

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 OCTOBER 2012**

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT APPLICATION**

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

**1. Cornwall Blind Association**

1.1 The Town Council has received a request for grant funding from the Cornwall Blind Association which is seeking financial assistance from the Town Council towards its Volunteer Transport Service in the West Penwith Community Network Area for 2012 / 2013.

1.2 The service provides vital links to ophthalmic care (eye care services), essential sight loss services and social activities for the blind and visually impaired people who have no other reasonable alternative transport.

1.3 Currently there are 362 clients in the area which will generate in the region of 288 journeys for the above purposes. In order to keep the service sustainable the Association uses only trained volunteer drivers. The total cost of the journeys will be approximately £3,160 for the year. The grant would help to pay for these volunteer drivers.

1.4 The transport assistance helps clients to remain independent, fit and healthy and assists in developing social links etc etc. Helping to reduce the fear of isolation in a predominantly rural location.

1.5 Cornwall Blind Association is a registered charity and its services are open to anyone resident in Cornwall with severe sight loss. Currently they have 19 clients in St Just and 11 in Pendeen and the surrounding villages.

1.6 The Association has already received £1,740 from client contributions and Cornwall Council, with a further £1,420 needed in order to continue to support older people with sight loss in the local community.

1.7 The Town Council has previously made the following grant awards to the Association:-

- £200.00            January 2012
- £200.00            October 2009

1.8 The Association has provided financial information to 31 March 2012 and full details can be provided at the meeting.

**2. Remaining Budget Provision in 2012 / 2013**

2.1 There is currently £6,450.00 remaining in the 2012 / 2013 budget for grant applications.

3. The Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Background papers: Application submitted 8 October 2012.