

Thorner Community Fund

ALLOCATION OF THORNER COMMUNITY FUND 2009

Introduction

This year a total fund £ £34851.82 was available to benefit the community of Thorner. This was made up as follows:

£24,106	from sale of tickets
£10,000	donation from Festival Republic
£654.91	retained from 2008
£90.91	bank interest
£34851.82	Total of available 2009 Fund

An extraordinary payment of £5,116.66 had already been allocated to the Victory hall as part of their 2009 grant (see below) and £1260 was paid for the shuttle bus service at the 09 Festival, leaving £28,475.16 available for distributing as grants this year.

The Thorner Community Fund (TCF) committee wrote to 27 organisations within the village, inviting them to apply for an allocation from this year's fund. Applications were received from 23 of these groups: the following groups chose not to apply: Badminton Club, Angling Club, and Scout group. The Film Club did not apply for funds directly but suggested that funds be made available for the Victory Hall. The Tennis club had no requirement for funds this year.

As in previous years applications were assessed using the information provided by the applicant and the TCF committee members' local knowledge. The committee used the following criteria as guidance in assessing the applications:

- Viability of the group applying
- How active/successful the applicant is in their own fundraising
- The actual worth or visible/tangible benefit of the award, if made, to the village
- The quality of information provided by the applicant
- Historical community fund awards given
- Have other possible/available income streams been explored or acquired

In future TCF will add the following new criteria to the assessment process;

- i. No retrospective requests for funding will be accepted, i.e., on works already carried out or on items already purchased.
- ii. Requests to use TCF monies for membership fees will not be accepted.
- iii. Only applications received before 12 noon on the stated deadline date will be given consideration.
- iv. Applicants will only be considered if specific details of proposed fund use is provided, and the funds, if granted, are for that sole purpose.

The TCF committee would like to register their sincere thanks to Melvin Benn, Managing Director, Festival Republic, for his active involvement as part of the committee; particularly for his contribution to the assessment process, his creative solutions and professional and personal donations towards the organisations within Thorner.

Grants amounting to a total of £33,434.66 have been awarded, leaving a bank balance of £157.16 towards the 2010 fund.

The following is a brief résumé of the rationale applied, the decisions made and the amounts allocated.

Thorner C of E Primary School PTA

Cost: £6800.00

TCF support for the provision of a peripatetic music teacher is now in its fifth year. This is a commitment that TCF would like to continue to provide: given that there is a clear need and that the provision of a music teacher is seen to be of excellent value. Currently no additional funding is available from the education authority or Art Forms. The music teacher attends school one day per week and provides musical education to all age groups in the school as well as providing additional extracurricular tuition. The committee is pleased this music provision plays a small part in helping Thorner C of E School not only achieve consistently impressive OFSTED reports but improves the range of services offered to its 148 pupils.

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Thorner Victory Hall

Grant: 15,116.00

The refurbishment of the Victory Hall continues to be a priority for the village. The project has the full support of the Community Fund. Last year TCF did not provide any funding. However Melvin Benn very generously decided to pay £40,000.00 **directly as a donation**. The next phase of the refurbishment is estimated to be a £105,000 project. The refurbishment committee has now secured substantial funding via the Parish council and also have been granted a Biffaward of £ 50,000. This funding required £5122.00 contributed from a third party to unlock this money. The timing of this requirement did not match the usual TCF allocation of funds process but the committee agreed as a one off to provide this sum. An application for £10,000 was also received through the usual process. TCF are fully aware of the raise the roof campaign which is also busy and very successfully fundraising for this next phase. TCF is happy to support this effort and keen to maintain the momentum, TCF is expecting to provide further significant funding to the hall.

Thorner Pre-School & Toddler Group

Grant: £ nil

The Pre School group requested as last year, a grant to help fund the provision of Jo Jingles a visiting music teacher. The Pre School committee and staff have worked very hard this year and have been very successful in fundraising. The accounts are very healthy and reflect the professionalism of all concerned. TCF are pleased to see the group flourishing. TCF felt that the group had been well supported in the past so it was fair to not provide support this year, and turn our attention instead to other groups with less funds and greater need.

