

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 033/19
Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):
Title of report: Rural Church Buildings Conference
Area of county / stakeholders affected: all of Essex
Report by: Suzanne Harris
Date of report: 6 th March 2019
Enquiries to: Suzanne Harris

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval for the allocation of up to £500 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the CSDF to support the Rural Church Buildings Conference taking place on 2nd May 2019.

2. Recommendations

To approve funding of £500 to meet refreshment costs of the event.

3. Benefits of the proposal

Funding refreshments will mean that all costs will be funded in full and there will be no charge to delegates who will mainly be volunteers.

The Conference is being offered to help rural church congregations care for and develop their church buildings to serve their communities more effectively.

The organisers have gathered a diverse range of speakers and workshop facilitators to provide a comprehensive spread of subjects for participants.

One of the barriers to extending access and opening times of rural church buildings for increased faith and community use is the perceived issue of rural crime. This will be addressed through the support and participation of Heritage Watch and Essex Police in both a workshop and a 'Market place' stand for participants to visit throughout the day especially during the lunch break.

As well as giving people the confidence to keep church buildings open and better able to serve their communities, the Conference will offer advice to ensure that church buildings are safer and more resistant to crime.

4. Background and proposal

Revd Janet Nicholls, organiser of the Conference, is a member of the PFCC Rural Crime Forum and plays an active role in supporting our events and taking our messages back to the Diocese of Chelmsford and its member churches. Revd Nicholls approached Essex Police last year to participate in the Conference by running a workshop and being present to offer practical advice. More recently Revd Nicholls highlighted a concern that without full funding there would be a need to charge those attending, which would likely be a deterrent as most attendees would be volunteers. The Diocesan Board of Finance (which manages the Diocese of Chelmsford) is a charity and all churches with income below £100,000 are exempted from charitable registration. Those who manage churches are volunteers, with the exception of stipended clergy, whose main responsibility is for ministry and pastoral care, rather than the care of buildings.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

1. To not provide funding, on the basis that Essex police are supporting the event with an in-kind contribution. *This would mean introduction of a charge for attendance and the actual attendance rate would be lower. Some churches would not be able to fund the cost and individuals (as volunteers) may be unwilling or unable to meet the cost themselves. A greater number of churches would fail to be represented and would therefore not receive the information that would enable them to make their community buildings safer and of greater benefit to their communities.*
2. To provide part-funding. The amount requested is not significant enough to make this option worthwhile.

6. Police and Crime Plan

The Conference will meet the following aims of the Police and Crime Plan:

- Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing:
"Our objective is to ensure that crime prevention is based in the community, that victims come first, and that you know what is happening in your neighbourhood"
 - **B) Improve communications and contact between the police and local communities**, so the public have access to information and advice on crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.
 - **C) Boost community volunteering**, encourage the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family – doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.
 - **H) Help the rural communities by preventing rural crime**, including strengthening Farm Watch, working with the Rural Crime Forum and recruiting more Rural Specials.
- Priority 2 - Crack down on Anti-Social Behaviour:
"Our objective is to ensure that crime prevention is based in the community, that victims come first, and that you know what is happening in your neighbourhood"
 - **E) Ensure the public are kept informed** about what is being done about anti-social behaviour by local policing teams and community safety partners.

7. Police operational implications

There are no operational implications. Police staff have already committed to supporting the event by running a workshop and manning an information stand.

8. Financial implications

The one-off cost to the PFCC would be £500, which would come from the 2019/20 CSF budget.

There would be no ongoing costs.

9. Legal implications

The grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing or resource implications associated with this funding. Staff support from the PFCC office would not be dependent or influenced by funding being granted or refused.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications

12. Risks

- The event could be cancelled; the funding agreement would require return of funds.
- The event could underspend on the anticipated costs; the funding agreement would require return of unused funds.
- The event could overspend on anticipated cost; we would not be liable for any overspend.

13. Governance Boards

The proposal was discussed with DPFCC Jane Gardner, who indicated support.

14. Background papers

N/A

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: [Signature]
Print: P. Beattie-Islewood
Date: 1st May 2019

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: [Signature]
Print: Abbe Susan
Date: 1/5/19

Publication

Is the report for publication? YES
NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES NO
2. Of Appendix? YES NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only
If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: J Gardner
Print: JANE GARDNER

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 1/05/2019

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed:

