



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

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| Date | 1st July 2020 |
| SUBJECT | Handmade Parade Grant Application – Windows on the World |

PURPOSE:

1. To present to Members for consideration a grant application in an amount of £2999.90 required as part of an overall project cost of £31,849.90 of which £6,250 relates to the “Window on the world” element relative to Todmorden.
2. To advise Members that a previous grant awarded of £3,000 has been withdrawn as Handmade Parade *(HMP) were unable to take forward the project. An interim payment of £1000 made to them has been returned and received into our bank account on 24th June 2020.
3. To advise Members that on 3rd June 2020, the Emergency Committee turned aside a request to vary the original grant award afforded as above, and wished for a new application to be made.

BACKGROUND:

4. HMP have been awarded grants in the past from Todmorden Town Council having successfully delivered the lamplighter parade.
5. HMP are an award-winning outdoor arts organisation creating large-scale, accessible public-realm arts engagement events that astonish and enthrall our audiences.
6. Since 2010 HMP has connected with over 1.5 million people, delighting & surprising audiences, teaching new creative skills and using the arts to connect communities.
7. Communities are involved in the creation and performance of our events, offering high-quality and accessible participation opportunities. Events reflect the people and places they are created with and for, creating a powerful sense of ownership.
8. The Covid 19 impact on such events has required Handmade Parade to approach new projects with a different focus and recognition of the restrictions imposed by social distancing, and to be

innovative in the way need to now to engage with the participants and beneficiaries of their projects including through on-line workshops.

9. The grant proposal is a community programme for groups and residents in Todmorden. As well as engaging the more vulnerable groups targeted in their original application, this project will engage people from the wider community, a total of about 300 residents.
10. Windows on the World is part of a larger project - 'We Are Here'. We Are Here sees Handmade Parade work with communities around England; the Windows project is focused solely on Todmorden, but connects to the We Are Here programme.
11. HMP will work with the communities of Todmorden to turn the windows of houses and shops of Todmorden into a fantastical, themed, illuminated story.
12. Through this project, circa 300 local people will be engaged as well as partnering with Todmorden High School to work with 20 vulnerable young people, and Healthy Minds Todmorden to work with 12 adults with mental health difficulties to address the inequalities these groups face, and will engage 250-270 other local people and businesses.
13. The work the groups produce will be displayed locally and enjoyed by local people and visitors as part of a light installation trail and will also be featured in a film expected to viewed online seen local audiences of 3,000-5,000 people.
14. This project is designed to engage communities through either face to face or online workshops, depending on the level of contact permitted during the delivery period.
15. Artists will deliver online workshops for businesses, schools and public of Todmorden to create artwork and installations that can be displayed in houses and shops windows, illuminated from behind. These will be on display during the last weekend of October – the original planned date for Lamplighter this year.
16. Professional photographs and film footage of the illuminated windows will be taken to make a short, animated film which will be publicly distributed, with targeted online distribution to local audiences.
17. Whilst this will be a standalone fil, the work that Todmorden’s residents produce as part of Windows on the World will also form an important chapter of a bigger, national picture called ‘We Are Here’, and funded by Arts Council England, it is a collaborative project where we will be working online to write, design & perform a new 30-minute film, the story told by multiple participants across the country.
18. This film, featuring the footage and creativity resulting from Windows on the World, is expected to be seen by national audiences of more than 20,000. This gives Todmorden residents a chance to have their creativity and their town featured in a national project.
19. Aside from this benefit and the wider involvement of c250 local people and businesses, the project addresses specifically in Todmorden disadvantaged groups to develop communication skills, form stronger social connections, develop new and transferable skills and improve mental wellbeing, helping them to have the confidence to participate in and contribute to a strong community.

20. The 20 vulnerable young participants (11-16) will see the following positive changes:
 - Improved academic performance – arts participation improves achievement in core subjects including English and maths
 - Increased aspiration – developing new skills and exploring new aptitudes increases aspiration amongst young people
 - Improved problem solving and motor skills
 - Increased confidence and better social skills
21. The 12 adults with mental health issues will:
 - Have improved confidence and social connectedness.
 - Engage collaboratively resulting in reduced anxiety and stress leading to better mental wellbeing
 - Enjoy a sense of achievement and recognise their positive impact on a community project
 - Have improved chances of regular employment and stable relationships.
22. All participants will see their final creations exhibited for the whole community to see as part of the Lamplighter Parade, resulting in increased confidence, a sense of achievement and wellbeing and connectedness to their community.
23. Partnerships are already in place with Todmorden High School and Healthy Minds; they have submitted testimonies about the need for this work.

Risk, Contingency and COVID-19:

24. This project can be entirely delivered online if necessary, but HMP have built in flexibility to deliver some content in person if guidelines allow. They have slightly increased their usual contingency budget to 6%, in case of a greater risk of increased costs in the event of a second wave, such as replacing staff due to illness mid-way during a project.
25. HMP have advised that they will work within the appropriate social distancing guidelines that are in place at the time of delivery, or better. HMP has a COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Policy in place and are monitoring government advice to ensure that this is kept up to date.
26. Risk Assessment for this activity will be prepared to specifically addresses any risks this activity poses to staff, participants or the public.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

27. The grant requested of £2999.90 is part of wider scheme costing £31,849.90 of which £6,250 relates to the “Window on the World” element specifically for Todmorden.
28. Funding has been approved from other sources – Appendices 3-5.
29. Of the Todmorden element of the project £6,250 - £3,250 is being found from other HMP resources- requiring therefore a 50% contribution from the Town Council – complying with its Discretionary Grants Policy.

30. The Groups level of reserves currently stand at £5,210 which falls in line with their latest audited accounts, already seen on the previous application. Whilst cash balances total £62,783 at the tie of application these relate to elements of this scheme and other committed schemes
31. Given the confirmation of their funding already awarded, HMP can proceed with the project on award of this grant application and therefore we would not be a need to condition or stage payment this award.
32. The current budget is sufficient to meet payment should this grant application be successful and an award of £2999.90 be made.

RECOMMENDATION:

33. That Members of the Emergency Committee consider this Grant Application.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

34. The award of grant funds requires Members approval.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

35. The purpose of this grant application meets the criteria as laid out in the Discretionary Grants Policy.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

36. None

SUPPORTING PAPERS

37. Appendix 1 – HMP Grant application
Appendix 2 – Windows on the World budget
Appendix 3 – ACE Emergency Grant Award letter £28,807
Appendix 4 – Awards for all confirmation email- £10,000
Appendix 5 – HebdenRoyd TC award £10,240
Appendix 6 – Articles of Association

For further information please contact : Colin Hill