Bowling Club

Grant: £2000.00

The committee consider the bowling green as an important community facility which forms part of the village's character. The club has had to contend with several problems in recent times most of it attributed to the flooding. The club derives most of its income from letting the crown green for various league and inter-county competitions. The damaged caused by the floods is now beginning to impact on green itself. The club has committed to a remedial program which is anticipated to take 3 to 4 years at substantial cost. The club has requested £2000.00 towards this project.

TCF decided that it would like to support this bid in full. The committee is aware that preventative measures have now been taken to hopefully stop the stream flooding again.

However the committee would not be able to support a future routine maintenance regime for the ground.

1st Thorner Brownies

Grant: £370.00

The Brownie group continues to thrive with 24 girls and a waiting list. It provides excellent activities for the pack. This year the application received from the group requested funds to help cover the cost of accommodation for the group's annual camp. For some of the pack this is the first time away from home without family. This activity is an essential part of the Brownie development. With TCF support it helps Brown Owl keep the parental contribution minimal and activities to a maximum. This enables and encourages hopefully all the pack to attend. The full bid was agreed.

Thorner Youth Club

Grant: £500.00

The Thorner Youth Club has 20 members, and continues to provide a vital facility in the village for an age group for whom little other facilities exist. The Youth Club requested assistance in covering the cost of employing qualified youth workers. This year the club has again secured a grant from the grassroots scheme; and members have also been busy fundraising. TCF is happy to support the Club and is pleased to see progress being made regarding leadership support and external funding. The full request was allocated.

Thorner Methodist Church

Grant: £ 810.00

An application and quotation for £910.00 was received, requesting funds for repainting of the kitchen, dining-room, storeroom and the top attic. The latter is used by the historical society for its archives. The redecoration to the attic was necessary due to a leaking chimney stack flashing. TCF provided funding for the roof repair last year and this work has now been completed. TCF also provided £100.00 for the attic's redecoration to the Historical society last year. These funds are still held for this purpose by the society. TCF decided £810.00 would be the correct amount to allocate.

Thorner and District Historical Society

Grant: Provisional £ 1600.00

Recently the society has been entrusted the responsibility of the "Village painting". Most residents will be familiar with this piece which was hung in the Victory hall. It is also featured on the front page of Terrence W

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Brown's "The making of a Yorkshire village - Thorner". It depicts a snow scene at the lower end of Main Street and is thought to be the work of Frank Percy Wild a member of the Royal Academy. It is thought to date back to the late 1890's. The society intends to have the painting professionally restored and re-framed.

Provided with the society's application are quotations for this work amounting to £3701.25. The society have already secured a MICE grant of £500 towards this work. The society is actively trying to source other funding bodies additional to TCF. The application to TCF is for £3201.25

This project seems to polarise residents opinions, and the subjective nature of art makes a definitive funding decision difficult. As it is considered by many to be of historical importance to the village, TCF agreed to provisionally offer £1600.00 towards the project. However, as a condition TCF would like to see the remaining funds required raised from other sources prior to releasing the funds.

St Peter's Church

Grant: £2250.00

An application was received from the Churches Fabric and Churchyard committee. A quotation was attached detailing two areas of work; The partial re-pointing of the churchyard wall fronting onto the road (£920.00), and the lifting, levelling and resetting of the Yorkshire flag path from the Church doors to the Lich gate. The committee agreed the path is potentially harbouring a trip hazard and needs rapid attention. The wall was suggested not to carry the same urgency. A grant of £ 2250.00 was agreed.

St Peters Sunday School

Grant: nil

An application was received for £723.35. This was to provide the group with two storage cupboards; one to be housed in the Church and one in the Parish centre. It was decided not to allocate funds to this request.

It was also raised that had we allocated funds to this request, three lots of funding would have been received by essentially the same body or residents, which to some residents may be seen as unfair.

It was agreed that the Parish centre can now be considered as an independent group and TCF will be happy to appraise applications made on the Centre's behalf.

However it was politely suggested that the sub committees of St Peters Church be asked to apply under one 'Church' submission, as the Parish Centre is a separate organisation but the Sunday School is part of the church activity.

Thorner Parish Centre

Grant: £ 1,438.00

A late application was received. The committee had been reluctant to submit a bid as they were aware of other projects requirements within the village. The request was for materials to complete the final phase of the centres refurbishment. The small lobby adjacent to the smaller hall is to be converted into a small kitchenette, enabling both halls to be used simultaneously without the two groups disturbing each other.

