

Title of Report:	Festive Fund Grant Awards 2023
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 October 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
For discussion In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Stable and Cohesive Communities
Lead Officer	Peter Thompson - Head of Tourism and Recreation Patricia O'Brien - Funding Unit Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£40,105
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date:10.10.17
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant awards for the Christmas Festive Fund 2023-24.

2.0 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council launched the Christmas Festive Fund in 2015 to offer assistance to Community and Voluntary Organisations from the smaller towns, villages and hamlets in the Borough to help celebrate Christmas. This fund is specifically designed to mark the lighting of the Christmas tree and help facilitate outdoor festive celebrations within the Borough.

In June 2023 the Leisure and Development Committee agreed to alter the parameters of the fund and changed grant awards from £250 per application to offering 2 different levels of grant-aid:

Fund A - Settlements with a population of 1,000 and above can apply for up to £2,500 towards costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events**.

Fund B - Settlements with a population between 100 -1,000 can apply for up to £750 towards costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events**.

3.0 Overview of the Fund

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply for grant-aid to allow small towns, hamlets and villages to celebrate Christmas by organising outdoor events and activities in their local communities. Applicant areas must have a population of over 100 residents or have been allocated a Christmas tree from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Projects/events must take place in the local community between 25th November and 16th December 2023.

Activities must be cross community and open for all residents offering an opportunity for all within the locality to participate.

Only one grant per settlement will be awarded. Should Council receive more than one application per settlement the application which is the most inclusive and has the most far-reaching community involvement will be selected. Council can also request that applicants work together to produce one all-inclusive event.

4.0 Criteria for Assessment

Criterion	Pass	Fail
1. Evidence of a developed outdoor project; with a date within the scope of the advertised fund (activity to take place between 25th November and 16th December 2023).		
2. Evidence that your event provides a range of activities for everyone in the community.		
3. Full itemized breakdown of costs provided.		
4. Suitable planning for events with a sufficiently completed Risk Assessment.		

5.0 Outcome

35 applications were received by the closing date. The Funding Unit carried out the Stage 1 eligibility checks, three applications were deemed ineligible and a further two were unsuccessful – summary below:

	Applicant	Status	Reason
1	Building Ballysally Together	Ineligible	Ineligible as Coleraine town receives a Council organised Christmas event.
2	Windyhall Community Association	Ineligible	Ineligible as Coleraine town receives a Council organised Christmas event.
3	Dromboughil Community Association	Ineligible	Ineligible as settlement size is less than 100 residents
4	Mosside Educational Rural & Culture Society	Unsuccessful	Only one grant per settlement will be awarded as per Guidance notes. No risk assessment provided with the application. Other Mosside application better aligned to parameters of fund – marks the switching on off the Christmas tree lights.
5	Ballybogey Over 50's Club	Unsuccessful	No evidence of a developed outdoor project – (Christmas dinner with Santa, presents, music, and dancing)

The remaining 30 applications progressed for assessment and scoring against the agreed criteria.

No of applications received	35
No of ineligible applications	3
No of unsuccessful applications at assessment	2
No of successful applications	30

A summary of the outcome including applications received and grants recommended is included in **Annex A**.

6.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves grant-aid totalling £40,105 to projects numbered 1-30 listed in **Annex A**.

Annex A

Festive Fund Grant Awards 2023-24:

	Applicant	Pass/Fail	Project	Amount Recommended
1	Dunloy Stronger Together (Dunloy Development Association)	Pass	Christmas Lights Switch on taking place in Dunloy	£2,500.00
2	Heart of The Glens	Pass	Christmas in Cushendall including outdoor Christmas market	£2,500.00
3	Ballykelly Mens Shed	Pass	Linked Christmas outdoor events in Ballykelly	£2,500.00
4	The Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	Pass	The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing aloud for all to hear	£2,500.00
5	Portstewart Community Association	Pass	Festival of Light	£2,500.00
6	Garvagh Development Trust	Pass	'Christmas in Garvagh' event celebrating the switching on of the lights	£2,500.00
7	Project Fusion (Dungiven)	Pass	Christmas Festival Parade	£2,500.00
8	RNLI - Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Portrush)	Pass	Portrush Christmas and Continental Market	£2,500.00
9	Greysteel Community Association	Pass	Christmas Tree Switch on	£2,480.00
10	Bushmills & District Community Association	Pass	Christmas parade with light switch on	£2,420.00
11	Castlerock Community Association	Pass	Castlerock's Magical Christmas	£2,320.00
12	Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	Pass	Christmas Festival event	£750.00
13	Balnamore Com Association	Pass	Balnamore Christmas Light Switch On	£750.00
14	Feeny Community Association	Pass	Christmas Lights Switch on with Carol service/ Christmas Music	£750.00
15	Bushside Orange No 923	Pass	Christmas event in Bushside	£750.00
16	Moneydig Rural Network	Pass	Christmas tree light up with Santa	£750.00
17	Camus Juxta Bann	Pass	Xmas tree carol service	£750.00
18	PRA Portballinatrae Residents Association	Pass	Christmas craft, Santa photo, sing along and switch on.	£750.00
19	Magilligan Community Association	Pass	Magilligan Community Christmas Switch On	£750.00
20	Gorthanghey Community Association	Pass	Christmas tree lights turn-on plus Christmas Trail in Park.	£750.00

21	Dervock & District Community Association	Pass	Deck the HALLS with Yuletide TREASURES	£750.00
22	Stranocum & District Dev Group	Pass	Carols around the Christmas Tree	£750.00
23	Burnfoot Community Development Association	Pass	Christmas Lights switch on at Burnfoot Community Centre	£750.00
24	Armoy Community Association	Pass	Winter wonderland walk around the riverside park	£750.00
25	Foreglen Community Association	Pass	Foreglen Christmas Tree	£750.00
26	Cloughmills Community Action Team	Pass	Festive celebrations at the Mill	£750.00
27	Ballynarrig Cultural Group	Pass	Tractor run with outdoor switch-on event	£735.00
28	Carey Faughs GAC	Pass	Christmas light and Christmas tree switched on	£400.00
29	Derrykeighan & District Community Association	Pass	Community Christmas light switch on	£250.00
30	Mosside Presbyterian Church	Pass	Christmas Tree in Mosside village	£250.00
	Total			£40,105.00