



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

29th March, 2006

Report of
Councillor Mrs Harper

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Elizabeth Swillington's Charity

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 At their meeting on 10th May, 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of Elizabeth Swillington's Charity over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the City Council continues to appoint representatives to the Elizabeth Swillington's Charity.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Charity was set up in the 17th Century by a Coventry citizen, Elizabeth Swillington. Its purpose was twofold, to improve the roads in Coventry and to give money to the "deserving poor". In the late 20th century it was recognised by the Charities Commission, through a Cy-près Scheme. Since that time the charity has focussed exclusively on the second objective.

3.2 The Elizabeth Swillington Charity derives its income of around £10,000 annually from land within Coventry, left in perpetuity by the donor. This land has been let to the present tenant for many years at the same rental. The trustees are shortly to decide on a more appropriate market rent, so that they can be more generous with the people they help. Each recipient is given up to £1,000, mostly in the form of material goods, such as floor coverings, white goods and furniture. The Charity stipulates only that the beneficiary lives within Coventry's boundaries.

3.3 The Clerk is Mrs Joyce Bennell. The present trustees are:-

Mr Arthur Waugh (Chairman)	Retired
Mrs Sheila Collins	Retired
Mr Roy Stanley JP	Retired
Mrs Sheila Lacy	Co-opted as a housewife but now a Councillor
Miss Linda Reece	Councillor
Mrs Catherine Harper	Councillor

There may be a case for co-opting one or two trustees from the general public.

3.4 Meetings are held every other month on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. They last over an hour and are mostly well attended. Each request is discussed and a decision reached on the suitability of the applicant and the amount to be allocated. Trustees gather for an annual dinner. The work is interesting and not onerous.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 Benefits to the City Council of this appointment are that members have the opportunity to work with and influence a Coventry based charity.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Councillors Mrs Harper and Ms Reece are the City Council's representatives on Elizabeth Swillington's Trustees. There have been 6 meetings of the trustees over the previous twelve months of which both representatives have attended 4 meetings.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61