TCF committee are delighted to see the transformation of the Parish Centre into a valuable asset to the village. We congratulate the team involved in all their hard work. The proposed works offers excellent value as re-claimed materials will be used where possible and also the labour will be provided by volunteers.

The committee are happy to support this bid in full and are even more pleased to see one of the village's major projects on its last push towards completion.

Thorner Tenants and Residents Association

Grant: £600.00

TCF received a well prepared and detailed application for the first time from this association. The group are involved in trying to consolidate community spirit in areas of the village they feel until now have been overlooked. This group are the proud keepers of Shaun the sheep.

The group's project is to introduce a large living Christmas tree onto Kirkfield green.

The request is for funding to purchase solar powered lights and establish a permanent planted border around the tree. They also wish to plant a new flower bed at the top of Church Hill, and finally purchase winter plants for the existing flower beds.

TCF agreed the association have done a great job so far. The committee are keen to see that end of the village brightened further and look forward to seeing the results. The full amount was allocated.

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The Royal British Legion

Grant: £ nil

As in previous years all of the Legion's own considerable fundraising efforts go towards the welfare of others - the branch's two main beneficiaries being Lister House, Ripon, (this area's local care home) and the County Welfare Fund. The Thorner and Scarcroft branch of the Legion is very well supported in the village and now has 104 members. It is understood by the TCF committee that the nature of the RBL's activity is to raise funds for the branch's chosen beneficiaries and is entirely at the discretion of the branch committee. TCF felt that for this year it regretfully could not support the Legion's bid.

TOSCA

Grant: £ 450.00

This group provides much needed before and after school care for the pupils of the Thorner C of E School. It is situated within the school grounds. It is registered with OFSTED and is a non-profit organisation.

An application was made requesting £300.00 for a laptop to assist with administrative work and it may also be available for the children to use. Additionally the children had compiled a wish list of outdoor play equipment amounting to £150.00. The list was noted as being refreshingly realistic! The committee agreed to provide the full amount.

Cricket Club

Grant: nil

The Cricket Club applied for funding to complete renovations to the pavilion. TCF have been very supportive to the cricket club in the past. The application was somewhat short of detail and so it was difficult to appraise accurately. This year the committee felt other projects were more needy, however we would welcome a more specific application for 2010 funding.

Thorner Art Club

Grant: £350.00

The Art Club meets weekly in the Parish Centre and has 22 regular members. They made an application for funds towards the fees of tutorial demonstrations. 80% of this groups membership are pensioners on limited incomes. The group also stages the village's art exhibition. Over the years the club has assembled a large set of display screens for this event. Regularly these are hired to other groups for various display purposes. It was agreed to support this bid.

Thorner Football Club

Grant: £150.00

The club submitted a straightforward bid for funds to complete a rabbit fencing project, which is necessary to protect the newly seeded grounds. The club contributes to "community spirit" by providing the village gala bar and organises its own fundraising efforts, the proceeds of which support St Gemmas Hospice, Leeds and Cancer Research UK. The team is well supported and plays in the Harrogate Claro First Division. TCF are pleased to fund £150.00, the full cost of the bid.

Thorner Village Show Society

Grant: nil

TCF received a request for £200.00. This was for banners to promote the societies Annual Village Show. It was felt that with some help from members of the committee's contacts the banners may be able to be procured as a form of sponsorship. Details and contacts will be provided to the Society.

Thorner Over Fifty Fives

Grant: Provisional £1000.00

A request was received to ask if the TCF could consider funding the TOFFS luncheon club. These are meals provided by the club for the more vulnerable of its membership. There has been a change / difficulty securing funding via LCC. The committee agreed this is not the intended use for the community fund and felt there must be other sources to provide this type of financial support. It was agreed to fund the lunches on a month-by-month basis, in the absence of other funding, for one year only, but in addition a committee member kindly offered to work with and help the group to find this type of funding from an external source.

Thorner Mums and Tots Group

Grant: nil

An application was received from this relatively new group requesting £920.00, for fortnightly sessions by 'Jo Jingles' teaching music, dance and movement. The committee felt that given the age of the children, and with parents in attendance, the parents themselves are likely to be just as capable of encouraging children's interest in music and movement. With this in mind it was decided not to support this application on this occasion.