

## Thurso High School Parent Council: Funding Meeting

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***NB: This is a 'work in progress' project and information will be continually updated.***

### **Project timeline:**

- First meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015
- Updates: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 (following PC meeting)

**Present:** Su Hawes, Sandy Cumming, Matthew Reiss, Alison Reiss, Ron Hibbert, Ken Murphy

Discussion should be seen in context. Given the huge budgetary pressures, it is now even more imperative that the PC look for other sources of funding for projects.

There has been a strong indication that the amount charged for taking a school let will soon increase substantially. This will have serious implications for local clubs/societies and other community use of the school.

## **Potential Funding Streams:**

### **Dounreay Communities Fund**

This body awards grants (often 50%) for projects **with a total project cost of up to £5000**, however, *it cannot support works which should be funded by Highland Council.*

**NB: The remaining 50% of the project requires 'match funding'.**

Mairi Mackay in the Dounreay office, Traill House (in the precinct) is the contact on 01847 890837.

To save time, Mairi will advise on suitability of applications prior to submission.

### **Possible projects:**

- Barrier/speed bumps at front of school. Ron suggested getting Road Safety Unit (Glenurquhart House) to assess potential risks and remedies.
- Front projector & screen in the Assembly Hall to replace the current back projector (which has to be removed when there are shows on – thus shortening shelf life). Su discussed the projector with John Firth (Thurso Players) to see if they can 'match fund' and also take on the responsibility of the installation of the kit. Su advised John that the school's contribution would be the Grant monies as the school has no other funds available. John Firth / Philip Arthur to putting this on their list as a potential future venture when the Players have more funds. (Current funds are to be used for the next phase of the building works at The Mill)
- Sports / gym equipment and other Capital Expenditure items not covered by HC remit.

**Important dates:** this group meet regularly to approve grants which run from April – March. The last date for receipt of **completed application forms is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2105.**

### **Ward Discretionary Fund**

This group meet every month to award grants (each ward has approximately £45,000 at their discretion – can award up to £10,000). The school comes under both Thurso and Landward Wards so we can source two funding streams. Although match funding is not essential, it is beneficial.

### **Possible projects:**

- The re-lining of the Games Hall floor; which is used by many community groups as well as the school. Visiting competitors have expressed concern over the lack of visible lines. **This project has now been approved** by David Sutherland with the funds coming from the last of

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the Thurso Ward 2014-15 fund; any shortfall being met by Education. The work to be completed over the Easter holidays when the school / Games hall is closed.

- Important dates: these funds run from April – March.

### **Caithness North Sutherland Fund (CNSF)**

Matthew informed the Group that this fund has approximately £40 million to award (£300,000 available per year). . Although match funding is not essential, it is beneficial. David Shearer is the contact.

#### Possible projects:

- The Mini-Bus has been identified as a good project. Sandy and Matthew have liaised and Matthew has been in contact with David Shearer of CNSF. Ken to clarify position and supply list of all other community groups who use the school Mini-Bus (Ken to check with Dingwall).

### **Big Lottery Fund, Scotland (Awards for All)**

A simple Grant scheme, awards from £500 - £10,000

NB: does NOT require 'match funding'. The project MUST start 4 months after the application has been made and completed 12 months from receipt of Grant monies.

#### Possible projects:

- New projector and screen ( if Thurso Players cannot commit to 'match fund')

### **Sportscotland**

#### **Bank of Scotland Foundation**

Awards are small to medium, but they require the PC to be a registered charity with OSCR

### **Moray Firth Radio**

### **Baillie Wind Farm**

### **Halkirk & District (Causewaymire Wind Farm)**

### **Rural Direct**

Grant funding for community transport

SCUO

Link to organisations offering funding

### GENERAL POINTS FOR APPLICATIONS:

- Most funds run in the financial year, April – March.
- You can only make ONE (successful) application in each financial year.
- Get applications in early to maximise chance of success.
- Most funds will not consider projects deemed to be the responsibility of the Highland Council.
- Strong Community benefits, as well as benefits to the school, are often required and will greatly enhance applications.
- Be aware that some funds require 'match funding'; others do not.

### Other Points of Discussion:

- Educational Trusts – Ken to contact Donnie MacKenzie at Fortrose. Setting up a school Educational Trust can allow us access to potential funding streams we would otherwise be denied.
- Digital Signage (TV Screens) – system has failed with key components not replaceable (firm has gone bust). Ken to price. Baillie Wind Farm could be possible funding source.
- School Signage – this was discussed at recent Council meeting and Councillor Gail Ross may be contacting Ken regarding this.
- New Build – FYI Matthew has been encouraged to raise this by Cllr Bill Fernie, however, Bill Alexander was less forthright. The timescales will be lengthy!