is a national hero in Canada and this is acknowledged by a lake and park being named after him. It is hoped connections could be made with Canada and a potential may be created for a town twinning arrangement resulting in attracting tourists to Bo'ness and offer School Exchange Programmes.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Bo'ness Common Good Fund is £53,952. Annual interest to the fund is only in the region of £180 so if the requested funding of £2,500 is granted the fund balance will be reduced by 4.6%.
- 4.2 The last grant made by the Sub-Committee was in August 2016 when £2,300 was approved for a Loop and Jump Track and awarded to White Lady Mountain Bike. This was the only grant paid since 2014.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is support for the project from Falkirk Council and other local groups.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The total cost of the memorial is £2,500 and the full funding of this is being sought from Bo'ness Common Good Fund. Bo'ness Community Council have no funds of their own available.
- 6.1.1 Further funding and donations from local businesses will be sought to complete a memorial garden after the event in November has taken place.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 The land on which the Memorial will be built is owned by Falkirk Council. Andrew Wilson of Falkirk Council has applied for the necessary permissions.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The sum requested is £2,500. The project has potential for the whole community to benefit and also to attract visitors to the area.
- 7.2 The Bo'ness Common Good Fund is relatively small and receives interest of only £180 per annum. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Author – Hazel Jones, Senior Accountant, 01324 603664,
hazel.jones@falkirk.gov.uk
Date: 30 October 2017

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from Mrs Joan Boyd, Secretary, Bo'ness Community Council on 27 October 2017.