
Report To: **Finance and Staffing Committee** Date: **12th January 2026**

Contact Officer: **Jacqui Jones**

Subject: **Grant - Friends of Lydiard Park**

1. Purpose/ Background

- 1.1 To inform the Finance Committee of the outcome of a grant awarded to the Friends of Lydiard Park for the Battle of Ellendun 1200th anniversary project, confirm the return of unspent funds in accordance with the grant agreement, and to present a request from the recipient regarding the potential use of a portion of the returned funds.
- 1.2 The Parish Council awarded a grant to the Friends of Lydiard Park the sum of £2000.00 to support the delivery of the Battle of Ellendun 1200th anniversary project. The battle display was held between 20 September and 22 October 2025 at Lydiard House.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The display figures were hand-painted and displayed within a diorama which was successful and well received by members of the public. Feedback indicated positive engagement and interest throughout the exhibition period. Due to volunteer availability issues, the group was not able to deliver some of the school/children sessions as originally described in the grant application.

3. Financial and Budget Considerations

- 3.1 In line with the conditions of the grant agreement, any unspent funds were returned to the Parish Council following the conclusion of the display. The return of funds has been completed in full and within the agreed terms. Details of expenditure has also been received. The funds were received by the Parish Council on 19th December 2025 totalling £1,259.35.

4. Request from Grant Recipient

- 4.1 The Friends of Lydiard Park have requested that the Parish Council consider allowing a portion of the returned funds to be used for the following purposes:
 - The purchase of materials to create a Perspex cover; and
 - Possible additions or improvements to the table supports used for the display.

These items are intended to improve the longevity, presentation, and future usability of the display.

Extract from the e-mail received from the Treasurer of the Friends of Lydiard Park. *"We would request that these funds are used to create a case for the diorama and anything else that might be needed to permanently display the exhibition."*

It has been estimated that the cost of the materials would be in the region of £650.00

5. Future location of the display

5.1 Initial indications suggest that the display could be housed at the Link Centre, located on the first floor in the gallery space. This location would provide an appropriate and accessible setting for future public viewing.

6. Consideration of the Finance Committee

6.1 The Committee may wish to consider:

- The value for money and long-term benefit of investing in display infrastructure; and
- Any budgetary, ownership, or maintenance implications arising from the purchase of materials.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That the Finance Committee considers the request from the recipient organisation and determines whether approval should be given for some of the returned grant funding to be reallocated for the purchase of display materials and table support enhancements.