

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

15 October 2024

TOWN CLERK'S OPEN REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICES

a. To consider Initiatives Applications

To consider Initiative applications received from Slate Events (Appendix C), Stratford upon Avon Christmas Lights Company (Appendix D) and Stratford in Bloom (Appendix E). **Appendices are for members of the Committee only.**

Slate Events have completed a form, requesting the sum of £7,500 (Appendix C).

The Town Council agreed initial funding for 2023/24 for the inaugural event on the stipulation that this was for free entertainment only, which the Council has the power to provide for.

Assurances had been provided from Slate Events, that grant funding from other bodies could then be sourced when the event had been successfully staged for one year.

The event achieved a lot of positive comments.

Councillors may or may not choose to continue with a contribution for the free family activities, given that the Council operates to a Grants Initiative Scheme, which indicates that applications will not be considered from a 'not for profit' organisation.

<i>Description of project:</i>	This will be Pursuits second year. In 2024 they had a resounding success. The feedback from exhibitors, vendors, performers and visitors was so positive. There is a desire for this sort of community, family event. Everyone who took part was part of the Stratford-upon-Avon community. They had 18 Charity or community groups in attendance, 21 local commercial vendors including food and drink. 9 different local
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	musicians and community groups / dance groups showcasing their work.
<i>Payment preferred:</i>	They have indicated that payment can be made post event – 12.5.2025 onwards.

The total of £7,500 was paid to Slate Events after the event as a contribution towards the entertainment for the festival.

Stratford upon Avon Christmas Lights Co Ltd have completed a form, requesting the sum of £27,500 (Appendix D).

<i>Description of project:</i>	Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights Company is operated by a team of hardworking volunteers who work for the town and the local community. We are completely independent and our sole aim is to produce (by seeking funding for and organising the practicalities of) the best Christmas lights display we can for the town so business, residents and visitors may enjoy all the benefits such a display brings.
<i>Payment preferred:</i>	They have indicated that payment would be preferred in November 2025.

A payment of £30,000 will be made in January 2025, following their application for funding received October 2023.

Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom have completed a form, requesting the sum of £27,500 (Appendix E).

<i>Description of project:</i>	To enable a floral display within the main streets of Stratford town centre (mainly with insect friendly blooms). They are requesting a little more this year as they intend, if possible, to do additional planting over the 2025/26 winter period. However, this would be for troughs and barrier boxes but not for hanging baskets.
<i>Payment preferred:</i>	They have indicated that payment would be preferred, if possible, sometime before the end of 2024.

A payment of £30,000 will be made in January 2025, following their application for funding received October 2023.

b. To review the Terms of Reference

To review the Terms of Reference (Appendix F) and to consider the following amendments:

Sections marked in yellow are Community Services

Sections marked in Blue are from the Climate Change Group

Sections marked in Red are to be included due to the renaming of the committee to Community Services and Environment Committee

c. To review information relating to seating in the Anteroom

To review the information supplied regarding new seating for the Anteroom (Appendix G).

A third option that Councillors asked us to investigate; we have managed to locate someone local who is interested in refurbishing the sofas.

The quote received would be to recover and/or reupholster five sofas at a cost of £13,368.00 (including VAT).

ENVIRONMENT

(d) Decarbonisation Study

To receive an update on the recent decarbonisation study of the Town Hall.

The Town Council successfully secured funding through the District Council's Climate Change Grant Scheme for a decarbonisation study of the Town Hall. The study was conducted in early summer, and officers have since reviewed the results with the project team (Appendix H). There are some long-term recommendations that could be considered but these are costly. These are identified in the report.

It was encouraging to note that the findings were largely positive, with only a few areas needing improvement. Several recommendations have already been met or are pending, as per the table below. There were some recommendations which require additional funding if they are to be pursued further.

Councillors may wish to consider forming a Task and Finish Group to explore these outstanding recommendations and report back to this committee with their findings.

Recommendations:	Actioned / To do
Insulate flanges in plant room (fig 11)	Actioned: Insulation purchased and fitted
Boiling hot water tap (fig 16)	Actioned: Setting now on Eco
Fluorescent lights (fig 15)	To do: A conversation has taken place with our electrician and these will be replaced as and when they no longer function.
Lift light (fig 12)	To do: Quote received (Appendix I) to install a sensor. Consideration should be given for health and safety reasons as to the suitability of the location of the sensor.

Town Clerk
09.10.2024