

# Public Document Pack



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

**Bill Cullen** MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI  
*Chief Executive*

Date: 18 November 2020

To: **Members of the Scrutiny Commission**

Cllr MR Lay (Chairman)  
Cllr C Ladkin (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr P Williams (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr JMT Collett  
Cllr DS Cope  
Cllr MJ Crooks

Cllr SM Gibbens  
Cllr A Pendlebury  
Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools  
Cllr R Webber-Jones  
Cllr HG Williams

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear member,

There will be a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** as a virtual meeting via Zoom on **THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2020 at 6.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen  
Democratic Services Manager

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 26 NOVEMBER 2020

### A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2020.

3. ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive verbally from members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. **This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the agenda.**

5. QUESTIONS

To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

6. VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMISSIONING (Pages 5 - 36)

To update members on outcomes arising from the 2018/19 round of Voluntary & Community Sector Commissioning.

7. REFRESH OF THE RURAL STRATEGY (Pages 37 - 58)

To present the refreshed Rural Strategy for the borough.

8. REVIEW OF PARISH & COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND AND HINCKLEY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND GRANTS (Pages 59 - 66)

To present the review of PCIF and HCIF grants.

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY

As announced under item 3.

## HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### SCRUTINY COMMISSION

8 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MR Lay - Chairman  
Cllr C Ladkin and Cllr P Williams – Vice-Chairmen

Cllr JMT Collett, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr A Pendlebury,  
Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools, Cllr R Webber-Jones and Cllr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Matthew Bowers, Bill Cullen, Paul Grundy, Simon D Jones, Julie Kenny, Rosemary Leach, Karen Mason, Rebecca Owen, Madeline Shellard, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

#### 510 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

It was noted that Councillors Cope, Gibbens and Pendlebury would be arriving late due to attending another meeting.

#### 511 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Sheppard-Bools, seconded by Councillor P Williams and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 512 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Williams declared a personal interest in the Heritage Strategy Action Plan as Heritage Champion for the Council.

Councillors Cope, Gibbens and Pendlebury entered the meeting at 6.33pm.

#### 513 HERITAGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Members received an update on work undertaken in the last twelve months in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Heritage Strategy Action Plan. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The importance of continuing conservation area re-appraisals
- Funding for the 1485 trail had been granted by the LLEP and progress on the project would not be greatly impacted by covid-19
- A resident had compiled an early history of Newbold Verdon which would be shared with the conservation officer
- Concern about the ability for businesses to focus on the Heritage Action Zone given other pressures. It was noted that a heritage officer had been appointed to work with building owners
- The need for the Heritage Forum to continue meeting, albeit virtually
- The importance of taking enforcement in conservation areas as required.

Cllr Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.45pm.

The inclusion of conservation in the Planning White Paper was highlighted.

It was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Webber-Jones and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the report be noted and work undertaken be endorsed
- (ii) the importance of continuing conservation and heritage work across the borough.

514 COUNTYWIDE HOARDING PROJECT

Councillor Pendlebury declared a personal interest in this item as a mental health worker.

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of a pilot countywide project funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant element of the Better Care Fund aimed at a holistic approach to dealing with cases of hoarding.

Members generally felt this was a valuable piece of work and were happy that the Council was leading on the project.

A member expressed concern that, in the current climate where businesses and individuals were struggling financially, the cost to taxpayers of the project was high yet outcomes commensurate with the expenditure may not be achieved. In response, it was noted that the cost would be met from the Disabled Facilities Grant which was a ringfenced budget and could not be used to support businesses or other general fund functions. Members were reassured that positive outcomes had been seen in other areas and it was anticipated that the return on investment would be achieved by reducing delayed hospital discharges and the associated cost of bed blocking and through reducing the need for multiple clear outs of peoples' properties.

In response to a question about the extent of the problem, it was noted that in the borough in May 2019 there were 31 cases of which officers were aware. In addition, there were around ten people per week in Leicestershire hospitals unable to be discharged as their property being uninhabitable due to hoarding.

It was suggested that an update be brought to the Scrutiny Commission at an appropriate point.

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Crooks and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council;
- (ii) An update be brought to a future meeting.

515 UPGRADE OF HOUSING MOBILE SOLUTION SOFTWARE

Consideration was given to a report which looked at the current mobile solution software utilised by the housing repairs team and recommended an upgrade to the system. In addition to providing a more flexible service to meet tenants' needs, it was noted that the solution would reduce travel and paper usage thereby reducing the council's carbon footprint. In relation to savings, it was agreed that members would be updated during the course of the project.

Members welcomed the improvements proposed and it was moved by Councillor Crooks, seconded by Councillor Webber-Jones and

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council.

516 MINUTES OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

The minutes of Finance & Performance Scrutiny on 9 September were received for information.

517 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor H Williams, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Bools, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

518 HINCKLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Members received a report about the operation of the leisure centre and the impact of covid-19. It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Gibbens and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council;
- (ii) An update be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in three months.

(The Meeting closed at 7.40 pm)

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CHAIRMAN

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## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission                      26 November 2020

Wards affected:                              All wards

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### **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMISSIONING OUTCOMES 2018/19**

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Report of Director, Community Services

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To update members on outcomes arising from the 2018/19 round of Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Commissioning
- 1.2. Please note this report relates to the outcomes of the commissioning round October 2018 to October 2019. The outcomes of the commissioning round October 2019 to October 2020 will be reported in 2021.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To note the positive impact in improving the quality of life for communities, resulting from the ongoing direct commissioning of front line services via our local VCS commissioning arrangements.

#### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partnership is a collaboration between the local authority and the VCS, and has been in place since 2013, with the overall aim of helping to sustain and grow the vital work delivered by the VCS and its many volunteers. HBBC commissions Next Generation (one of the Borough's leading VCS organisations), to oversee the development and delivery of our local VCS support arrangements, which includes:

- overseeing the VCS Development Forum, which meets regularly, enabling learning and development, networking and collaboration, and acts as a key link with the community
- supporting the VCS Commissioning Board, which provides a robust and fair mechanism through which the council and other sectors, can commission services from the VCS
- maintaining a comprehensive VCS database, through which the different community groups can share information with each other, and a key mechanism for HBBC and other key partners to communicate, engage and consult with the VCS
- overseeing the development and delivery of an online and drop in volunteering service, a central point of contact within the Borough where organisations can promote their volunteering opportunities and the community can find out about volunteering (please note from March 2020 this reverted to an online only service)

- 3.2. The Borough Council's Community Planning team works in partnership with Next Generation to deliver the overall aims of the partnership, support its ongoing development, as well as undertaking an ongoing overview and monitoring role. However, it is important to note the ongoing development of our local arrangements is enabled through the commitment of VCS representatives often in a volunteer capacity, who continue to give considerable time to help deliver this model of working.
- 3.3. In addition HBBC annually ring fences funding to directly commission services via our VCS, this funding has increased from £20,000 in 2013/14 when we were testing the model, rising to £45,000 for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and then £70,000 for 2018/19. The VCS Commissioning Board made up of 8 VCS representatives and 2 HBBC Executive Members (currently Councillor Keith Lynch and Councillor Martin Cartwright, but Members from the previous Administration during 2018/19), who assess applications and allocate funding following a robust assessment process.
- 3.4. VCS Commissioning 2018/19
- 3.5. The VCS is particularly well placed to support the Borough's health and wellbeing priorities, providing cost effective and practical frontline services, which compliments statutory provision. They are often closest to the community, and based on this insight, have the flexibility to tailor their approach to meet diverse needs in a timely way, not always afforded by the statutory sector, and specifically in relation to:
  - Reducing the impact of social isolation and loneliness, and
  - Helping maintain good mental health and wellbeing within our communities

Therefore the focus for commissioning during 2018/19 reflected these two themes.



- 3.6. Whilst we continue to encourage new, and both larger and smaller VCS organisations to benefit from commissioning funds, it is important that we continue to support our more established VCS projects, to enable them to become self sustaining longer term. Therefore the work commissioned in 2018/19 reflects a mix of both new and established projects, as well as supporting projects in both urban and rural areas across the Borough.
- 3.7. Furthermore, based on feedback from the sector, and specifically via the regular VCS Forums, during 2018/19 we moved to introducing two rounds of commissioning, rather than one, enabling VCS groups to have access to funds on a more regular basis. VCS groups were invited to submit applications for projects of either up to £1000 or £3000. In addition we also introduced a new Community Volunteer Fund, to support very small groups of volunteers, to access up to £250, which is available on an ongoing basis. This is reflected in the allocation of funding during 2018/19 as follows:
- 3.8. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the projects commissioned in 2018/19, funds allocated, key outcomes delivered, and numbers of direct (and indirect) beneficiaries. These funds were allocated during the 2 rounds of commissioning for either up to £1000 or £3000, totalling £39,312.
- 3.9. **Appendix 2** provides a summary of feedback from some of the beneficiaries and those involved in delivering the projects detailed in appendix 1
- 3.10. The new Community Volunteer Fund proved to be extremely popular, resulting in £15,000 being allocated to this fund. The types of projects supported include a comprehensive range of very grass roots community work, which again support good mental health and wellbeing and tackle loneliness, examples include: arts and craft groups, gardening and village planting projects, friendship groups – coffee mornings, luncheon groups, parents and toddlers, bereavement, and cancer support groups.

These smaller volunteer community led groups are often seeking very small amounts of money to buy materials, refreshments, pay for venue hire, etc. so having access to this fund enables them to continue their great work. The application process is very simple and straight forward, groups don't have to be constituted, and we don't require them to complete a comprehensive evaluation report in the same way we expect from groups accessing the £1000 or £3000 funding pot. Some of these very small volunteer groups go on to become constituted groups, having recognised the need/demand for their support.

- 3.11. Alongside this, the remaining funds were ring fenced to support young people's volunteering, and community sector Climate Change initiatives, which will be reported on in next years annual VCS commissioning outcomes report.
- 3.12. The VCS Commissioning Board, undertake a rigorous assessment process, only applications which fully meet the criteria are successful in receiving funds, including applications for the Community Volunteer Fund, and only with

the authorisation of the HBBC VCS Lead Members. Any remaining commissioning funds are ring fenced and carried forward for the next commissioning round, including a small contingency pot to fund any emerging developments. A full break down of the allocation of funding during 2018/19 is detailed at paragraph 6.

#### 4.0. Ongoing development of our local VCS arrangements

##### 4.1. As previously indicated the HBBC Community Planning team work in partnership with Next Generation, to continually improve our local offer to the VCS and its volunteers, which in 2018/19 included:

The ongoing development of dedicated VCS partnership website, accessible at <http://nextgenhinckley.org/> which is supported by a strong and established brand, profiling all of the work delivered by the partnership. This includes up to date case studies celebrating the great work of our many VCS organisations and their volunteers, and projects who have benefited from the commissioning funds.

The ongoing development of the Volunteering Hub, offering a central point of contact service for anyone wanting to volunteer within the Borough, and for VCS organisations wishing to recruit volunteers. This service is available on line, (as well as a face to face service during 2018/19), based at Next Generation. This is in response to feedback from our VCS, that fundamentally their sustainability is reliant on retaining a good volunteer base.

The ongoing development and delivery of the Borough Council's Annual Making a Difference Awards to recognise and celebrate our volunteers, which is now aligned with our VCS partnership work and branding, and also profiled and celebrated on the VCS website.

