

REPORT: 23.139
LAVERSTOCK AND FORD PARISH COUNCIL
SUBJECT: Grant Application Boscombe Down Aviation Collection
Report Author: Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk
DATE: 18th November 2023

1. Report Summary

A report to councillors regarding a grant application from Boscombe Down Aviation Collection.

2. Background

Boscombe Down Aviation Collection BDAC is a registered charity occupying premises within the Parish at Old Sarum.

3. Summary

The Clerk has received a grant application and supporting evidence from BDAC. The grant application is attached below, requesting £4,925.92 to fund improvements at the collection. On receipt of the application, the Clerk contacted the applicant to explain that the application would be presented to councillors, but that the amount requested is almost all of the annual grant budget. The Clerk advised the applicant to be ready to answer questions about a possible partial award, and the implications for the project. The applicant has since also applied to Southern Wiltshire Area Board for a grant and provided this statement:

'the Area Board will require 50% matched funding and these are ideally looked upon more favourably than asking for the full amount - the total project cost I have submitted in our Southern Wiltshire Area Board application (application ref ABG1429) is £5892.00, with the maximum amount the Area Board could provide would be £2946.00'.

4. Recommendations

That the council resolves to grant £2,946.00 to Boscombe Down Aviation Collection towards a display cabinet, new doors and blinds, under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

incorporating Bishopdown Farm, Ford, Hampton Park, Laverstock, Longhedge, Old Sarum, River Down Park and parts of Milford

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please be advised that all applicants are invited to attend and address the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Meeting deciding your application. Although this is not compulsory it is seen to be beneficial especially for grant applications over £500.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council if you need help completing this application communications@laverstock-ford.co.uk

1	Name of Organisation and date (the name of your club, charity etc. plus date of application)
	Boscombe Down Aviation Collection, charity number 1142599 – date of application 30 th October 2023.
2	Amount of Grant aid being requested (how much money are you asking for?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x bespoke-made museum-grade display cabinet to house 1 x original & rare World War One Royal Flying Corps leather flying suit (trousers & jacket, with flying hat, gloves & goggles) - £4357.20 (includes VAT)• Royal Flying Corps room double-glazed glass door units & installation (£318.72)• Archive window blinds (two rooms to be fitted with vertical blinds, £250 for both archive rooms) Total = £4,925.92
3	Tell us about the project or activity you are applying for financial support for (this space is for a summary, you can also include further detail and supporting documents with this application).
	<p>The Boscombe Down Aviation Collection has been open to the public housed within it's World War One 1917-built Grade-II* Listed hangars at Old Sarum since 2012. In June 2020, after 2 years of work & considerable effort by BDAC volunteers the doors were opened on the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Collection, as part of the BDAC experience to the public. The displays & artefacts tell the story of the Royal Flying Corps & aviation in the local area, from historic airfields such as Old Sarum, Netheravon, Larkhill & Upavon to further afield on the Western Front in France. Around 99% of the artefacts within the RFC Room are original, and were bequeathed from original RFC personnel to the RFC Association, which was setup post-war, so that one day, their personal stories of valour and sacrifice would be told for future generations.</p> <p>This grant is to support the purchase of one bespoke Museum-grade display cabinet to house one of our WW1 Royal Flying Corps uniforms, an original flying suit that would have been worn by pilots and observers stationed at Old Sarum and RFC airfields around the country & abroad. We have four mannequins which currently display original RFC flying uniforms that we are looking to have displayed within purpose-built Museum display cases – due to the size and rarity of these uniforms we have chosen to go with a local Museum-grade cabinet-making</p>

company in Fordingbridge who have been incredibly helpful in surveying our original flying uniforms and how to display them properly to the public. By housing these uniforms in museum-grade cabinets this will allow them to be conserved for future generations to view, learn and appreciate the sacrifice those brave men & women made during the First World War, many flying from our local airfield at Old Sarum, some sadly never to return.

The Royal Flying Corps collection is housed in a room which was converted to present the best conditions available for both visitor engagement & for conservation of the artefacts held within (LED lights in the ceiling so as not to damage the original documents & photographs). We have operated a policy of closing the doors to allow for temperature and humidity to be closely managed & monitored since 2020, however while we have signs outside the Room encouraging people to visit to learn about the stories of these airmen, we are still looking at improvements that can be made to improve our visitor numbers.

We have identified that we can still keep the doors closed to the RFC, but improve visibility to customers who enter our hangar by fitting replacement door panels from white PVC to glass, which would present a much more inviting frontage to the room than what is there currently. Our museum service has advised that the temperature must be kept in the range 18-25°C and relative humidity in the range of 40-65% with fluctuations of no more than 5% within an hour. This is less demanding than BS5454:2000, the British standard for the preservation of archival documents. We have monitored our temperatures in the RFC room since 2020 by the use of both a data logger and our hand-written data sheet, which is logged at the start & end every shift by BDAC RFC volunteers.

