

# Green Strand consulting

## Funding for Frome: Report to Frome Town Council

Grants advice from Green Strand Consulting Ltd: August 2013.

### 1. Summary

Advice and support to Frome voluntary sector and civic groups	Amount	Number of applications
Grant applications submitted and successful	£24,630	3
Grant applications submitted and pending	£39,000	4
Grant applications planned and being written	£310,000	3

Advice and support to Frome Town Council	Amount	Number of bids
Sports Lottery bid – submitted, but needs to be re-submitted with an improved Frome Sports Development Plan	£50,000	2
Expression of interest stage Heritage Townscape	c. £1m	

#### Narrative on summary

- Green Strand has advised and helped ten local voluntary/civic groups.
- There have been two very successful workshops/meetings for Frome groups wanting to raise money through grants. A third has been requested and will be announced in September.
- What groups have not wanted are more lists of possible grants to apply for. However, Green Strand's computer based grants database and "funder-finder" has been in demand.
- £24,630 has been secured for voluntary groups. These grants have enabled a one-night a week youth club to open at Frome College from May 2013, a programme of music workshops (mostly likely to be also based in Frome College) from September 2013 and a one-night week club for children with disabilities to open in Park Road in October 2013.
- Voluntary groups in Frome have submitted a further £39,000 in applications with Green Strand help and we are waiting for the results. There are plans now for another three bids for a total of £310,000.

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- There is a £50,000 Sport England grant pending for Frome Town Council (for a multiple games area on Mary Bailey Playing Fields). Already submitted, it was well received, but needs a stronger local Sports Development Plan. Once this is completed this application should eventually be successful. Support is also being given on a £1m plus bid to Heritage Townscape.
- With the exception of the Sport England application (delayed, rather than *terminally* refused) no bid submitted with Green Strand help has failed so far. The difficulty has been to secure *closure* on the applications – to actually get the applications finished and in.
- It has been a terribly slow start. The voluntary groups were sceptical of success and in some cases lacked the organisational formats that would allow them to apply and have needed help from Green Strand to put this right. The Town Council has lacked the quality of planning documents to underpin applications.
- Now that Sarah Hobbs is settled in post and there is likelihood of a major Heritage Lottery grant application, FTC has the capacity and focus to make the best of the advice and support that Green Strand can provide.
- The prospect of a Frome Resilience Centre to help combat local poverty, debt and social and economic vulnerability, will offer a new *platform* for grant applications. Meetings have been arranged in September to take this forward.

### 2. Support to local groups/organisations

Group/Agency	Engagement or project details	Outcomes
The POD Youth Club, a new group of parents wanting to run a club for learning disabled children and their siblings.	First tasks included helping the group prepare and adopt articles of association that would be suitable for opening a group bank account and registration with the Charity Commission. All prerequisites for successful grant applications.	This group now has applied successfully for its first grant securing £4,000. A second, £4,000 bid has been submitted. A strategy is now emerging that will create an independently funded service for families with children with disabilities. Plans go ahead as far end of 2014 with some potential funders identified. However, they need to prove they can run the service before these further applications can be made. Nice picture in both local papers first week in August.
Open Story Tellers	Four meetings with Open Story Tellers.	A £10,000 bid has been submitted to help families with learning disabled members.
Frome Media CiC working in partnership with Young People Frome	Meetings to help plan this new media based Community Interest Company that is now working work in partnership	As reported in May, a successful application has been made to Somerset County Council for £6,500 for a one night a week media based youth club at Frome

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	<p>with YPF. I have assisted with three grant applications.</p> <p>The CiC is able to use YPF as the lead bid partner and take advantage of YPF's charitable status and track record.</p>	<p>College.</p> <p>A second bid, for £14,630, to the Big Lottery Youth Music Programme, has also been successful.</p> <p>This will pay for a yearlong programme of music workshops for young people in Frome.</p>
Frome Allotment Association	Three meetings held, including one with the whole management committee.	A £5,000 grant application to improve facilities at one its sites is being submitted, hopefully before the end of August or some time in September.
Edventure	This group has a strong environmental aspect. It develops the skills of adults in remarkably innovative ways helping them develop businesses or careers.	Joint work to develop a strategy is underway. A £10,000 application, (and others of a value not yet determined), is almost ready to submit.
Frome Museum/Black Swan	Just an initial visit/meeting held so far.	A joint meeting with the Black Swan on 8 <sup>th</sup> August looked at developing a joint venture. But the ball, so to speak, is with the museum now.
Positive Action on Cancer	Several sessions to advise on a first round Big Lottery Reaching Communities application.	First outline budget indicates an application for £295,000 revenue for a three-year grant. The first go at a first round application may be submitted in September. It often takes two or three submissions to get to the second round but once reached there is an 80% chance of success.
Project Uplift	Frome Community College want to establish some kind of charitable trust to support A-level students from disadvantaged background (effectively replacing the now lost/cut Education Support Grant).	This is at a very early stage of development. The College has produced a paper and I have attended two meetings with a volunteer who is helping with the work.
Frome Community Education	FCE have a joint bid in with the Cheese and Grain to secure funding, part of which would subsidise some adult education classes making them almost free at point of use. The total bid is for £25,000	This has been submitted – the result is likely in early October. (The application has been made formally by the C&G because of its charitable status.)

### 3. Frome Town Council

The £50K “MUGA” Council Sports Council bid failed but can be re-submitted with a much higher chance of success following feedback. Essentially, the feedback said, most parts were strong, with the community involvement being particularly strong. What let the application down was the ‘Sports Development Plan’ and evidence for a long-term strategy to keep the MUGA in use. The next round closes this December and FTC has been advised by Sport England that it is welcome to resubmit its application, which would be greatly strengthened if FTC can improve its sports and open places plan. Bids needing two applications are not unusual – the first identifies what the funder is really looking for.

Peter Wheelhouse is writing an expression of interest to the Heritage Lottery Townscape programme. As with the MUGA application, my role is as a “critical friend”. As with the MUGA bid, I can write sections of the bid if required.

### 4. General Comments

Local groups, following successful applications, have banked almost £25,000. No applications made with my help, by local voluntary groups, have actually failed so far. The difficulty has been to persuade the groups to apply and get the process moving. Ten groups have now used or are using Greens Strand’s help to make grant applications. It has been a terribly slow business, building links and confidence and helping groups to become “grant application ready”. At last it’s starting to show results.

The PAC application is ambitious and will need considerable work on rewrites. However, it is not impossible to secure these large grants here, Green Strand helped the Mendip YMCA secure a grant of this size for its Routes project here in Frome three years ago.

I attended the sports consultation meeting organised by Sarah Hobbs at Frome Community College. Physical education teachers at the College would like to raise grants for a new gym. The Frome Cricket would like to up-grade their building but both these aspirations were rather vague and certainly at the earliest stages of development. The Frome Tennis Club is looking for more high quality courts.

The need for Frome Town Council to have “grant friendly” plans in place applies to bids in general, including those around heritage, conservation and environment, food and welfare/anti-poverty initiatives.

I have started liaising with Nicola Cox who is working (for FTC) to help set up a Frome *Resilience Centre*. The aim of the Centre is to help combat local poverty, debt and social and economic vulnerability. It is very likely that this will create, if done well, a new platform for successful grant applications.

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