#### **5. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**

##### 5.1. The report is to be taken in open session.

#### **6. Financial implications (DW)**

##### 6.1 During 2018/19 the local authority allocated £130,000 to support the development and delivery of our VCS partnership arrangements, for the following activities:

£60,000 - SLA with Next Generation to oversee and deliver a broad range of responsibilities in supporting the development and sustainability of our VCS partnership, including our VCS Commissioning arrangements, and

£70,000 - for direct VCS commissioning via the VCS Commissioning Board arrangements

##### 6.2. Of the £70,000 allocated for the commissioning element: £39,312 - was committed to projects as detailed in Appendix 1.

£15,000 - was committed to the Community Volunteer Fund.  
 £7,000 - ring fenced for young people and climate change activities.  
 £2,000 allocated to the volunteering hub branding, pull up banners, posters, leaflets, new screen and projector for VCS Forum and specific volunteering events  
 £6,688 - ring fenced as a contingency for emerging needs/priorities

## **7. Legal implications (MR)**

7.1 None

## **8. Corporate Plan implications**

8.1 The contents of the report relate to and support the People, Place and Prosperity corporate priorities, and will specifically support the delivery of the following ambition: 'Support an effective and viable voluntary and community sector.'

## **9. Consultation**

9.1 This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by Next Generation through the established VCS Development Forum, Commissioning Board, and database.

## **10. Risk implications**

10.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

10.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

10.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of sustainability of key VCS organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth, resulting in no VCS infrastructure arrangements within the locality, and significant reduction in frontline delivery of essential provision	Sustainability of the H&B VCS locality arrangements	Edwina Grant

## **11. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

11.1 The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the VCS Development Forum, and VCS database, has helped to inform the ongoing development of our VCS arrangements. These mechanisms also ensure resources are aligned with Borough priorities, and gives VCS organisations from all areas of the Borough, including rural areas, access to the VCS partnership provision and commissioning funds.

11.2 No action necessary

## **12. Climate implications**

12.1 In direct response to the authority's Climate Change Strategy, during 2018/19, VCS Commissioning Funds of £7,000 have been ring fenced to support young people's volunteering/community activities, and specifically in relation to climate change initiatives.

## **13. Corporate implications**

13.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers: None

Contact officer: Edwina Grant, Ext 5950

Executive member: Cllr K Lynch



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## Evaluation Report 2018-19 Commissioned VCS Projects

Commissioned Work and Costs	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	No. of hours direct delivery	No. of beneficiaries	No. of volunteers supporting delivery	No. of paid workers
<p><b>ACCEPT- Allotment Project Barwell</b></p> <p>To promote wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem and reduce low lying mental health such as feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. To enable new friendships, social networks, connect with nature and develop skills including gardening, cooking, growing fruit and vegetables and other outdoor related activities in which individuals are interested.</p>	£1000	<p>Improved confidence in interacting socially with others, having felt that these skills had been lost due to very limited opportunities to mix with others.</p> <p>Making new friendships and meeting with other beneficiaries on a regular basis, outside of the project meeting times.</p> <p>Building confidence to respond to / make invitations to make connections with others in place of previous fears of rejection and beliefs that they did not have anything to offer.</p> <p>Growing in confidence to use public transport to get to the site and transferring this to travel to other places.</p> <p>Being supported by project staff / following opportunities to be involved in the community in a variety of ways.</p>	229	26	17	3



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		<p>An improvement in physical health through participating in regular physical activity, healthy eating and being outdoors on a regular basis.</p> <p>An improvement in mental health and self-esteem, with a reduction in anxiety and depression.</p> <p>Confidence in their own abilities through having opportunity to use / develop existing skills / pass knowledge on to others.</p> <p>Seeking to transfer skills and habits learned to a healthier active lifestyle in the community.</p>				
<p><u>Burbage Youth Project- BYP Classic Car Restoration</u></p> <p>Delivery of a range of activities around car maintenance and classic car restoration, for young people at risk of social isolation/exclusion, enabling the young person to gain skills and knowledge, raise self-awareness, self-esteem and confidence, increased opportunity with apprenticeship, training / employment and work</p>	£2640	<p>Young people have gained essential skills of vehicle maintenance and restoration</p> <p>Increased confidence, self- esteem and self-worth, improved mental and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>Reduced social isolation/exclusion – happier more fulfilled outlook on life and life's opportunities</p> <p>Developed practical and interpersonal employability skills</p> <p>Established new friendships and supported each other's progress</p> <p>Led to participants volunteering in their community, becoming mentors for other young</p>	176	22	8	1



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experience in a safe controlled workshop.		people  Funding has helped to sustain the project for future beneficiaries				
<u>Centre for Fun &amp; Families</u>  GroundedHBBC is for 12 children aged 11-16, running for 7 sessions, 2 hours per session, one per week. GroundedHBBC improves each child's life focussing on anger management, self-worth, communication, negotiation skills, self-belief, and the consequences of actions and developing positive alternatives.	£1850	Each topic is addressed through a variety of media including ice-breakers, DVDs, role play, group discussions, team work and challenges. Group work is powerful - the children often comment they did not realize they weren't the only ones feeling as they did. Baseline assessments take place at the outset when experienced practitioners visit the children and their parents / carers to prepare them for the group sessions and to deal with any questions, concerns or barriers to attendance. The assessments are used as a benchmark to monitor progress and effectiveness. Where possible, feedback is also obtained from parents / carers and referrers about the changes resulting from the children attending the group. A group evaluation is produced reporting on individual outcomes for each child.	14	9	1	1
<u>Forget Me Nots</u>  To enable the person with dementia and their carers to meet other people in a safe	£1000	Companionship and friendships made. Some have arranged to holiday together. Some people have arranged to meet and go to various outside events, garden centres etc. More interaction between , clients, carers and	162	49	17	0



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non-judgemental environment, so that they can relax, have fun and make new friends. To also facilitate a peer support, understanding and offer advice and signposting to appropriate support as required.		volunteers Happy memories during memorabilia activities. Try new experiences Shared Knowledge Provide carer support for each other.				
<u>George Ward Table Tennis Club for young people</u>  Table tennis for young people enabling training and opportunities to attend competitively.	£3000	Encouraged a number of parents to get involved both on the committee and at the club. Three young players are now ambassadors via the England Table Tennis Scheme We have achieved premier club with the Table Tennis England.  We have increased our Volunteer coaches by two.	150	69	12	2
<u>Green Towers Hinckley Club for Young People</u>  Delivery of a National Climbing Award, with recognised educational qualifications, aimed at financially disadvantaged	£2690.00	Exceeded the targeted number of Young People projected to undertake their NICAS awards within the project start and finish dates All Young People were able to participate as the funding removed ordinarily high Climbing Course Fees Huge growth in the number of Young People with in the Borough achieving Climbing qualifications Healthier, fitter Young People, and supports good mental health Supports local reduction in anti-social behaviour,	212	70	16	1





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<p>young people.</p> <p>To build confidence, self-esteem, support social cohesion and improve physical and mental health &amp; wellbeing. Provision of a recognised qualification</p>		<p>youth crime and street corner gang culture</p> <p>Currently we have a 6-month waiting list of Young People wishing to participate.</p> <p>Extra classes have been opened up to facilitate this. The popularity just continues to grow and we are now in to the 4 year of delivery</p>				
<p><u>Hinckley Museum</u></p> <p>Summer activities for young people and families along with activities.</p>	£1,200	<p>Increase of Children and families accessing the Summer project.</p> <p>The project attracted 3 new volunteers</p> <p>We had two students volunteering with the project this year.</p>	30	581	17	0
<p><u>Hinckley Town Tennis Club – Inclusive Tennis</u></p> <p>To enable the expansion of current provision offering inclusive tennis sessions to those with special needs</p>	£2754	<p>Extending delivery to a 2 hour session over a 10 week period has enabled relationships and trust to be built more quickly, (specifically with children and young people) improving the learning experience for all involved</p> <p>Improved physical fitness and wellbeing, and in</p>	138	385	8	1



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		<p>turn improved emotional health and wellbeing</p> <p>Increased confidence, self- esteem and self-worth, through the acquisition of a new skill/experience</p> <p>Owing to the success these sessions will be repeated in the Summer</p>				
<p><u>Leicestershire &amp; Rutland Youth Sailing Association – inclusive sailing</u></p> <p>To provide access to qualified LRYSA instructors and safety crew in enabling disadvantages and disabled people to enjoy the sailing experience. To support the ongoing training of volunteer instructors in ensuring sustainability of this offer</p>	£2100	<p>Qualifications achieved:</p> <p>7 students qualified to level 2 power boat/safety boat cover.</p> <p>3 students qualified as keel boat instructors – a requirement for teaching disabled</p> <p>7 students qualified in first aid advanced water safety</p> <p>4 students qualified as RYA dinghy instructors.</p> <p>Which has resulted in the LRYSA being able to respond to an ever increasing demand to train all sections of the community, including: schools, the youth racing team, junior courses, adult courses, those with learning difficulties or disabilities, through our newly qualified volunteers</p>	648	54	12	2



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<p><u>Markfield Mayflower Project</u> - (Markfield Community Association)</p> <p>To build on the success of the existing Mayflower Club - Provision of co-ordinated support for vulnerable people over the age of 50 and their carers, to enable improved health, happiness and wellbeing.</p> <p>By extending membership to people of all ages and abilities, the housebound and those experiencing loneliness and social isolation</p> <p>Continuing to provide a coordinated rural information and support service as well as social activities through the Mayflower club sessions</p> <p>Provide an additional Monday afternoon social event</p>	<p>£3,000.00</p>	<p>Both the Monday and Wednesday afternoon club sessions have continued to grow in numbers attending. The Monday club that had previously been in threat of closure is now thriving. The Wednesday afternoon club membership continues to grow to the point that, on some sessions, we have had to consider using a larger room.</p> <p>Once again we have been able to put on a full range of activities throughout the year based on social activities, items of interest and health, wellbeing and safety.</p> <p>We are now seeing more and more people who are feeling isolated and lonely joining both the Monday and Wednesday afternoon clubs. This clubs are helping them to gain confidence, meet new friends and have something to look forward to each week.</p> <p>External agencies and voluntary organisation continue to use the project as a platform to promote their services and to provide information relevant to our members. One example is that in October the Monday Afternoon Mayflower Friendship Club hosted the Older Voices Forum meeting. It was certainly well attended, "very lively", informative and appreciated by all.</p> <p>This year we have introduced a "Generational</p>	<p>Approx. 200</p>	<p>On average 56 every week</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>1</p>
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		<p>“element into the project. This includes volunteers from the Mayflower Project giving their time to help children from our Parents and Toddlers group on a “Blooms Project”. This entailed volunteers helping children to “get mucky” planting flower hanging baskets and planters. We have also worked with the Markfield Queen Bees project whereby youngsters have come along to sessions, served tea to members and in return members have taught them how to play old fashioned board games and how to make and play conkers. It was really pleasing to see how they all got on together and enjoyed themselves.</p> <p>What really pleases us is that members have been befriending others by helping them out with transport, taking them for visits and afternoon teas, joining together on their own holidays and trips or simply visiting them at home when they are poorly. This is a resource that we aim to include in the new Markfield Good Neighbour Scheme that will be launched in Markfield during 2020.</p> <p>As part of the Community Centre members have been given “taster” session on other activities available. Members now use other health and wellbeing activities and classes such as Tai Chi, Yoga, Keep Fit, Walking Football, Art Club and</p>				
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		more recently Steady Steps. The taster session of New Age Kurling at the Older Voices Forum has led to a desire to form a voluntary Mayflower New Age Kurling Club. Funding has been achieved and the club started on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 and is already very popular.				
<u>Pathways Cornerstone Lunch Club</u> To extend the lunch club /social group for people living isolation and loneliness dementia, offering stimulating activities, conversation and friendship.	£1,451	<p>Thanks to the support from the VCS Commissioning the Cornerstone Club is now very successful and self-supporting financially.</p> <p>We have been overwhelmed by the number of guests attending who all have issues around loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>The group has gone from strength to strength and many of the guests have made new friends and in turn encouraged other people in similar circumstances to come along.</p> <p>The funding has enabled a high number of local residents to access activities for their wellbeing.</p>	100	65	5	1