In line with the above recommendations from the National Museum Directors' Council, we are looking to purchase archive materials to store in line with correct Museum guidance so they can be conserved properly and enable future generations to research, handle & display the thousands of original Royal Flying Corps & Royal Air Force documents, photographs and artefacts that we hold within our archive. At present our archive room is situated upstairs & is still fitted with the original 1980/1990's window blinds which were installed when Edgley Optica aircraft were being built in the hangar. We would like to install accurately-measured black-out vertical blinds in both rooms to ensure no direct sunlight (which is damaging) can fall on the documents, photographs & artefacts held within the two archive rooms.

4	<p>Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan (available to view at www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)</p>
	<p>Our project supports the Laverstock & Ford Parish Council's Neighbourhood and Strategic Plan in the following ways –</p> <p><i>"Preserve and protect the existing open spaces, landscape and heritage assets much valued by residents and visitors"</i> – by supporting our project in conserving & protecting these original artefacts as well as the stories of those who flew from the airfield at Old Sarum, it will enable future generations to learn, appreciate & understand the sacrifice made by those who were stationed at RAF Old Sarum/Old Sarum Aerodrome & members of the Royal Flying Corps & Royal Air Force in the local area. The Museum's existence is to tell the story of the local airfield & historic aviation in the local area to residents of Laverstock & Ford, as well as Salisbury & further afield.</p> <p><i>"Support the provision of community services and facilities which benefit the Parish, including health and wellbeing aspects"</i> – our project supports community involvement as many of our local guides & volunteers reside in Laverstock, Ford & Old Sarum (including Longhedge), and they receive a great personal benefit from volunteering their time with the Museum, including the friendships and relationships they create through shared mutual interests. Our guides and volunteers are able to inform the local residents when they visit about the history of the airfield, the historic WW1 hangars that the Museum is situated within as well as tell the stories of those who flew and were based at the historic airfield. Local school classes & groups visit the museum and our trained guides explain the history behind the local airfield as well as the aircraft that flew from the airfield site. Our Conference Room is used many times throughout the year by local groups both aviation-minded and not, and our volunteers provide local aviation interest talks throughout the year as part of our Annual Lecture Series, which have been attended by local residents as well.</p>
5	<p>Please tell us how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's grant policy (available to view at www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)</p>
	<p>Our project meets the criteria as set out in the LFPC's Grant Policy in the following ways –</p> <p>It will provide a measurable impact to the local community, as we will monitor in our RFC Room's visitor book the feedback & location where people are traveling from to visit us & learn about the history & personal stories we are telling within the Museum's displays. We will be able to provide a research service to the local community when local residents and those further afield wish to conduct research onto the history of Old Sarum Airfield, the Royal Flying Corps and the history of aviation in the local area.</p> <p>We have investigated funding this project from our own reserves – our costs per annum to run & keep the Museum open were at our last AGM (September 2023) calculated at £168,999.73. Our total annual income was £170,465.20. These costs are set to increase in the next few months, both due to energy price rises & our increased costs on rent & local utilities, and it is projected that to run the Museum, it will cost £700 per day from early 2024 onwards.</p> <p>The Museum exhibits and displays including the RFC Room were funded from BDAC Reserves as well as private donations. However, to maintain and conserve their contents in perpetuity for local residents & researchers we are seeking local grant support.</p>
<p>LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION page 2 of 5 JLB/MARCH2023</p>	

5	Approximately how many people who will benefit from your project or activity are residents of Laverstock and Ford Parish?
	BDAC anticipate the whole, if not a large proportion of residents in Laverstock & Ford would benefit from this project – BDAC holds local events & open days for the residents of Laverstock, Ford & Old Sarum to visit the Museum at reduced entry fee. We have our annual Christmas Markets for local producers as well as residents to sell their products, and since 2013 we have hosted a popular Carols & “meet Father Christmas” grotto event near Christmas which is put on for both the local schools, nurseries & residents as well over the course of two days, with two carol sessions per day. Our Museum hosts a wonderful array of local School (both Primary, Second and Higher Education), Beaver, Scout, Air Cadet, Sea Cadet & Army Cadet groups almost every week throughout the year, learning new skills from our knowledgeable guides & volunteers but also learning about the history of aviation in the local area at Old Sarum & Salisbury Plain of the Royal Flying Corps & Royal Air Force.
7	What will be the TOTAL cost of your project/activity (not just the money you are applying for in this application but the overall cost of the project)
	£5,925.92
8	Have you applied for grant/s for this project or activity from any other source? (Please give details and tell us the dates of when these monies will be awarded)
	BDAC have not applied for alternate grants for this project – we investigated grants awarded through the Pilgrims Trust but were advised these had been over-subscribed and were not successful in obtaining funding from the Trust.
9	If the TOTAL cost of your project/activity is more than the grant being applied for how will you fund the remaining costs?
	BDAC would only complete parts of the project that could be supported through the grant until further funding became available.
LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION page 3 of 5 JLB/MARCH2023	

