



Please reply to:

22nd April 1996

Chief Executive
Administration and Finance
North Lanarkshire Council
PO Box 14
Civic Centre
Motherwell

Woodlyn
High Banton
Kilsyth
G65 0RA
Tel 01236 822437

Dear Sir,

Annual Grants to Voluntary Organisations

I am writing to request an annual grant to the Forth and Clyde Canal Society towards the upkeep of the Gipsy Princess. We have in the past few years received grants from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council and from Strathclyde Regional Council. Our March 1996 grant from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth was £1000 and in 1995 we received a grant of £1500 from that Council. Our request is for an annual grant of £1250 commencing early in 1997. This will enable us to carry out the necessary engineering works, DTP inspection and safety certification etc. in time for the start of the cruising season in the springtime.

The Project

The Forth and Clyde Canal travels for a length of about five miles across North Lanarkshire Council area, lying between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. Our Society operates the Gipsy Princess along virtually this whole length, between her moorings at Auchinstarry Basin and Wyndford lock. Gipsy Princess is a 36 seater cruiser and she carries well over 1000 passengers per annum on canal cruises. Public cruises are held with wildlife and historical themes and the boat is chartered by local youth groups, schools, adult organisations etc. About 40 to 50 sailings are held every year. The Gipsy Princess has been a vital part of restoring the Forth and Clyde Canal for amenity purposes in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth area since her launch in 1990. The operation of the Gipsy Princess considerably assists in fulfilment of the objectives of the Forth and Clyde Canal Local Subject Plan in the North Lanarkshire area. The following enclosed leaflets give additional information, Come Canal Cruising, Winter Cruising, Gipsy Princess Special events, Santa Cruises, and Auchinstarry Canal Festival.

The Finance

Gipsy Princess costs approximately £5000 per annum to run, including repairs and improvements, advertising, insurance, mooring, fuel, DTP Certificate and depreciation. The cost of this is met by fundraising activities such as the Auchinstarry gala, boat trips fares and charter charges, donations and grants. Page 7 of the enclosed Society audited accounts for the year ending 30th September 1995 gives the details. These accounts also give details of the Society's other income and expenditure. As you will see our grant from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council was an important part of the financing of Gipsy Princess.

The Society

The Society was formed in 1980 to promote the Forth and Clyde Canal. It is a registered charity and runs three public passenger boats on the canal, including Gipsy Princess. The Society has been active over the years in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District and has run a very popular canal festival at Auchinstarry for 10 years, as part of Kilsyth Civic Week, as well as running cruises over the same period, giving slide shows etc. A copy of our membership leaflet is enclosed. Present officers are Secretary Donald McKinnon on 0141 776 3812 and Treasurer Nancy Lawton on 0141 772 1620 with myself as the local representative. We have a keen local membership who help to run the Gipsy Princess and organise the Auchinstarry Festival.

Conclusion

We would be most grateful for an annual grant of £1250 towards the Gipsy Princess and have been grateful for the District Council's support in the past which has ensured that Gipsy Princess continues to give new life to our local canal.

Many North Lanarkshire councillors have helped us in the past and Councillors Cathie Craigie, Francis Griffin, Tom Barrie and Barry McCulloch have given us particular support over the years. I am sure they will be able to confirm the valuable public service that Gipsy Princess provides.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Carter

(PAUL CARTER)