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<u>Proton Foundation</u> Offering sessions to equip young people to engage with their emotional wellbeing. Giving sessions in anger management and how to manage feelings.	£2610	Overall increase in self-esteem of vulnerable young people as an average result of 14% seeing mental wellbeing increase by 15% and happiness increase by 27% over 104 young people. Young people gaining coping strategies and tools to equip themselves to make good choices for their future. Volunteers gained training	240	108	4	1
<u>Ratby Band – Start up Band</u> To get young people and their families into music to enrich their lives with confidence and self-esteem and social	£2,835	Progression with young people's music exams. Gain Confidence Overcome barriers to learning Overcome barriers with self esteem Young People giving to the community through music Gain social intergenerational interaction Positive activity participation Make new friends Have fun	450	120	40	5
<u>Singing For Health (Earl Shilton)</u> To encourage and enable people in the local community	£1,710	Initially people were not confident with their ability to sing, the vocal coaching and weekly sessions have enabled most, if not all of the participants to increase their confidence. There was an	1016	49	12	1



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<p>to take part in a socially inclusive activity which can benefit of their physical and mental health, wellbeing, is enjoyable and accessible.</p>		<p>opportunity in the summer to sing at a local event, some felt comfortable with this but quite a lot didn't, and if we were to perform we wanted people to have a real choice and not feel any pressure. On this occasion we did not take part, however with time participants have grown in confidence. We were asked by Earl Shilton Town Council if we would sing Carols at the Xmas Lights Switch on event. We added carols into the songs sung each week and the group was asked if they would like to sing at this event, there was an almost unanimous yes so we took part in this community event, the few people who didn't take part were on holiday.. All enjoyed the event and which did something for the local community.</p> <p>An additional opportunity at a central venue in Earl Shilton providing an activity at a reasonable price for people to participate in locally, reducing the need for transport and enabling social interaction.</p> <p>An extra session has been needed. The uptake of participants was greater than anticipated and we had a waiting list but with very little drop-out and not much chance of getting in. We have introduced an additional session, numbers as yet are a little bit lower than needed to cover costs</p>				
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		<p>however we are promoting this further.</p> <p>Children's session - having been asked by a few people, (mainly grandparent s in the group), we hope to set up a Children's Singing for Fun session after February half term this year. We have a few interested but will need to promote this to make it sustainable.</p> <p>Amongst the aims of the project were health benefits, some of these have been attained and should increase and improve with continued involvement in the group.</p> <p>Specifically mentioned has been that breathing has improved.</p> <p>" I've struggled with my breathing for a while but now it's much better and I find myself singing in the kitchen"</p> <p>English National Opera 2019 Charity Christmas record for Shelter</p> <p>Through a class member members of the group were invited to take part in a charity recording for Shelter. Two members were able to go to the Colosseum theatre in London and participate in the recording.</p>				
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<u>St Catherine's Church – Grave Talk Café and Luncheon Club.</u>  To provide a safe space for people to discuss the delicate subject of death. Enable people to articulate feelings. For the luncheon club to have the facilities boosted, enabling a safe environment.	£2182.00	We were able to grow our luncheon club and buy new equipment/facilities enabling a safer community environment for beneficiaries.  For the Grave Talk Café pilot, the launch went well.  8 Volunteers were trained to discuss bereavement issues. Over the sessions we had a good turn out of people attending and had specialist speakers such as Prof. Christina Faull of LOROS to discuss End of Life Care. This touched and greatly helped many members attending. Other topics discussed the facilitating of funerals/music/cremation/burial/written messages.  The Grave Talk sessions was a safe space for members to tell us their stories and express emotions within a supportive environment.	130	1130	560	0
<u>St James Community Centre – Café Jacques</u>  A safe community space in a rural area enabling members to meet up, join in activities and have refreshments.	£2322.50	Run by 21 Volunteers this friendly community group offers a friendship group in our local church hall called Café Jacques. Aged between 60 and 100! 50/50 mix of male and female.  We held a WW1 Victory Meal with a singer and 112 people attending, who all said it was great to now feel part of the community.  We aim to develop the patio area outside in the	232	250	21	0



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		<p>summer and also hold a 1940's evening later in the year. We have had some local people in to talk to the group such as dementia awareness trainers, local area coordinators and a police officer. The key outcomes of this group has:</p> <p>Increased health and wellbeing</p> <p>Reduced social isolation and loneliness</p> <p>Developed sustainable activities for socially isolated older people living in our rural community.</p> <p>Improved access to activities.</p> <p>Increased skills and confidence levels for volunteers, who will have supporting the project.</p> <p>Increased use of a community building.</p>				
<p><u>Thornton Arts Exhibition</u></p> <p>An event giving a platform for local artists in the area to showcase their work. Many of whom attend the art group, bringing the community together.</p>	£2817.50	<p>We gave a platform for local artists, sculptors and photographers to display, and in some cases sell, their work. Provided a new event in the village to replace the outdated annual carnival; it turned out to be very well supported. It is to be repeated in 2020 over the first weekend of July now we have the display panels etc purchased with the grant, and if support continues at the same level it will become a regular annual event open to all, Around £500 was raised over 2 days which has gone towards the upkeep and improvements at</p>	32	300	13	0



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		the village hall to further benefit the villagers and visitors.				
<u>Time Out – Time out for Carers</u>  To enable carers access to an environment to relax together away from their caring responsibilities.  Offering a support group for carers to freely express emotions whilst supported by others that understand and have a shared experience	£1,250.00	Last year the group moved towards having a constitution and members agreed to take on roles that they had not previously felt able to do due to personal commitments alongside diminished self-esteem and confidence. These roles are prescribed roles determined by necessity. This year, personal confidence of group members through continual peer support has grown hugely. This has helped to move the group towards its original aim of supporting carers to remember who they are and the skills they have outside of their caring role. Life has thrown situations this year that have given the group a real opportunity to come together and support each other through difficult times and offer opportunities to grow in personal confidence and develop new found skills. Personal pride and realisation of self-worth is priceless and has helped in personal relationships and feelings of connection and appreciation.	102	117	38	0



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<u>Upfront Breastfeeding</u>	£900	<p>Upfront are a support group to help families establish a breastfeeding relationship and a group for mums to socialize. We run weekly groups with no fee, a dedicated phone services across Hinckley &amp; Bosworth and support via a closed Facebook group.</p> <p>We provide support to families throughout the community via groups, phone support, online support and home visits. Also provides a link to professional care through the NHS. We help raise breastfeeding rates in the local community and normalise breastfeeding for natural term feeding.</p> <p>The funding we received enabled us to buy an outdoor marquee which we were able to put up at the Hinckley Snapdragon festival to allow mums to come and sit down and feed in the shade. We also purchased new toys for the children to play with the toy kitchen is a real hit!</p>	528	505	16	1
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## ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE – 2018-19 EVALUATIONS

### ACCEPT ALLOTMENT GROUP

Enabling individuals experiencing mental health issues to overcome isolation, develop wellbeing, grow towards independence and enjoy life through opportunities to develop friendships, skills and community connections: ACCEPT Friendship Groups: meet weekly in pubs and cafes of group member's choice. ACCEPT Allotment: meet weekly on an allotment in Barwell.

**The names used in each of the below pieces of anecdotal feedback are not the real names of beneficiaries involved.**

- ✚ Tom had become very isolated, and low, due to suffering with depression and had also lost confidence in social situations. When Tom initially joined the project, he would take himself off, to carry out activities alone. We discovered that Tom had a real love and interest of birds. He was given the responsibility for developing a place to feed birds at the site. Tom carried this out with passion and over time, when as a group, we sat to eat and have coffee together, we would all enjoy watching the birds at the station he had developed. Everyone loved watching the birds so much and made many comments of appreciation to Tom. He shared with other beneficiaries his great knowledge of birds and much interest was shown. All of this had a significant impact on Tom's self-esteem. It was so encouraging to see him grow in confidence, leading to him talking much more to everyone at the project, and beginning to laugh. Tom then joined our Mindfulness for Wellbeing course, at the site, which he found extremely beneficial and shared how he was beginning to have hope for the future, for the first time in many years.
- ✚ Tina, having experienced domestic abuse, had difficulties with forming healthy relationships and had formed co-dependent relationships with other family members. When she first joined the project Tina was very isolated, feeling low, anxious and had lost her confidence. Over time, she was given responsibility for projects, at the site which she was interested in. This led to Tina regaining her confidence in her many abilities and passing her skills on to others. She began to meet up with other beneficiaries on a regular basis and form relationships which were healthier. Due to her parents health deteriorating, Tina decided to move closer to them, quite some distance away, so was unable to continue to be involved with the project. However, she has let us know that with the skills and confidence she developed at the site, Tina is now adopting a lead role in a garden project at a GP surgery, where she is passing on the skills she learned through the project.
- ✚ Jack was again very isolated, depressed and anxious when he joined the project. He struggled talking to other beneficiaries and remained very quiet, having very little confidence in social situations, both on a one to one as well as in very small groups. In the past, he had experienced bullying in the work place, the effects of which were still impacting him. Over time we witnessed him grow in confidence and self-esteem. Jack has a real interest in books and the process of sharing this with other project members was really beneficial. When we bought him a book we knew he'd love, he was deeply moved that someone should take such an interest in him and show kindness in this way. All of this seemed to enable him to come out of his shell and grow in confidence. He was getting into a routine for the first time, over a long period and doing lots of different jobs at the site developed his self-esteem. Jack was made aware of a part-time cleaning job, which although initially apprehensive about, he then began to consider, taking into account all he had been doing at the site. In the end, Jack decided to apply for the post and was successful, following which he ceased his time with us.
- ✚ Martin had been addicted to illegal drugs for many years. When he came to the project he had stopped taking these a few months before, with the help of professional support. Martin looked extremely thin and pale, having had a very poor diet over a long period. Although initially very quiet, Martin began to

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build relationships with other beneficiaries and spoke of interests in common. Witnessing the different fruit and vegetables grown at the site, he also started to become interested in how things are grown. This interest developed further as a result of him taking some of the allotment produce home. He shared how much he loved the taste of this organic food and began to take an interest in growing things himself. It is still early days, and he has had some physical health issues, which have prevented him from always joining us but we are now trying to nurture this interest. Although he still has a long way to go, Martin has made incredible progress from where he was just a few months ago and is benefitting in many ways, including having regular physical exercise, which he'd not had for many years.

