

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:7
DATE OF MEETING:	10 MARCH 2022	CATEGORY: *HS07
		RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS GRANT SCHEME	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee accepts the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnerships Grant Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4 of this report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform the Committee of the applications for Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme (CEPGS) 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 CEPGS is continuing to operate according to processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to the Committee.

3.2 In total, four new capital grant applications were reviewed by the Assessment Panel, requesting £48,000 against a remaining unallocated budget of £90,469 which is available until end of March 2023.

3.3 Four applications have been recommended for grant support by the Assessment Panel, with a total value of £48,000.

3.4 The four projects recommended to receive grant support are as follows:

- a) £10,000 to Belmont Bowls Club, as a contribution towards the installation of a sprinkler system and new specialist mower. The aim is to improve the quality of the playing surface to allow for additional members requiring more playing time.

- b) £25,000 to Church Broughton Tennis Club to support the building of a Padel Tennis court. The aim is to increase the capacity of the club. The club draws membership from surrounding areas that have seen large scale development such as Hilton and Hatton. This is a new, rapidly growing sport that provides an easy entry to tennis.
- c) £2,949 to John Port Alms Houses to support the installation of a new sun dial. This is a key feature on a listed building within the Etwall conservation area.
- d) £10,000 to Newton Solney Parish Council as a contribution towards the development of the Newton Solney Jubilee Orchard. Specifically, the grant will contribute towards the cost of a pavilion and trees. The pavilion will act as a multi-use community space.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The CEPGS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector (VCS). An annual sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the Scheme since October 2019, to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during the current funding cycle.
- 4.2 An Assessment Panel comprising four Councillors, with support from the S106 Officer, met to consider applications that had been submitted. The Panel is Chaired by the Chairman of the Housing and Community Services Committee.
- 4.3 Submitted applications were assessed against the published set criteria and recommendations about grant distribution are proposed for approval by the Committee.
- 4.4 The Council has commenced a wider strategic review of its local play, sport, physical activity, and wellbeing services to form part of the evidence base of the next Local Plan.

As part of this review, the following documents will be refreshed:

- Facilities Planning Model (FPM)
- Built Facilities Strategy (BFS)
- Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)
- Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)
- Recreation Facilities Strategy (RFS)

Additionally, as part of the review a standardised Community Use Agreement (CUA) template is being developed. CUA's provide certainty and clarity about the intentions concerning community access to facilities. CUA's cover such matters as hours of availability, management arrangements, repairs, and maintenance, sinking fund, pricing policy etc.

Once these strategic documentations are in place the CEPGS criteria will be reviewed, and any recommended changes will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

Applications

- 4.5 The following applications were received and considered for capital funding:

- a) **Belmont Bowls Club**: grant applied for £20,000.
(This is 100% of the project costs. As no other applications for funding have been made that were unsuccessful the fund criteria only allow an application for up to 50% of costs. The panel considered the application based on £10,000 - 50% application.)

The aim of the project is to grow interest in the sport of Bowls, providing opportunities for both juniors and families. The improvements to the playing surface will also improve the experience for existing participants.

The sprinkler system will use rainwater harvesting to reduce the amount of processed water used which also contributes to the environmental targets of the grant scheme.

The grant will act as a contribution towards the installation of a sprinkler system and new specialist mower. The aim is to improve the quality of the playing surface to allow for additional members requiring more playing time.

b) Church Broughton Tennis Club: grant applied for £25,000 (*30% of total project costs of £82,515*).

The club is registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club. The aim of the project is to install an outdoor Padel Tennis court providing a sport facility to promote health and well-being to the local community through fitness and social contact. It will enable the Club to introduce a racquet sport, which is becoming increasingly popular since it is fun, sociable, and easy to play.

Padel Tennis is easier to learn and play than most racquet sports and is played on a smaller court. It is ideal for children, those less active, older people and those wanting an introduction to tennis. Padel Tennis can be played with four players of mixed ages and abilities so is suitable for families and will encourage family play and interaction. The Project hopes to bring people in the local community closer together by offering facilities for social interaction and improve the physical health and well-being of participants through introducing them to a fun and easy to play racket sport. The Club will supply equipment for people to use free of charge, whilst at the club, to encourage participation.

Planning permission has previously been granted.

c) John Port Alms Houses, Etwell: grant applied for £3,000 (*Recommended offer 50% of total eligible costs of £5,898. VAT is reclaimable, limiting the maximum grant that can be offered to £2,949*).

This project will support the installation of a new sun dial. This is a key feature on a listed building within the Etwell conservation area at the heart of the community.

The homes have been providing local accommodation for people in need since 1681. The trust has upgraded all the properties and is looking to restore the outside to reflect the original façade.

This project will contribute towards “taking pride in our place” within the Council’s Corporate Plan.

d) Newton Solney Parish Council: grant applied for £10,000 (*38.5% of eligible projected expenditure of £25,900*).

The aim of the overall project is twofold:

1. To increase biodiversity within the village through tree planting, and
2. To provide a multi-use facility for the community on the recreation ground.

As well as improving biodiversity the tree planting is intended to improve the visual aspect of the recreation ground and provide a focus for community activity.

The village primary school have identified that it would also use the pavilion to support outdoor learning.

Assessment Panel

- 4.6 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel met on 10 February 2022 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.
- 4.7 Prior to making a recommendation, the Assessment Panel considered the Scheme's current budget position regarding capital monies. The Scheme had a remaining unallocated budget of £90,469 prior to the allocation of any grants. It was, therefore, 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

- 4.8 The Assessment Panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is as follows:
- **£10,000 to Belmont Bowls Club**, as a contribution towards the installation of a sprinkler system and new specialist mower.
 - **£25,000 to Church Broughton Tennis Club** to support the building of a padel tennis court.
 - **£2,949 to John Port Alms Houses** to support the installation of a new sun dial.
 - **£10,000 to Newton Solney Parish Council** as a contribution towards the development of the Newton Solney Jubilee Orchard.
- 4.9 All grant offers for building-based projects are required to evidence appropriate planning / building control permissions
- 4.10 VAT on project costs are only covered where the organisation is not VAT registered and cannot reclaim VAT paid.
- 4.11 All offers made are subject to the current published standard terms and conditions.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The award of grants falls within the remaining unallocated CEPGS budget of £90,469. The total of the grants recommended for award is £47,949, allowing a balance of £42,520 (17% of initial allocation of funds) to be allocated prior to March 2023.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that all remaining funds will be recommended for allocation at the next grant panel, date to be identified, during 2022/2023.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to all 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 residents and customers.

- 6.2 The projects supported will also address outcomes that contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes of Children and 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 Grant Scheme continues to provide the Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for residents. It also enables community partners to lever additional external funding to the District.