



Agenda Item 7

**Application for Financial Assistance,
Communities Along The Carron
Association (CATCA)**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance, Communities Along The Carron Association (CATCA)

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 21 September 2018

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Communities Along The Carron Association (CATCA) for funding to purchase a Trishaw bike. This is a three wheel bike which allows a driver/pilot to pedal and transport two passengers in the front seats.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

(1) The application for £8,000 from Falkirk Common Good Fund to purchase a Trishaw.

3. Background

- 3.1 CATCA was constituted in March 2010 after consulting with 16 communities along the River Carron as to their aspirations for the past, present and future of the river. There was a strong desire for environmental regeneration and maximising the potential of the river as a natural asset thus enabling it to become a valuable recreational resource to visit and enjoy. It was recognised that improvements to the river had huge potential to improve the quality of life for many.
- 3.2 Some of the key objectives of CATCA which are relevant to this application are:-
- developing the path network around the river making it accessible for walking and cycling;
 - enabling the river to become a vital part of Central Scotland's Green Network by linking communities, people and places along sustainable walking and cycling routes;
 - improving the health and wellbeing of people and place.

- 3.3 The funding applied for by CATCA will increase the recreational value of the River. The Trishaw will be used as part of an initiative called Cycling Without Age in partnership with Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS). Cycling Without Age is already active in over 40 countries around the world.
- 3.4 CWAS was successfully launched in Falkirk by CATCA in 2017 and is now being rolled out nationwide. The project aims to help isolated elderly people and people with mobility difficulties to get outdoors, socialise and feel good about themselves. It aims to transform the lives of these people by bringing them closer to the outdoor environment through trips on Trishaws with local volunteer pilots (Trishaw drivers). Slow cycling is a key principle and ensures pilots, passengers and other path users have the chance to interact when meeting on a ride.
- 3.5 The funding will allow CATCA to purchase one Trishaw to be used by the people of Falkirk. It has funding in place to purchase a second Trishaw.
- 3.6 The Trishaw will be used to give access to the outdoors by bike to Falkirk residents who may suffer from chronic or degenerative conditions through age or illness, which limits their mobility. The project will reach out to those socially isolated in their own homes and elderly people in local care homes. Consultation will take place with elderly people, care home staff, Falkirk Council Social Work Adult Services, GP practices, church membership, to shape the service to the needs of the community.
- 3.7 At least 40 volunteers will be recruited from a cross section of Falkirk communities on an inclusive basis and to attract disadvantaged young people. Volunteers will follow a structured training programme delivered by CWAS which will train them on how to cycle the bikes and interact and take care of the passengers.
- 3.8 The project will bring together the wider community to support the elderly population and help curtail social isolation and loneliness.
- 3.9 CATCA will consult with Falkirk Council Social Work Adult Services to identify the best area in Falkirk to use and store the Trishaws.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 are anticipated to be around £27,000, thus giving a projected balance of £796,421.

- 4.2 The last grant funded by the Committee was in January 2017. There were no grants awarded in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been carried out on the report's proposals.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The total cost of the project is £16,000 and funding of £8,000 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund.

- 6.1.1 CATCA are looking to purchase two Trishaws for this project. It has £8,000 ring-fenced now to purchase one Trishaw.

- 6.1.2 There are a total of 5 applications for funding from Falkirk Common Good to be considered today. These total £90,386, however, it should be noted that one of these applications is for recurring funding of £6,410 per annum.

Resources

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

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications which arise from the report recommendations.

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 £8,000. The project is of community benefit.
- 7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance and no grants were approved in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Date: 1 August 2018

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 Miss Jean Weir, Secretary, Communities Along The Carron Association (CATCA) on 25 July 2018.