## BURBAGE YOUTH PROJECT – CLASSIC CAR RESTORATION

Within this project our young members learn about all aspects of a car workshop and the use of most of the tools/equipment, how this relates to vehicle repair/ restoration. They receive theory based sessions and live demonstrations for more difficult tasks such as welding. Our classic vehicles are used for the education around car restoration and maintenance as the older design has accessible engines enabling the full practical experience. The vehicles often have to be stripped down to the chassis and rebuilt, this entails restoring the engine parts as they progress with the car. The workshops run once a week in a safe, purpose built workshop environment. The work is supported by qualified volunteers and led by a paid professional tutor who has a passion for mechanical engineering, particularly classic cars. We actively encourage the young people to become mentors and volunteers themselves as their experience and confidence grows. From this we now have two mentors. In addition, the young people volunteer at the classic car shows with our support. Anecdotal evidence as follows:

- ✚ C – “Attending the car project has helped me realise which direction I want to take when I go to college as I'd like to learn more about car mechanics”
- ✚ E - “I have been at BYP since September 2018 and have been accepted onto an apprenticeship with large car manufacturer. I've learned so much over the past year and have really enjoyed the sessions. Everyone is friendly and helpful”
- ✚ A – “I have been a volunteer at the project for the past few years and have helped with the bodywork as I used to spray cars before I retired. I enjoy the Monday nights seeing how the lads and the cars progress each week. There is a great camaraderie and we all work well together!”
- ✚ H – “My son absolutely loves going to BYP each Monday. At first he was nervous going into an established group, but the other lads made him feel very welcome. He was becoming anxious about the eventuality of taking exams and leaving school. It has really helped his self-esteem and helped him make a decision on what to do after his exams. He intends to go to uni and do a degree in Automotive Engineering, so this has given him a great focus whereas before he didn't know what to do! These sessions have made such a difference in him and I thank all involved who have given him this chance.”

## CENTRE FOR FUN AND FAMILIES

'Grounded' sessions took place at Hinckley Academy We support parents, carers and teenagers who are experiencing behaviour and communication difficulties within their families. We strengthen family relationships and improve the life skills and outcomes of children and young people through effective, award winning, group work programmes, pioneered by our staff and shaped by the people we help. 'Grounded' is for 12 children aged 11-16 and ran for 7 sessions, 2 hours per session, one per week. Within the sessions each child focussed on anger management, self-worth, communication, negotiation skills, self-belief, the consequences of actions and developing positive alternatives. Each topic was addressed through a variety of media including ice-breakers, DVDs, role play, group discussions, team work and challenges.

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Group work is powerful - the children often commented they did not realize they weren't the only ones feeling as they did. Baseline assessments took place at the outset when experienced practitioners visited the children and their parents / carers to prepare them for the group sessions and to deal with any questions, concerns or barriers to attendance. The assessments were used as a benchmark to monitor progress and effectiveness. Where possible, feedback was also obtained from parents / carers and referrers about the changes resulting from the children attending the group. A group evaluation was produced reporting on individual outcomes for each child.

The following are a few quotes from this report:

What did you enjoy about Grounded?

- ✚ "All the practical activities and learning to behave"
- ✚ "Knowing other people are like me and deal with anger"
- ✚ "It's been fun and informative, it's really good!"

How do you think Grounded helped you?

- ✚ "I can control my anger better"
- ✚ "It's helped me argue less with my family and I concentrate a bit harder in student support"
- ✚ "It's helped me focus and understand everyone else's point of view towards me"
- ✚ "It's helped understand my emotions"

## FORGET ME NOT CAFÉ

The name of the group reflects the loneliness and isolation which people with dementia and their families typically experience. It also reflects that people with dementia have a past that can often be overlooked and forgotten as attention is focussed on the here and now. The group is informal and self-supporting. Volunteers welcome people with dementia / memory loss and their carers to have a break from their routines. Meeting others socially, organised outings and activities they enjoy are arranged for them.

We recently celebrated our first anniversary which and collected responses from our members who attended on the day:

- ✚ "Happy birthday Forget Me Nots, a wonderful group which has made our lives so much better knowing we have support"
- ✚ "Well done to all the volunteers who make this group so welcoming and successful"
- ✚ "Today we had seated exercises, along with cake and tea. A wonderful group!"

## GEORGE WARD TABLE TENNIS GROUP

We are a Sports club coaching 6-21 year olds the sport of table tennis, of all ability ranges. Not only do we encourage youngsters to take up the sport but we also teach them how to volunteer within the club, helping to organise the sessions and set up and take down the equipment. Once proficient we use competition pathways to develop their skills further.

- ✚ **Player: O.W.** (aged 13) – "I have benefitted from attending the Monday Coaching Sessions and by being introduced to competitive play via the Leicester Development League and the local Hinckley and District League. As a result I have been selected to represent Leicestershire Cadets at National Level this season."
- ✚ **Existing Volunteer: Roger H.** – "It is a real privilege to attend the Monday sessions to help with the coaching of the young people. To see them blossom from novices to good young players, some

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climbing to play for the County and others just doing well in the league. I get a thrill just seeing them develop.”

- ✚ **Coach: A. Wright** – “The youngsters are always willing to listen and learn. We are able to instil discipline and get them to understand team work and collective responsibility for their team. Most of all we can help them improve their skills, keep active and to enjoy sport.”
- ✚ **Parent: L. Lee** – “ My son is not the best player in the world, he joined the scheme after his school visited the George Ward club for two sessions. He was only 9 years old and now at 11 years he looks forward to going and does not bother with his X-Box on Mondays. He really loves it which is great to see. Long may Mike and his team continue!”

## GREEN TOWERS – CLIMBING NICAS

A total of 54 Young People, aged between 7 and 19 participated and achieved their NICAS awards over the 12 months duration, with 16 Volunteers achieved their Climbing Supervision and Rope Management Qualifications. Many regularly assist the NICAS qualified instructors deliver the course. Anecdotal evidence as follows:

- ✚ **D. Ramsdale (Parent of participant A. Ramsdale)**  
“My daughter recently completed her Level 1&2 NICAS certifications at Green Towers Hinckley Club for Young People. She thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the activity and the various challenges it encouraged her to deal with. As well as the high level of instruction and encouragement provided by the Staff, she had the opportunity to meet new people, learn a valuable skill and strive to improve each week. I think the course has encouraged her to try things outside of her comfort zone and given her more confidence. I am thrilled she had the opportunity to try it, and am pleased with how well she has done.”
- ✚ **K. Murby (Parent of participant O. Murby)**  
“My daughter, has thoroughly enjoyed her NICAS climbing lessons at Green Towers with Ant and his team. As her parents, we can see her confidence has truly grown; she used to be shy socialising with people outside of her school environment. We believe this is down to the professional and friendly support she receives from Ant and Josh in particular. She often talks to us about what she has learnt each week, including how to belay with a partner and how to set up and use the equipment correctly.

My daughter often also mentions the other students and how well she gets on with them and new friendships she has made. We are proud of what she continues to achieve in her climbing and we are impressed when we have the opportunity to watch her climb.”

- ✚ **L. Buckley (Parent of participant J. Buckley)**  
“J absolutely loves his climbing on a Friday evening. It has built his confidence to talk to others and he is comfortable offering help to other climbers that he is holding the rope for. He has progressed really quickly and is close to completing his level 2 NICAS award. Thank you Ant and team for helping my son.”
- ✚ **T. Gudger (participant)**  
“My name is T. Gudger and I am 14 years old. I started doing my NICAS award after using the climbing wall while I went to the youth club at Green Towers and one of my friends told me about the certificates she had got. It has helped me so much in my confidence of heights and now I want to climb higher walls. I also get a lot of satisfaction when I help other people on the wall and see them get better, it reminds me of how I first was. Thank you Green Towers.”

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## HINCKLEY MUSEUM SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer holiday activities for the children were offered over 6 Mondays from 11am – 3pm covering the historical periods of Roman, Tudor and Victorian with 2 sessions for each time period. Activities were also offered on Bank Holiday Monday and all the periods were offered from 10am – 4pm on those days. The activities included an archaeological dig for Roman pottery, making a 'bulla' in which to keep their treasure, grinding corn to make flour using a stone quern, making bead jewellery and a laurel wreath.

On Tudor days, the activities included making lavender bags, making coats of arms, crowns, learning to use a quill and spinning. They could have fun putting their friends into the pillory and pelting them with rotten veg (knitted in our case).

On Victorian Days the wash tubs and scrubbing boards were used after pumping water from the well and then using the flat irons, have a go at knitting and making a rag rug and also a spinning wheel. Children were encouraged to dress up.

We were helped by volunteers who brought representative equipment with them (Louise and Maddie Lock – Tudor reenactors) and Julie (Ewe to You) who demonstrated different types of spinning. Funding also enabled the Museum to engage with professional performance artists who could convey more information about living in a particular period e.g: what it was like to be a Roman or Victorian soldier. Children were able to take home anything they had made, take part in quizzes and games/puzzles relevant to the period.

We identified everyone enjoying themselves and that was certainly achieved by the fact that children returned for more than one activity. Parents/carers found the activities interesting and joined in, eager to learn more about living in the earlier times. Also hearing more about local history and heritage. We increased the number of visitors attending the activities by 116 over the previous year and also attracted more volunteers including: a history teacher new to the area, a student studying A Levels and a younger student participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, using the museum as her volunteering achievement to enable her to pass. Funding also helped the museum to purchase equipment which will be useful for many years: a gazebo, pillory, new costumes, display rail and more replica pottery and artefacts.

### Comments in the Visitors Book:

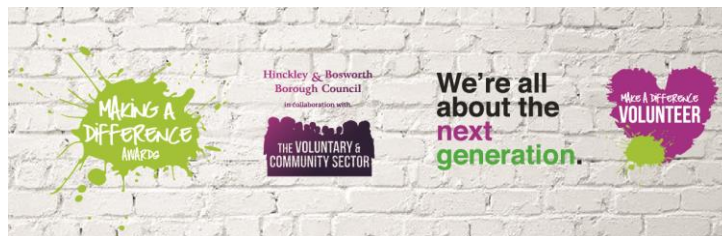
- ✚ "The children were so enthusiastic to learn, which was brilliant."
- ✚ "We loved the re-enactment"
- ✚ "Didn't want to leave"
- ✚ "Roman wash days were the best"
- ✚ "Fantastic Roman History day!"
- ✚ "Good for all ages!"

## HINCKLEY TOWN TENNIS CLUB

We provide affordable tennis for the community, irrespective of age and ability. Non-members are welcome. We run at least eight weeks of holiday camps every year and we are proud of our inclusive tennis provision, 5/6 hours every week. We offer health and wellbeing benefits in a friendly family atmosphere.

- ✚ "Year 3 are loving their tennis taster with Hinckley Town Tennis Club" – St Margaret's Stoke Golding
- ✚ "The tennis lessons have been such a positive experience for all of the children involved. They have made huge amounts of progress and most importantly have had great fun!"
- ✚ "One client has severe autism, John and Carl have helped him to practise for short periods of time. Without the support of the coaches he would not usually attend a two hour session of any kind" – Louise Bayliss, Achieve With Us.
- ✚ "Our pupils absolutely loved the eight hours of taster sessions run by Hinckley Town Tennis Club!" Westfield Primary School

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## MARKFIELD MAYFLOWER CLUB

In January 2020 we conducted our annual member's evaluation survey in order to assess their feelings about the project, what they enjoyed, how they benefited and how we could improve the project. There was a 100% satisfaction level with the project and the survey clearly showed the benefits of the project. From the survey we were able to produce a "wish list" of what members would like to take place at the club during the following year (copy also attached).

