



COUNCIL

Date: 9 September 2021

Title: Barrel Organ Theatre Funding Request

Purpose of the Report:

To bring forward a funding request for Committee's consideration from Barrel Organ Theatre Company.

Contact Officer:

Vivien Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Five Year Plan – Aim 3. Vibrancy and Vitality of Town and Town Centre
Implications:	
Financial	Yes. Utilising earmarked reserves of £2000
Human Resources	
Operational/Service delivery	Minimal impact on Council staff resource as the project is independently led by Barrel Organ
Procedural/Legal	
Risk/Health and Safety	Should Committee be minded, to confirm funding on the proviso that Barrel Organ secure full funded as listed within their proposal
Environmental Aims	

1 RECOMMENDATION/S

Should members be minded, the proposal is:

1.1 To approve a contribution of £2,000 from earmarked reserve, Cultural and Economic Services (970/9026) to Barrel Organ Theatre Company to be awarded on the proviso that the company first secure the necessary funds to deliver their proposed theatre project, and that this budget be held for a period of one year to allow the company time to raise the funding.

2 INFORMATION

2.1 An Associate Director of touring theatre company Barrel Organ, which has been operational for eight years, has approached the Council with a request to contribute £2,000 towards the delivery of a community-based theatre project.

2.2 Their project proposal is to put citizens and professionals together to write, create and produce short plays in towns that could benefit from enhancing the independent theatre scene. The theatre company has progressed its preliminary research for this new project, with a working title, 'Town Squared', to the point of seeking partners and applying for funding.

2.3 Barrel Theatre's proposal document can be seen at [Appendix A](#), (**attached**).

2.4 In addition to the funding request, the company asks that council officers assist in reaching out to local groups and organisations they might partner with to help support the work and to inform when needed of necessary permits, e.g., Temporary Event Notices. This work would be minimal in terms of officer resources.

2.5 Given the element of citizen 'story telling', officers have made the theatre company aware of the Children's Trail and its origins regarding children's stories. It has been suggested that a link may be made with the Children's Trail 10th anniversary in 2022, yet activity will be led by those citizens the company recruits to work with.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 Barrel Organ Theatre is not known to the Council. The Associate Director grew up in Linslade and the link has been made through his knowledge and interest in the locality. The project would assist in building audience participation in local art events.

3.2 The funding requested is relatively small in comparison to the full cost of the project. The company will lead on securing funds and has previous success in securing significant project funds. The purpose of confirming the Committee's intent to provide funding, albeit with a clear proviso, is to support the company's larger funding application activity.

3.3 The company will lead on all works with minimal input from council officers requested.

End.