

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 10</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020</b>	<b>CATEGORY: *SEE BELOW DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>IAN HEY (EXT 8741)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS SCHEME</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: ***SEE BELOW</b>

---

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee accepts the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4.13 of this report.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the applications for Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme (CEPS) funding received by the Council.
- 2.2 To seek approval to award grants in line with the recommendations of the Committee's appointed Assessment Panel established to consider such applications.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The CEPS is continuing to operate according to processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to the Committee.
- 3.2 In total, six new capital grant applications were reviewed by the Assessment Panel, requesting £93,731 against a total budget of £250,000.
- 3.3 The total value of the six projects is £193,131.
- 3.4 Five applications have been recommended for grant support by the Assessment Panel, with a total value of £88,731. One application has not been recommended for a grant.
- 3.5 The five projects recommended to receive grant support are as follows:

- £8,000 to Aston & Weston Bowls Club: To support the installation of an automated watering system to reduce water usage and improve the quality of the playing surface.
- £13,231 to Citizens Advice Mid Mercia: Reconfiguration of meeting and office space to enable services to restart, taking into account the additional space requirements as a result of COVID-19.
- £25,000 to Etwall Parish Council as Trustees of Frank Wickham Hall: To support the development of an additional meeting space allowing new/additional activities at the hall.
- £17,500 to Melbourne Parish Council: To install play equipment targeting families with toddlers.
- £25,000 to Melbourne Sporting Partnership: The grant will pay for car park surfacing which will contribute to the development of the on-site offer and improve local road safety.

3.6 The Assessment Panel decided that the application from Elvaston Parish Council would not be recommended for a grant. Ownership of the land is not clear and it is not possible to identify security of tenure. The Parish Council is to be encouraged to clarify the situation and resubmit the funding bid for re-assessment.

#### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The CEPS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the Scheme to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during the current funding cycle.
- 4.2 An Assessment Panel comprising five Councillors, with support from the Community Partnership Officer, met to consider applications that had been submitted. Councillor Dan Pegg acted as Chair for the CEPS Assessment Panel.
- 4.3 Submitted applications were assessed against set criteria and recommendations about grant distribution were identified to forward to the Housing and Community Services Committee.

#### **Applications**

4.4 The following applications were received and considered for capital funding:

4.5 **Aston & Weston Bowls Club** – Project value £17,000: grant applied for £8,000.

This project will result in the installation of an automated watering system to reduce water usage and improve the quality of the playing surface. It will allow watering to take place over night extending the time available for play. This is especially important at present as restrictions imposed by the response to COVID-19 has reduced the number of participants that can use the green at any one time.

The total balance of funding required is already in place.

4.6 **Citizens Advice Mid Mercia** – Project value £26,461: grant applied for £13,231.

The CAB building at Church Gresley provides a base for the CAB itself as well as several partner organisations. The aim of the project is to reconfigure space to allow the adherence to Government guidelines regarding space and social distancing. This will allow them to continue current services as well as adapting to new conditions.

The total balance of funding required is already in place.

**4.7 Elvaston Parish Council – Project value £5,000: grant applied for £5,000.**

The project is to reinstate a footpath between Sturgess Lane and Shardlow Road. This is a very busy stretch of road and has been highlighted as a concern by local residents.

The grant requested is for 100% of the project cost.

**4.8 Etwall Parish Council (as Trustees of Frank Whickam Hall) – Project value £84,070: grant applied for £25,000.**

This project is targeted at developing the facility to allow for additional classes / activities to take place. The aim is to develop a new meeting room and additional toilet facilities. Currently small meetings take place in the large hall. This project will free up time in the larger hall for additional activities. At present the hall is fully booked at peak times.

All additional funding required has been secured.

**4.9 Melbourne Parish Council – Project value £35,000: grant applied for £17500.**

The Parish Council is looking to completely refurbish a play area at Lothian Gardens that targets families with children aged two to five years. Initial consultation was carried out with one of the local pre-school groups within Melbourne. The results from this were then used as the basis for wider consultation and the equipment identified has been chosen to encourage imaginative play.

All additional funding is in place.

**4.10 Melbourne Sporting Partnership – Project value £25,600: grant applied for £25,000.**

The application will allow Melbourne Sporting Partnership to increase onsite parking. The additional spaces will enable a reduction of parking on Cockshut Lane, reducing traffic congestion, and support the development of Tennis as part of the Partnership.

### **Assessment Panel**

**4.11 The Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 3rd August to review the applications against the questions and criteria previously agreed. The criteria included links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.**

4.12 Prior to making a recommendation, the Assessment Panel considered the Scheme's current budget position regarding capital monies. The Scheme has £250,000 budgeted prior to the allocation of any grants. In light of the above information it was identified that there was sufficient funding for all recommended grants to be covered in full should they meet the Scheme's criteria.

### **Assessment Panel Recommendations**

4.13 The Assessment Panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is as follows:

- **£8,000 to Aston & Weston Bowls Club:** The grant will enable the installation of an automated watering system to reduce water usage and improve the quality of the playing surface.
- **£13,231 to Citizens Advice Mid Mercia:** The grant will part fund reconfiguration of meeting and office space to enable services to restart taking into account the additional space requirements as a result of COVID-19.
- **£25,000 to Etwall Parish Council as Trustees of Frank Wickham Hall:** The grant will support the development of an additional meeting space, allowing new/additional activities at the hall.
- **£17,500 to Melbourne Parish Council:** The grant will part fund play equipment targeting families with toddlers.
- **£25,000 to Melbourne Sporting Partnership:** The grant will pay for car park surfacing which will contribute to the development of the on-site offer.

4.14 All grant offers for building-based projects are required to evidence appropriate planning / building control permissions.

4.15 Following the review by Assessment Panel members it was decided that the application from Elvaston Parish Council would not be recommended for a grant. The ownership of the land is not clear and it is not possible to identify security of tenure. The Parish Council are to be encouraged to clarify the situation and resubmit the funding bid for re-assessment.

4.16 VAT on project costs are only covered where the organisation is not VAT registered and cannot reclaim VAT paid.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 The award of grants falls within the CEPS' budget allocation of £250,000. The total of the grants recommended for award is £88,731, allowing a balance of £161,269 to be allocated at later grant rounds.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

6.1 The scheme contributes to all of the priority areas in the Council's Corporate Plan, with individual projects contributing to Our Environment, Our People and Our Future through delivering inward investment, independent living, leisure and cultural activity and focus on the community as customers.

- 6.2 The projects supported will also address outcomes that contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes of Children & Young People, Healthier Communities, Safer and Stronger Communities, as well as Sustainable Development.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

- 7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 The Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme continues to provide the Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables community partners to lever additional external funding to the District.