### Anecdotal Feedback

- + Bill (82) "I lost my wife last year and I also care for my son who has learning difficulties. I also depend on a disability scooter to get out and about. This and left me feeling very isolated and often lonely. Ron and Carol "nagged" me into coming along to the Mayflower Clubs and I am so glad I made the effort. Now I look forward to coming along twice a week meeting my friends and playing dominoes. The Wednesday sessions are very interesting and useful and I have even been put in touch with the Steady Steps programme to help me with my mobility and help prevent me from falling".
- + Sheena (68) "I am carer and have a people carrier to help me with my voluntary work. Unfortunately my vehicle was involved in an accident whilst out at a social event. Fortunately no one was hurt but I was horrified and so shocked at the time and couldn't even face driving my vehicle. However, Ron and the other members of the Mayflower Club rallied round giving me support and comfort. I would not have known what to do but Ron sorted it all out for me and my Mayflower friends were so wonderful and comforting".
- + Rob (67) "I have had a really difficult time over the past couple of years. I had a messy divorce followed by a stroke and even lost my driving licence. I really needed to get my life together and get over my depression. Having called into the Community Centre to see what was going on I was told about the Mayflower Clubs. I decided to give them a go and it was just what I needed. I really appreciate the new friendships I have made as well as enjoying all the activities and sessions Ron and Carol put on for us. I am also really looking forward to joining the new indoor Mayflower Kurling Club it should be good fun"
- + Dinah (76) "Last winter I suffered a virus that really knocked me for six. It took me ages to recover and it I totally lost my confidence in going out in case I collapsed. But I was persuaded to come back to the Mayflower Club and I am so glad I did. Meeting my old friends and joining with the activities has boosted my confidence and I am nearly back to my old self again. Even my husband has started coming along to the Monday afternoon sessions so he can have a game of dommies with the lads – he really enjoys it".

## PATHWAYS - CORNERSTONE LUNCH CLUB

Cornerstone Lunch Club is a social lunch club which meets each Tuesday, providing a friendly and comfortable environment. It enables guests to meet up with new people and to also meet existing friends. This provides support and company, especially for those who do not manage to get out very often.

We collated feedback forms from members attending the group, please see below for the comments collected:

- + Member G.E: A great social gathering, good to make friends at these events.
- + Members B & H A: It was great to attend and take part in different activities also to eat together and enjoy.
- + Member (Anon): This was a lovely group that always made you feel welcome. Lots of fun and games, plenty of refreshments, cakes were lovely. Helped my confidence and self-esteem.
- + Member E J-W: I found it really helpful. I made a gift card, tried a hand massage which I found relaxing. I made a posy quite well and felt I would love to have another go at making one!"

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## PROTON FOUNDATION - FLOURISH PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to equip young people to develop a healthy self-esteem, mental/emotional wellbeing. We do this by helping young people to develop a growth mind-set, creating helpful thinking patterns, enabling the young person to start to understand their potential, realising future aspirations and goal setting. We took feedback from our sessions:

- ✚ 'It's made a very big difference and it's really helped me become more confident, because I used to doubt myself a lot and now I don't'.
- ✚ I feel like I've got no limits anymore and that I can do what I want to do. I used to think 'I can't do this because I'm no good at that', but now I can do it because I can believe that I can. I think it should be something everyone does - there are so many girls out there that feel insecure, we're not the only ones'.
- ✚ It's a really good opportunity for people to have something they can grow in their self-confidence to prevent teenagers from things like suicide, the Flourish project brings back their confidence and lets them have a life.
- ✚ I recommend it because most of the people in this room feel much better about themselves. I'd definitely recommend it because it's just, first of all it's fun, but you're learning about something encouraging at the same time but they make it fun as well.

## RATBY BAND

Ratby Co-operative Band has been playing Brass Music now for over 100 years. We have 5 different playing bands with over 140 musicians of all ages and abilities through our doors each week using music to enrich people's lives of both players and audiences. The funding was be used to replace existing equipment that became old and expensive to repair, more specifically the percussion equipment that ALL the bands use within the band room for practice, and then at our live performances. Purchasing the items has made a big impact on the quality of the band.

- ✚ "It's so nice to have equipment that is in tune!"
- ✚ "My mum thinks I should have a go at percussion now there are new instruments"
- ✚ The band sounds so much better now"
- ✚ "The new equipment really does offer encouragement to all involved"

## SINGING FOR HEALTH

Weekly sessions, for non-confident singers, those that can't read music and may have thought they can't sing. Kathryn, the group leader encourages, supports and teach participants, she says *"everyone can sing, they just don't know it yet"*

Members have learned about the benefits of a warm-up, given in as easily accessible format so all can take part with no auditions, solos or spotlights! People work together and are encouraged to choose what they want to sing with no limit on the variety of songs. At least two members have ME and believe this has been an activity they can do without the exhaustion of many other activities. We started with one hour sessions and aim to be increasing the time as people grow in confidence.

In addition to the unsolicited comments, group members were asked for feedback for this report. This was done by offering Post-it notes to write their comments on. We had 21 comments and the following are a selection:

- ✚ Great fun and uplifting. I've really enjoyed every session. Absolutely amazing.
- ✚ Just lost my husband, made me feel so happy and extremely friendly group.
- ✚ Great to get to know other people who live in the town. Love to sing. .
- ✚ Wonderful, so happy & lively, just brilliant. I go home feeling on top of the world.



- ✚ The most enjoyable and relaxing hour in the week.
- ✚ Nice to have a sing-song with others – if nothing else it's a good way to blend in even when it goes wrong.
- ✚ A friendly group, great fun and a chance to sing with other people with no pressure.
- ✚ Amazing friendly group, so good for everyone.
- ✚ A very worthwhile group to belong to, very beneficial.
- ✚ I can now get out on a Thursday and socialise, I enjoy it.
- ✚ Come in feeling one way and go out feeling completely different.

## ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH – GRAVE TALK

St Catherine's luncheon club met fortnightly over 26 weeks and the Grave Talk Café met 5 times during 2019 with one volunteer training session. Several key partners helped with the Grave Talk Café such as Professor Christina Faull from Loros Hospice who helped the group to begin the talk about the death of a loved one. Our anecdotal evidence is as follows:

- ✚ "It has been useful to talk about death, funerals and grief with strangers and friends as opposed to family"
- ✚ "Good to share in other people's experiences of death, hoping to be of help to them whilst getting something from it personally"
- ✚ "The Grave Talks gave us an opportunity to talk about all aspects of death in caring supportive group of people, I found it immensely helpful"
- ✚ "Very useful course which allows people to focus their thoughts and experience of the subject in a safe supportive environment"
- ✚ "Forward planning is important. If relatives know exactly what you want it helps them with the grieving process"

## ST JAMES COMMUNITY CENTRE – CAFÉ JACQUES

Run by 21 Volunteers this friendly community group offers a friendship group in our local church hall called Café Jacques. Some make cakes, some arrange the tables and the tea and coffee, some clean and some offer a warm welcome, meeting and greeting. The people attending are between 60 and 100 years old with a 50/50 mix of male and female. The activity is mainly refreshments whilst you have a good natter and a laugh, getting to hear some great stories whilst making friends. Some like to sit and play games like dominos etc. It has been so successful we now offer a lunch club offering soup and a roll. We have also held a social events for all of our attendees. We held a WW1 Victory Meal with a singer and 112 people attending, who all said it was a great event.

We asked some of our members about how they felt attending the group and they replied as follows:

- ✚ Margaret was suffering bowel cancer and her husband had severe dementia. She rarely left her house but because she lived opposite the café, she was invited to come along. The group has transformed Margaret's life as she could escape her problems for a couple of hours a week. She regularly attended for 2 years and made many new friends who visited her when she was too ill to attend. Sadly she died last year and we miss her very much.
- ✚ June is a widow who moved to village from Stockport to be nearer her daughter. She knew no one and felt very lonely. Her neighbour encouraged June to attend the group. From this June has made many friends, attends an art class with another member and holidays with another friend made. Her social life has improved and she feels less depressed and isolated.

Cont.





- ✚ Ian is 60 years old and sadly had a stroke a few years ago which left him with a severe speech problem. Prior to the stroke he had already been left disabled due to an accident in his 40s. As a member of the café he has gained friends and his speech has improved. He never misses a week and it is a joy to know that we have helped in his recovery.
- ✚ Caryl (Volunteer): “Being a volunteer with my husband, Brian, we were so happy to see the joy our café has brought to others. However last July, Brian unexpectedly died from a heart condition, unfortunately I had also lost my daughter three years prior, also to a heart condition. I can’t express enough how wonderful my friends at the café have been, they rallied around with so much love, support and acts of kindness. I count myself lucky to be part of the wonderful rural community of Newbold Verdon.

## THORNTON ARTS EXHIBITION

We hosted a two-day exhibition with workshops envisioning to hold regular events throughout the year, benefitting the wider community giving a platform for local artists to display their work. This event replaced the outdated carnival and turned out to be very well supported.

Sheila Burnage West End Art group reported:

- ✚ “Who makes art in your community? Well actually a lot of people do. We just often don’t get an opportunity to see it, to get involved in the making of it, to become part of a discussion about it or even buy it. But this is what happened in Thornton when Jill Tapping a member of the Thornton Community centre committee discussed the possibility of an innovative community art show with artist friends from the West End Art group. We thought that Thornton Community Centre was an ideal venue for such an event, having two large halls, a separate café, and access to an outside space looking over Thornton reservoir. The initiative grew with painters, sculptors, embroiderers, photographers and printers from the area coming together to provide not only eclectic, interesting and stimulating art works but also a friendly, informal environment in which visitors were encouraged to discuss, question and engage with the artists themselves. The Thornton Community Centre is going to host a similar event in July 2020 and hopefully this will become a regular feature of their calendar. This endeavour was a fine example of what a local community can do and should be doing”

## TIME OUT FOR CARERS

As a new resident and carer with disabled husband, I was introduced through Social Prescribers to Local Area Coordination who introduced me to group. I joined the group in May, not knowing anyone locally. I had no previous knowledge of carers groups and there wasn’t anything like it in my area before. I have been really glad of the introduction, and I am pleased that I am part of a positive, dynamic group that is developing and growing and meets my needs. The group is open to my ideas and I feel able to contribute my skills and feel valued.

For me, joining the group has given me the benefits that have been previously mentioned, however, the biggest impact for me is the effect it has had on the family dynamics. My wellbeing is better and my stress level has gone down. This has improved my family relationships and home feels more harmonious with less conflict. My daughter has noticed this changes in me and how the family feels.

As we are a group of people with varying caring roles and expertise through experience of life, information sharing is invaluable. As a carer making an additional call or filling in another form adds significant stress and can be the final straw in some circumstances, especially when you don’t know what you are doing or what the result will be. Through the group, relevant and up to date information from people that know how it feels makes a real difference. This can be shared in relaxed environments which makes tackling situations feel very much more manageable.

Cont.



## UPFRONT BREAST FEEDING

Upfront are a support group to help families establish a breastfeeding relationship and a group for mums to socialize. We run weekly groups with no fee, a dedicated phone services across Hinckley & Bosworth and support via a closed Facebook group. We aim to run free antenatal workshops if we are able to raise the money to do so.

