

TELFORD AND WREKIN
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
The umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector



END OF YEAR REPORT 2008-2009



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

Background

Telford & Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service was appointed as the local funder of the Grassroots Grants in September 2008. It was one of 149 organisations selected in England.

This initiative from the Office of the Third Sector aims to distribute grants to small Voluntary Sector organisations and at the same time raise funds to build an endowment for future grant making in the Telford and Wrekin area.

Approach distributing grants

Telford & Wrekin CVS has a proven track record of distributing grants and the existing processes could be used to process grant applications quickly and efficiently. The Telford & Wrekin Infrastructure Consortium would act as the initial panel and a review of the processes and the panel was planned in April 2009.

Various promotional and distribution methods have been used to get information out to the Voluntary Sector. These included:

- Inserts in the CVS bi-monthly News letter
- Distribution via e-mail networks
- Media briefings
- Presentations at Voluntary forums
- Production and distribution of leaflets
- Development of Grassroots website <http://www.grassroots.tandwcvcs.org.uk>
- Development of monthly Grassroots email newsletter
- “Grab a Grant “ workshops.

The “**Grab a Grant**” workshops consist of brief presentations about the small, local funding grants that the CVS distributes, in partnership with TREDP (Telford Race Equality and Diversity Partnership) who also administer a grant. Information is also offered on Awards for All, Parish Council Grants, and Grants available from the Community Foundation.

The presentations are followed by an activity where by participants are given cards with a range of “subjects” that organisations might request grants for. They are then given the available grants as “placemats” and asked to discuss and decide where they think they could apply for money for the subject on the card they hold. (A grant search)

There is then an opportunity for individual discussion with the workers present.

To date this is proving to be the most successful means of getting information out about the Grassroots Grants. Over half of the applications submitted so far have links to someone attending a session.

Grassroots Grant information has been distributed via “Sports Evenings” for all the voluntary sports clubs in Telford & Wrekin. This again resulted in successful applications. We have also been made aware that National Associations of various sporting activities have encouraged applications.

Grants awarded

Telford and Wrekin CVS distributed 19 Grassroots Grants in the first year of the Grassroots project 18 of these were paid out in the last quarter.

The list of organisations and the amount awarded is below.

Newport and District Swimming Club	TF10 7JF	£5,000.00
Minnows	TF3 1XY	£432.94
Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival Committee	TF12 5NW	£5,000.00
Telford and District Amateur Radio Society (TDARS)	TF10 9EZ	£5,000.00
Wrekin Tennis Club	TF5 0NN	£3,963.00
Lilleshall Sugar Craft Group	TF2 6DW	£2,941.00
Admaston House Community Centre Trust	TF1 3ND	£5,000.00
Telford Thai Boxing	TF2 8LR	£4,500.00
Donnington Youth Club	TF2 8JT	£1,000.00
Wrekin Special Swimming Club	TF2 7BN	£900.00
Friends of Telford Town Park	TF3 4AQ	£2,500.00
Wrekin and District Horticultural Society	TF2 8NG	£1,421.00
Wolverhampton and East Shropshire Riding for the Disabled	TF6 6QY	£691.63
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival Ltd.	TF5 0AQ	£5,000.00

Black History Working Group	TF3 1YE	£968.91
Newport Photographic Club	TF10 9HD	£720.00
Friends of Apley Woods	TF1 6RH	£900.00
Ketley Youth Committee and Youth Clubs	TF1 5EE	£5,000.00
Wrekin Riders BMX Club	TF1 6TW	£900.00

Additional Support

The CVS Development team is available to support applicants with the process of applying for Grassroots Grants. Issues around governance, and bank accounts crop up frequently, as do presentation of accounts. Advice on improving these is available from team members or via information sheets on our website. Our aim is to work with groups through the application process to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria, and understand how to describe their project.

As follow on support, two Grassroots Grant recipients asked for support with creating “networks” to get information out to audiences, to deliver their projects.

Evaluation

Based on the evaluation carried out at the end of the financial year, we are now in the process of inducting a new panel, who have been recruited from successful grant applicants. Having applied for Grassroots Grants they are aware of the process and they have an understanding and empathy with the voluntary sector. Conversations have already shown that they bring a new perspective to assessing the applications. It is envisaged that throughout the year more organisations will be invited to sit on the panel, so a “pool” of panel members will be available, which would mean that the monthly panel meetings would not take up too much time. We hope that we can build on this, and demonstrate transparency .

All grant recipients in the first year received the CDF survey, questionnaire one. This will be followed up with the second questionnaire as they complete their projects.

Monitoring

As most of our Grassroots Grants were distributed in the last quarter, the projects funded have only just begun. However, if the grant recipients have websites, then the website has been visited, to ascertain level of promotion of the project, and where appropriate Grassroots information has been downloaded for evidence.

Grant recipients have been added to our Grassroots website, with brief details of their grant, and website address if they have one.

Several letters of thanks have been received, as well as newspaper cuttings, when the Grant recipients have had publicity.

Endowment

Progress on the Endowment Match challenge is slow in respect of donations. Donations this year totalled £1,181.41.

However, there is an increasing whole team approach to promotion.

The current economical climate and our limited resources is developing creative thinking in terms of generating donations.

A recent initiative was taken on, when our Volunteer Centre was asked to provide volunteering opportunities, for a local branch of a National Company. In return for sourcing the volunteering opportunities the company have agreed to hold some fundraising events.