



Agenda Item 4

**Application for Financial Assistance -
Falkirk Made Friends**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance -
Falkirk Made Friends

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 25 August 2020

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Falkirk Made Friends for funding towards a project to produce short films, leaflets and booklets on Falkirk's industrial legacy.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider:-

- (1) The application for funding of £5,875 from Falkirk Common Good Fund to Falkirk Made Friends towards this project.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Falkirk Made Friends is primarily concerned with creatively stimulating public interest in Falkirk's industrial legacy, its innovations and their effects on social history. Regular monthly meetings have been held in the Dawson Centre from September 2019 onwards. There are 6 Committee Members. Ian Scott, the Falkirk historian, has provided support to the group.
- 3.2 The project aims to produce short films that dramatise individual and community stories that reveal the contribution of those who made some innovative contributions to society. These stories will be set against the historical legacy of the iron and engineering history. Leaflets and information booklets will complement the films and add further historical information.
- 3.3 A few examples of envisaged stories and recounts are on the following subjects:
'The history of the cast iron phone box from the view of the makers',
'Logie Baird's TV experiment in Falkirk told by an eyewitness', and

'How the Carron Company inspired innovation in Scotland told by local residents'.

- 3.4 The group would like these short films to be uploaded on the internet to encourage local and other interest in the discovery of Falkirk's iron and engineering heritage achievements. Hopefully, this will attract visitors to the local area.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that the publications within this project will eventually be self-financing. By publishing them with ISBN numbers and barcodes they can be purchased by libraries and they can be sold to the public through local venues, online and in bookshops.
- 3.6 The following information has been provided as a breakdown of the project costs and the funding sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund:

Activity	Cost £	Amount requested from Falkirk Common Good Fund £
Historical research	1,000	500
ISBN & barcodes	300	300
Artwork	1,000	500
5 x 1000 leaflets, 10 x booklets	1,700	1,700
Actor fee x 5 days	1,250	1,250
Script, filming & editing - hire of equipment	3,250	1,625
Total	8,500	5,875

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of Falkirk Common Good Fund is £695,880 at 15 July 2020. This includes rents and interest received for the financial year 2020/21 which is anticipated to be around £27,000.

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, as detailed in 3.6, is £8,500 and funding of £5,875 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund.
- 6.1.1 The balance of the project will be funded from £80 in the group's bank account which has been raised from membership fees and £2,545 from

payment in kind contributions from project supporters.

6.1.2 In the financial year 2019/20 grants of £99,421 in total were awarded. In 2020/21 to date £40,000 has been awarded.

6.1.3 The last award was to the Bainsford War Memorial Association in June 2020 for £40,000.

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 £5,875. The project is of community benefit.

7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance, however, 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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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:

- Final application and supporting documentation received from Dr Robert Comrie, Secretary, on 16 June 2020.