- ✚ Hannah “ Without this group, my breast feeding journey would have ended at 3 weeks in because I didn’t realise my baby had a tongue tie, I was over producing milk and I needed support finding comfortable feeding positions. Our journey has now lasted 11 months and I plan to carry on until my daughter’s 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Thank you so much for the group, it really is valuable to those who need support with breast feeding, a chat with like- minded people and a reason to get out of the house for a few hours. Keep up the hard work!”
  - ✚ Corinne: My husband I went to the breastfeeding group last night and found it a really relaxed and informative evening. It was great to hear from mums who have been through the journey and hear advice and information we didn’t know. My husband was surprised and happy at how much he will be able to support me as well as ways in which he can also bond with the baby. The group certainly helped us feel more prepared”
  - ✚ Eve “Without the breastfeeding group I would definitely have given up. Meeting like-minded people and making friends has been a lifeline. Still breastfeeding here at almost 10 months old.”
  - ✚ Michelle “Such a wonderful group to attend, highly recommended. So much help and support on offer and a great way to make new friends too.”
-



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Scrutiny Commission  
Council

26 November 2020  
15 December 2020

Wards affected:

All Wards

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### Refresh of the Rural Strategy for the Borough

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Report of Director Community Services

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the refreshed Rural Strategy for the Borough

#### **2. Recommendation**

Members:

- 2.1 Note and approve the proposed refreshed Rural Strategy and supporting appendices document

#### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 The attached Rural Strategy has been refreshed following extensive consultation with Parish Councils via a series of visits to each one by the Executive Member lead and officers
- 3.2. As well as seeking feedback on the high level Rural Strategy, it was also agreed that each Parish Council would be asked to detail their community's top ten issues, to be captured in a supporting appendices document. This supporting evidence will provide a comprehensive record of the issues of most importance to our Parishes, as well as highlight areas of commonality across the Borough.
- 3.3. The review was undertaken between June 2019 and January 2020, with a draft version of the refreshed strategy and supporting appendices presented at the annual rural conference on 5 March 2020.

- 3.4. Parishes were invited to feedback any final comments or amendments by 8<sup>th</sup> April, this was subsequently extended to 26 June, given Parishes were responding to other priorities arising from the pandemic outbreak and lock down arrangements at this time.
- 3.5. The refreshed Strategy and supporting appendices document, will help to inform the rural work programme in supporting Parishes, in the immediate and longer term, as well as provide an evidence base to help inform any key funding or resourcing decisions for the Borough Council.
- 3.6. It should be noted that it was made clear at the outset of the review, that priority issues identified by Parishes, would not necessarily be the direct responsibility/under the jurisdiction of the Borough Council, but gave our commitment to work with our key partners to explore options and opportunities, as well as supporting and enabling Parishes to resolve issues themselves where ever possible.
- 3.7. The review outcomes will be considered by officers with a view to identifying any immediate areas that could be addressed, within existing resources.
- 3.8. As in previous years key outcomes arising from the work programme, will be presented at the annual Rural Conference.
- 3.9. The refreshed Rural Strategy and supporting appendices are attached at Appendix 1
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**
  - 4.1 To be taken in open session.
- 5. Financial implications (IB)**
  - 5.1 Although there are no implications arising directly from the report, future implications arising from working with parishes will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.
- 6. Legal implications (MR)**
  - 6.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do including the power to do it for, or otherwise than for, the benefit of the Council, its area or persons resident or present in its area
- 7. Corporate Plan implications**
  - 7.1 Contributes to the Corporate Plan Place priority.



## **8. Consultation**

8.1 Consultation has taken place with all 24 Parish Councils.

## **9. Risk implications**

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Due to Covid 19 the work programme and approach to delivery during Spring/Summer has not taken place	Look at alternative ways of engagement using virtual forums for Autumn/Winter	Edwina Grant

## **10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

10.1 The rural strategy refresh and supporting appendices affects all communities and areas of the Borough, and has been informed by all 24 Parishes

## **11. Climate implications**

11.1 The Rural Strategy and subsequent rural work programme and delivery, will take full account of the priorities and commitment of the Borough, as set out in the Climate Change Strategy.

## **12. Corporate implications**

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers: None

Contact officer: Edwina Grant, 01455 255950

Executive member: Cllr M Cartwright

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# A **Rural Strategy** for the Borough of **Hinckley and Bosworth**

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

**Introduction** - This strategy sets out the key high level priorities for rural areas of the borough, underpinned by key actions, with the impact and outcomes presented at the annual Rural Conference.

## Purpose of our Rural Strategy

- To enable Parish Councils to have a voice in informing rural priorities for the borough
- To ensure issues of importance for rural communities are given equal opportunity for promotion, support and action
- To ensure further growth and development strengthens the wellbeing and prosperity of the borough's rural communities
- To maximise opportunities to enable access to services and facilities



## The Vision for our Rural Borough

**To secure distinct, diverse and prosperous rural communities in Hinckley & Bosworth**

## our Strategic Aims

- Inclusive, sustainable rural communities, where everyone has the opportunity to participate, and can access the services and facilities they need
- An environmentally and economically sound rural borough where the needs of farming, conservation and development are appropriately balanced
- Residents feel supported to take ownership and drive improvements in their own communities
- Ensure our rural communities can be safe and welcoming for residents, visitors and businesses



# Our Priority Themes and Focus:

## 1 Access to services and facilities

- To ensure the ongoing development, delivery and access to services and facilities at a local level
- Focus HBBC grant funding to support priority parish and community initiatives, based on evidence of need
- Enable parishes to support/promote and deliver activities for children and young people, including the rural Snap Dragon festival and rural play sessions
- Work with rural schools in relation to democracy related activities
- Provision of help and advice on usage of green space provision and healthy activities for adults
- Continue to ensure new development makes provision for local facilities and infrastructure to enable communities to continue to be sustainable through the planning process
- Manage development in rural communities through the Local Plan process



## 2 Facilitation of transport solutions

- To enable parishes to have a voice in relation to any transport reviews undertaken
- To enable parishes to work with Leicestershire County Council in the identification and implementation of local community transport solutions
- To work with the voluntary and community sector to map and promote community transport opportunities

## 3 Promoting Neighbourhood Planning

- In partnership with the Rural Communities Council support parishes with the Neighbourhood Development Planning process, or the development of a Community led Parish Plan
- Engaging parishes in the development of the local plan



## 4 Rural housing delivery

- Housing development that encourages community engagement/community led housing schemes
- Housing development that is supported by appropriate infrastructure improvements
- Continue to deliver a rural housing enabler service, to include an evidence based approach to inform housing needs, site identification and engagement with parishes and communities.
- Affordable housing need to be informed by local Housing Needs Surveys, and to include: open market starter homes and retirement bungalows in rural hamlets where there is evidence of need



# Our Priority Themes and Focus:

## 5 Protection and enhancement of the rural environment



- Continue to work with parishes in identifying and adopting Public Space Protection Order sites
- To support parishes and their communities to deliver on climate change initiatives and improvements, including enabling access to appropriate grant funding
- Continue to manage and deliver a comprehensive environmental health, protection and inspections programme including: premises food hygiene rating, food hygiene inspections, infectious disease investigation, pest control and licensing



## 6 Economy, Farming, Enterprise and Tourism



- Explore and promote opportunities arising from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support rural enterprise
- To direct rural businesses to appropriate business advice and services
- Support the delivery of the Tourism Growth Plan 2020–2025, to enable tourism growth across all parishes in the borough, and continue to support the Hinckley & Bosworth Tourism Partnership
- To ensure the effective engagement of the farming community in the development of planning and development policies in respect of, countryside development, including green energy production, diversification and food production



## 7 Community Safety and Rural Crime



- To continue to support and enable parishes to take enforcement actions in relation to environmental nuisance issues e.g. planning breaches, noise nuisance and dog fouling
- Work with volunteers and parishes to help tackle and reduce speeding and parking related issues
- Continue to promote 'neighbourhood' link in rural communities and other timely reporting mechanisms for crime and disorder
- Raise awareness through parishes of the funding opportunities available to volunteers to support community activities

## 8 Community empowerment and action through partnership working

- The overall aims and outcomes of this Strategy will be achieved through joint working with all our key partners – statutory, business, and voluntary & community sector, with delivery plans aligning to relevant national, countywide and local plans

# A Rural Strategy for the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Rural Strategy encompasses 51 settlements divided into 24 parished areas

- |                       |                      |                         |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Atterton            | ● Desford            | ● Newbold Heath         | ● Sheepy Magna         |
| ● Bagworth            | ● Earl Shilton       | ● Newbold Verdon        | ● Sheepy Parva         |
| ● Barlestone          | ● Far Coton          | ● Newtown Unthank       | ● Shenton              |
| ● Barton in the Beans | ● Fenny Drayton      | ● Norton Juxta Twycross | ● Stanton-under-Bardon |
| ● Barwell             | ● Field Head         | ● Odstone               | ● Stapleton            |
| ● Bilstone            | ● Groby              | ● Orton on the Hill     | ● Stoke Golding        |
| ● Botcheston          | ● Higham on the Hill | ● Osbaston              | ● Sutton Cheney        |
| ● Burbage             | ● Kirkby Mallory     | ● Peckleton             | ● Thornton             |
| ● Cadeby              | ● Merry Lees         | ● Pinwall               | ● Twycross             |
| ● Carlton             | ● Lindley            | ● Ratby                 | ● Wellsborough         |
| ● Congerstone         | ● Market Bosworth    | ● Ratcliffe Culey       | ● Witherley            |
| ● Cross Hands         | ● Markfield          | ● Sibson                | ● Upton                |
| ● Dadlington          | ● Nailstone          | ● Shackerstone          |                        |

### Further information

For more information please contact:

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Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

# A Rural Strategy for the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth - **Appendices**

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Bagworth and Thornton Parish

villages of:

Bagworth, Merry Lees  
and Thornton



1. Education: Bagworth does not have a school and all pupils are forced to travel to neighbouring villages
2. Traffic: All of our area suffer from LGV's breaking the 7.5t limit to get to neighbouring industrial estates, and speeding traffic. Parking problems occur because of visitor numbers wanting to access the countryside footpaths. Failure of planners to future proof current developments there is a knock-on effect resulting in parking on pavements, junctions and on occasions blocked by refuse bins
3. Health Services: None of our villages have doctor or dentist surgeries and the surgeries that are available in neighbouring villages have waiting lists
4. Neighbourhood Plan: A plan is currently being drawn up
5. Community Centres: Sure Start Services are under threat through lack of investment. Pre-school short fall in central government funding
6. Planning: The area surrounding our Parish is being swallowed up by huge industrial estates which rely on B-class country roads for access from the motorway system for HGV's. Needs to be some collective thinking by all relevant departments before any more development takes place
7. Open Spaces: Continually under threat from development
8. Policing: So few police to patrol a huge area results in very little policing in our villages. Ongoing consistent problems are not sufficiently dealt with at the time so continues to escalate
9. Communication provisions: Mobile and broadband reception extremely poor infrastructure
10. Public Transport: There are no passenger services on the railway line at present. It's impossible to reach essential health services by public transport from our villages

#### Barlestone



1. Road Safety – poor parking around school, side roads, corners of roads, junctions and pavements, all in direct violation of regulations but no enforcement from local policing, no strategy to encourage those with driveways to use them. Install car parking verges on Bosworth Road next to The Roundhouse Spinney
2. Traffic Management/Speeding – Barton Road and Newbold Road need urgent traffic calming, especially around the school. CCTV on school crossing would help enforcement/act as a deterrent re speeding and parking near school. Introduce powers to enable village warden to issue traffic management fines. Introduction of a one way system towards Newbold Verdon from The Roundhouse and continuation of 40 mph limit
3. Public transport – ongoing reduction in services impacts on accessing services and particularly on young people accessing colleges around the County, as well as isolating some members of the community
4. Crime – an increase in police visibility would help to address main problem of anti social behaviour, regular visits to Parish meetings would help the community feel safer
5. Street Lighting – since changes to having zones in darkness at certain times and LED lights there has been an increase in thefts in targeted areas that are unlit
6. Off Road Parking/Safe zone – village centre, coop and pub most frequently used place so appropriate parking needed, small island could help access around coop, alongside better restrictions/enforcement
7. Accessibility – need help with providing accessible routes to public areas such as May Meadow and footpath between Smith Close and Newbold Road. No safe route for children from Little Mill Close to Gregory Road to access park, permanent reinstatement of access from the school to the Glebe, with simple secure fence and lit access would resolve this problem
8. Renew the CCTV system in Bosworth Road and install new system in the Community Centre
9. Refurbish the Roundhouse area into a village community area
10. Support the introduction of a Community Garden allotment



