

Item 11 – Bandstand Group – letter of support

Members will be aware that it was left for the Town Clerk to liaise with the Bandstand Group regarding any admin support or advice.

The Group recently emailed to advise that as part of their approach to CMBC regarding a Community Asset Transfer , in formulating their business plan to seek funding under the Town’s Fund, the need to garner support and possible financial commitment to help fund future revenue costs, has been identified as a key component to include in this plan.

In responding to them, the Town Clerk has advised that they are welcome to submit a Grant Application under our discretionary Grants Policy for this year, with future years submissions also welcome , based on the existing policy of a reducing call on Town Council support as the Town Council seeks to encourage voluntary groups to become more financially self-reliant.

At this stage, whilst the Group is financially self-reliant as little resource is needed at this stage, they may wish to apply through the Grants Policy for some interim assistance to further develop the project, e.g. advice on insurance, recruitment of business sponsors, evaluation of costs/benefits ratio, etc.

It is when the bandstand is restored and in use, that more consistent funding will need to be raised to meet the ongoing revenue cost of operations.

The Group would ideally like the Town Council to become a longer-term funder, much like we are for the PCSO’s and Todmorden Information Centre. On completion of their business plan and possibly in anticipation of formally seeking Town Funding to restore the Bandstand, there is likely to be an approach to consider such a proposal, when the Town Council can review this in light of the viability of the Business Plan and Town Council financial resources.

In the meantime the group has requested that the Town Council provide a generic letter of support that may for example be along the lines of :-

“As with other similar community-based groups, we wish to support the excellent work done by volunteers in improving our community. The Town Council welcomes applications for funding support, which will always be viewed against availability of budget and the benefit such financial assistance will provide to the community the group serves.