### Parish and settlements

#### Barwell Parish



1. Lack of Police Presence
2. Parking
3. Littering /Dog fouling, and overgrown verges
4. Undeveloped Sites i.e.Top Range and Island House
5. Need More Litter bins
6. More activities for Youths / Tackle Drugs and Anti-social behaviour
7. Speeding
8. Lack of affordable housing
9. Lack of Library
10. Electric Car Points

#### Burbage



1. Broadband should be considered one of the normal services which are delivered with all new housing schemes. As more people are working from home, streaming and downloading is now an expectation of residents
2. Crime – has received an increased profile over the last couple of years, in part due to village proximity to the M69 and A5 allowing rapid exit for opportunist offenders. Loss of all night street lighting has increased the unease of many residents
3. Education – Burbage children should have access, where desired, to good schools, located within Burbage for both primary and secondary education to age 16 years
4. Encouraging local shopping – local shops are an important element of village life, together with access to a vibrant Hinckley town centre with a full range of shops, dining and entertainment provision
5. National rail freight interchange – this proposed interchange on the edge of Burbage Common would have a major detrimental impact on the environment of Burbage residents. In a recent survey of Burbage residents 95% supported the Parish raising concerns about this development
6. Over development/insufficient infrastructure – all development plans for Burbage and surrounding areas should recognise the need to maintain and improve where possible, residents access to basic infrastructure, including: adequate access to primary health services and education, ensuring open spaces and sport facilities are well maintained and meet the needs of residents, and where appropriate brought under the care of the Parish Council
7. Primary healthcare – residents extremely concerned that the provision of primary healthcare facilities should keep pace with increasing numbers of residents. The current expansion of Burbage surgery is welcomed, however, the location of the health centre is reaching capacity re volume of vehicles and parking provision
8. Public transport – comprehensive, economic and sustainable services are required not only for an ageing population and those with mobility limitations to maintain independence and community involvement, but also to offer a more environment friendly transport alternative to all residents
9. Rural atmosphere and access to countryside – retaining a strong rural atmosphere and a village identity remains a priority to residents. The Parish Council aims to protect, create and enhance our open spaces and historical elements of the village by encouraging sympathetic and sustainable designs in any future housing developments; as well as aiming to improve and develop the physical environment and creating an inclusive community work and leisure opportunities
10. Traffic – car parking should be considered and sufficient to meet the needs of residents and visitors, and should not inhibit traffic flow or cause safety issues for pedestrians, with maintained pavement routes for pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters. The village street infrastructure already suffers with congestion, pollution and speeding and should be at the forefront of any future planned and proposed residential, commercial and industrial development in and adjoining the parish



## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Cadeby Parish



1. Traffic – high speed limits on approach and through the village, shortcut for traffic including heavy vehicles and 159 bus
2. Planning
3. Highway concerns – verge potholes, verge debris, road markings, flooding
4. Quarry – noise and litter
5. Litter

#### Carlton Parish



1. The provision of a public meeting space with toilet and kitchen
2. The acquisition of land for a playing field
3. The provision of open market starter and retirement homes
4. The provision of a safe off-road route between Carlton and Market Bosworth
5. Intensification of development and loss of garden land
6. Speeding traffic
7. Dog fouling
8. Provision of infrastructure to accommodate visitors to local attractions
9. Effects of reduction in funding for local policing
10. Access to GPs and health care

### Parish and settlements

#### Desford Parish

villages of:  
Desford, Botcheston  
and Newtown Unthank



1. Rural crime – burglary etc, anti-social behaviour (vandalism of street furniture and play equipment on recreation grounds) – police visibility
2. Drugs/county lines/cuckooing
3. HGV's breaching 7.5t limits, speeding traffic – lack of enforcement
4. Parking enforcement, indiscriminate parking, road obstructions, shop delivery vehicles obstructing traffic flow, lack of parking in village centre
5. Maintenance of pavements, jitties and dropped kerbs
6. Bus service – no Sunday service and no late buses
7. Lack of sufficient open spaces and maintenance of existing open spaces
8. Lack of youth provision facilities
9. Lack of opportunity to enrol at local medical, dental practices and local schools
10. Adoption of new estates by HBBC and LCC

#### Earl Shilton Town Council



1. Investment in the Town Centre Public Realm adjacent to Wood St car park and ensure S106 contributions are targeted towards the public realm and not just parks play equipment
2. Find satisfactory short, medium and long short term satisfactory solutions for all stakeholders including the GRT community in relation to the Dalebrook Farm Gypsy, Romany and Traveller site planning application
3. Deliver on the Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension to enable the Town and the Borough to benefit from a well thought out, planned, sensitive and sustainable estate which is truly part of the town.
4. Bring about a worthwhile and community supported use of the redundant Barrow Hill Quarry, and gain maximum support for the opposition of its use as a landfill and reclamation site
5. Deliver on the ESTC office re-location which will be embedded in the Town's Public Library in the heart of Earl Shilton, alongside the welcome re-instatement of public toilets in the Town
6. To seek support via the Town Team Working Group in securing an appropriate premises to act as a hub for the ESTC Groundcare Team, and possibly a conjoint community facility which could for example offer a long term and affordable home for the award winning ES Amateur Boxing Club

## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Grobby Parish

villages of:  
Grobby and Field Head



Please note the issues identified below were submitted in no particular order of preference:

1. Provision of primary education
2. Transport
3. Retail regeneration
4. Parking
5. Health & Social Care provision
6. Sports and Green spaces
7. Street lighting
8. Anti social behaviour
9. Environmental issues
10. Provision of homes

#### Higham on the Hill Parish

villages of:  
Higham on the Hill  
and Lindley



1. Speed of traffic – Despite previous introductions of traffic calming measures which include the installation of two chicanes, a 20mph speed zone and illuminated 30mph speed signs on entering the village, we are subjected daily to traffic travelling at excessive speeds
2. Volume of traffic – With the new building that has taken place in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire, and the continued and worsening congestion on the Dodwells Bridge island, traffic has increased greatly in the last 12 months alone
3. Footpaths – Need to ensure they are fit for purpose and accessible to all residents. Some of our paths are narrow too which links in to 1 and 2 above from a safety aspect
4. Community Space – we have no village hall and our community centre was given to the primary school by LCC. We would very much like help in retaining or being able to build/purchase a space for the community
5. Community Activities – We would like to be able to encourage activities for both young and old
6. Village Shop – we would like to ensure that our village shop is retained as we are approximately 2 miles from the nearest supermarket
7. Allotment Holding – Currently there are allotments on Nuneaton Lane on land owned by the Church however we would like to help encourage the community to get involved more
8. Bus Service – We do have a service which we are grateful for and wish for this to continue as many of our residents would be unable to leave the village if it were to stop
9. Road surfaces – again linked to 1 and 2 above, the condition of our roads, especially Main Street, is deteriorating quite badly and also sinking giving rise to regular areas of flooding
10. Weight restriction monitoring – linked to 9 and 2 above. We are experiencing greater volumes of HGV's that are trying to avoid the continuous queuing traffic on the A5 from the Higham Lane roundabout to Dodwells Bridge roundabout



## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Markfield Parish



1. Increasing volume of HGV traffic on our rural roads - increasing air pollution and environmental harm serving inappropriate warehousing developments
2. The lack of clear and effective planning enforcement
3. Inconsiderate parking and lack of parking enforcement and provision of effective restrictions on highway verges
4. Lack of a safe walking and cycling route to South Charnwood High School
5. Continuing pressure for inappropriate Industrial development in open countryside which should be resisted
6. A lack of investment in the core village centre
7. A need to promote the open countryside around the village and being more creative in our relationship to the Charnwood and National Forest
8. A need to continue to invest and improve the provision of leisure and recreational facilities
9. Address the lack of forward planning and joined up planning between LCC and HBBC regarding maximising any infrastructure gains
10. Improve the level of community policing and restore the local policing unit with a physical base in the community

#### Market Bosworth Parish

villages of:  
Market Bosworth and  
Far Coton



1. Traffic control – parking infringements and lack of enforcement, congestion around schools, speeding, 1 way system contravention, poor driver behaviour, pedestrian safety
2. Local facilities and employment – lack of full time post office facility, threats to other amenities such as library, bank, bus services, cash machines poor broadband speed and reliability
3. Planning matters – slow delivery of Neighbourhood Plan, building development control, protection of rural nature of Market Bosworth, lack of/threats to infrastructure – roads, pavements, green space, etc
4. Dog fouling
5. Long waiting time for GP appointments and access to medical facilities
6. Loneliness and isolation and particularly for the elderly
7. Crime and policing – need for CCTV in the town centre
8. Tourism – lack of tourism information, but also need recognition promotion of tourism as a key economic growth area requires consideration of impact on infrastructure, transport and unexpected consequences for communities
9. Lack of suitable housing
10. Availability of schools places in Market Bosworth, schools for Market Bosworth residents

### Parish and settlements

#### Nailstone Parish



1. The development of a neighbourhood plan for 5 year land supply, needs assessment and alignment with the conservation area status. Undertake historical impact assessment and desk top archaeological reports to align with 5 year land supply. Protect village settlement boundaries and green wedge
2. A designation of green open space within the village boundary and to land immediately adjoining. Assistance with funding and land allocation for community allotments
3. No consistency with planning applications despite being in a conservation area. Have greater consideration for application of 106 contributions
4. Listed protection of important agricultural buildings being utilised or dormant for these are historical interests and align with the culture of the Parish. Complete visual landscape assessment to identify and protect important views and aspects for important listed buildings
5. Access to regeneration grants to maintain important historic public buildings such as All Saints church and The Bull public house
6. Undertake traffic monitoring surveys to assess impact of new industrial developments on infrastructure. Introduction of traffic calming measures through the village and support with enforcement of speeding, HGVs, inconsiderate parking, etc
7. Ecological surveys to understand important natural habitats, wildlife assessments and look for improvement of biodiversity
8. Poor bus service
9. Road sweeping / litterpicking - no consistency, if we were given a schedule for these operations then we could work with HBBC to make them more effective
10. An increase in police visibility and improved relationships would help deter crime and presence at council meetings would allow the public to feel safer and recognised

#### Newbold Verdon Parish

villages of:  
Newbold Heath and  
Newbold Verdon



1. Traffic – managing the traffic, parking and speeding, there are pinch points around the village that are causing considerable concern
2. Support to reinstate the Lollypop service outside the local primary school, though being spear headed by the local borough and county councillor more help is needed
3. Threat to the Bus services - many local residents need and rely on the services and without them many would be stuck without access to school or work
4. Support to access local auxiliary services for the GP - many services are now shared between practices and many residents struggle to get to the village where the services are now provided
5. Support to engage a youth worker to organise activities for the teenagers of the village
6. Support for older people within the village. Provide toilet facilities for the village
7. Policing within the village - antisocial behaviour along with known drug dealing activity which is dangerous to the on-going mental health and wellbeing of our young people and also causes concern amongst other residents
8. Support to organise a Dog Warden Service to share with other parishes
9. Funding for the Local Library increasing the services to include ones only currently accessed in Hinckley
10. Support in finding and funding a new local Cemetery

### Parish and settlements

#### Osbaston Parish



1. Repairs/rebuild all eroded roadside verges and improve/repair eroded road side surfaces
2. Additional lighting to residential areas on Lount Road
3. Clean and clear overgrown pathways along side A447 and Lount Road
4. County to ensure all grassed areas adjacent to the Tollgate crossroads are cut/mowed and maintained to improve visibility and safety for vehicles executing right hand turns from Lount road onto A447
5. Highways to reduce A447 speed limit to 40mph at the Tollgate crossroad junction
6. Highways to reduce speed limit to 40mph on Lount Road from Osbaston House Farm to the Tollgate Crossroad

#### Peckleton Parish

villages of:  
Peckleton, Kirkby  
Mallory and Stapleton



1. Potential encroachment from neighbouring developments – importance of retaining the integrity and character of villages
2. Lack of access to services – key services some distance away via unlit roads without pavements, plus limited and continuing reducing public transport
3. Additional costs of local services formerly provided by LCC and HBBC – reduction /ceasing of street lighting, hedge and grass cutting, only affordable if Precept is increased
4. Broadband and mobile phone coverage – poor mobile phone coverage in certain areas, 3G not available in all areas, which will impact on retaining and attracting local businesses
5. Retention of viable social facilities – each village has a village hall, church and public house, which are essential assets for community gatherings, but village halls rely mainly on self funding and volunteers to sustain and maintain
6. Traffic, speeding and HGV's – Quality of life affected by speeding cars and HGV's transiting through main streets despite weight restrictions, as well as concerns about increased traffic volume due to proposed neighbouring industrial and housing developments
7. Availability of grant funding – reliant on continuing PCIF to maintain fit for purpose community facilities in each village
8. Influence on Local Planning – imperative that we are able to influence higher authorities about issues and developments that will affect our Parish
9. Rural Crime – a serious and ongoing issue is a perception of lack of police patrols and response in villages
10. The Parish Council – increasingly difficult to find people to serve as parish councillors, and particular concern about young people not coming forward



## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Ratby Parish



1. Lack of parking spaces
2. Inconsiderate parking causing obstructions/congestion and parking on grass verges
3. Drugs debris etc., found in parks and hedgerows
4. HGVs breaking the 7.5 tonne weight restrictions and lack of enforcement
5. Anti-social behaviour
6. Criminal damage
7. Lack of Police presence
8. Insufficient infrastructure
9. Diminished bus service
10. Speeding vehicles- despite traffic calming/ signs – Lack of enforcement
11. Adoption of new building estates by HBBC & LCC

#### Shackerstone Parish

villages of:

Barton in the Beans,  
Bilstone, Congerstone,  
Odstone &  
Shackerstone



1. Public transport
2. Traffic issues
3. Winter road treatments
4. Grass cutting

### Parish and settlements

#### Sheepy Parish

villages of:

Sheepy Magna,  
Sheepy Parva, Sibson,  
Wellsborough, Upton,  
Pinwall and Cross Hands



1. Maintaining the rural characteristics of the Parish including landscape, green spaces as indicated in the Neighbourhood Plan
2. Neighbourhood Plan sustainability re green spaces, any land supply possible impact, adjacent borough / HBBC development, local plan review
3. Focus on speeding and traffic calming measures across the Parish, to maintain safety
4. Concerned on the potential increased traffic within Parish for temporary diversions for other road closures, and for construction traffic. Specific concerns:
  - HGV night closures
  - HS2
  - JLR Development at Appleby Magna
5. Increases in rural crime including wildlife and farm animal, farming thefts and general rural crime (especially target crime from people outside of the area)
6. Knock on impacts to the Parish for increasing largescale developments along the M42 / A5 corridor (Logistics/ warehouse/ HS2) and adjoining Parish housing developments. Both during construction and beyond. (For example - Traffic, light, noise and air pollution, pressures on community facilities including school)
7. Flooding prevention and management
8. Risk of housing development in Parish that goes against the Neighbourhood Plan
9. Ongoing maintenance and investment to maintain if not improve facilities such as Broadband, electricity, water (includes consideration for electric vehicle increases, increases need and speed for data and the need for community facilities eg village halls etc) to have suitable broadband and WIFI provision
10. Maintaining, protection and improving community facilities including village halls, public houses, public transport, school (sized to accommodate any increased pressure from increased housing from adjoining Parishes) (Particularly call out The Cock Inn, Sibson)

#### Stanton-under-Bardon Parish



1. Section 106 agreements - early consultation with Parish Councils
2. Parish clerks are usually part time and more and more work is being asked of them. They do not want to be bombarded with lightweight emails, thereby losing sight of important information. Items such as press releases and available financial grants could be sent on a weekly round robin (similar to LRALC).
3. Speeding traffic in villages
4. Fly tipping
5. Number of road closures



## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Stoke Golding Parish



1. Traffic congestion and parking around St Martins Catholic Academy
2. Speeding traffic through Stoke Golding
3. Housing – over development with inadequate infrastructure
4. Rural crime and reporting of figures
5. Convent Drive - open space/play area safety
6. Parking on grass verges and pavements
7. Poor state of pavements
8. Poor state of road surfaces
9. Dog waste not being picked up

#### Sutton Cheney Parish

villages of:  
Sutton Cheney,  
Dadlington and Shenton



1. Social health, especially combatting social isolation
2. Speeding and traffic management, especially parking on double yellow lines
3. Better access to public transport, specifically Sutton Cheney
4. More litter bins
5. More public events as well as better notification about events
6. More interest from police when crimes are committed
7. Restriction of expansion and to preserve Dadlington as a separate entity from Stoke Golding
8. Better action on fly tipping
9. Heritage and tourism features need to be protected from development
10. Improvements needed on road near Canal Wharf – no lights, pavements and poor visibility on bend

## Issues

### Parish and settlements

#### Twycross Parish

villages of:

Twycross, Orton on the Hill and Norton Juxta Twycross



1. Ensure a 5 year land supply so that we are not a target for speculative housebuilding planning applications
2. Support us on local planning and highways issues, particularly those which relate to housing and industrial development
3. Ensure that the impact of HS2b is fully evaluated and mitigated at a local level
4. Recognise the strategic importance of Twycross Zoo, and help provide appropriate infrastructure
5. Respect the identity of our parish, which is predominantly a rural farming area
6. Help us to secure a significant developer contribution for the improvement of Twycross village hall
7. Continue to provide local funding streams such as PCIF and DCF
8. Support our 3 churches
9. Help us maintain and improve our play areas and green spaces
10. Support our local farming community during the Brexit transition process

#### Witherley Parish

villages of:

Atterton, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Witherley



1. Speeding traffic through all villages. The ever increasing traffic flow on rural lanes due to housing and commercial developments in the wider area without any improvement to the road infrastructure e.g. traffic comes down Fenn Lanes because folks don't want to get caught up at Dodwell's roundabout
2. Flooding, particularly Witherley, and increasingly Atterton
3. Improving footpaths, bridleways and stiles around the parish to aid parishioner's wellbeing, link all of the tourism elements in the area together and enable local businesses to benefit from increased passing trade
4. Lack of public transport
5. Lack of superfast broadband in agricultural businesses
6. Improved Borough wide recycling aimed at removing organic waste from landfill
7. Parish Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) this is up to £12,000 per parish and valuable fund. We would hope this is continued as it is vital to support to rural groups
8. The Rural Strategy was agreed by parishes at the Rural Conference and should be retained and reviewed to ensure currency
9. Developing Communities Fund – this could be expanded to include smaller developments in the expanding villages

## Shared Issues and message of thanks

Whilst this document has been produced to provide a comprehensive record of the many diverse and specific issues for parishes across our borough, it also highlights some key areas of commonality:

### Traffic management

17 of the 24 parishes (two thirds) highlighted problems with speeding through their villages, with 8 of the 24 parishes making specific references to HGV/weight restrictions being ignored.

### Parking

Irresponsible parking, specifically close to schools and village centres, as well as a general lack of parking provision, is also a significant issue with 12 of the 24 parishes (half) specifically commenting on this issue.

### ASB/Crime

11 of the 24 parishes stated that anti social behaviour and crime continues to be an issue, and in a number of areas exacerbated by the changes to street lighting to LED and being switched off at night.

### Police visibility and enforcement

9 of the 24 parishes are concerned about the lack of Police presence and the associated lack of enforcement as a result.

The refreshed Rural Strategy, together with this appendices document will help to inform the rural work programme in supporting parishes, in the immediate and longer term, as well as provide an evidence base to help inform any key funding or resourcing decisions for the Borough Council's administration and other key delivery partners.

### Public transport

The current levels of public transport as they are, and the ever decreasing levels of the parish public transport provision is of concern raised by 12 of the 24 parishes (half), directly impacting on residents access to GPs, dentists, schools and colleges, health, wellbeing and social activities.

### Other common themes include:

- Dog fouling and littering
- The need for affordable/appropriate housing being the number of bedrooms, bungalows.
- Supporting/enhancing local parks and green spaces
- Importance of maintaining village identity
- Appropriate infrastructure to support homes that have already been built and any planned new development

## Thank you to our Parish Councillors and Clerks

As Executive member for Rural Parishes at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council I would like to thank all the parishes that welcomed both myself and officers as we visited each of you, in order to gain a full understanding of your issues, whilst completing the Rural Strategy review.

Your information and feedback has provided very valuable information for the Borough Council and its partners in understanding, not only what affects your parish in isolation but how these issues are shared amongst your direct neighbours and all the other parishes of the Borough Council.

The parish area of Hinckley & Bosworth represents a significant geographical area of the Borough Council. The detailed map on the back page shows the 24 Parish Councils which in turn represent 51 different settlements between them. Each parish and settlement is unique and it's residents have their own reasons for choosing to make it their home,

and or place of work, but many of the issues they face right now are shared.

Visits to the parishes took place over a nine month period between June 2019 and February 2020.

The Rural Strategy was presented in draft form at the Rural Conference held at Twycross Zoo in March 2020. It should be noted shortly after the conference the country entered into the onset of Covid-19, Coronavirus pandemic, with all the associated restrictions, that came in to place. Therefore, the pandemic is not mentioned in any of the feedback from the parishes, as the review exercise took place before the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on our parishes and communities, is being addressed as a separate entity through the Borough Council's Recovery Plan.

**Cllr Martin Cartwright,**  
**Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Executive Member for Rural Parishes.**

# A Rural Strategy for the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth - Appendices



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Rural Strategy encompasses 51 settlements divided into 24 parished areas

- |                       |                      |                         |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Atterton            | ● Desford            | ● Newbold Heath         | ● Sheepy Magna         |
| ● Bagworth            | ● Earl Shilton       | ● Newbold Verdon        | ● Sheepy Parva         |
| ● Barlestone          | ● Far Coton          | ● Newtown Unthank       | ● Shenton              |
| ● Barton in the Beans | ● Fenny Drayton      | ● Norton Juxta Twycross | ● Stanton-under-Bardon |
| ● Barwell             | ● Field Head         | ● Odstone               | ● Stapleton            |
| ● Bilstone            | ● Groby              | ● Orton on the Hill     | ● Stoke Golding        |
| ● Botcheston          | ● Higham on the Hill | ● Osbaston              | ● Sutton Cheney        |
| ● Burbage             | ● Kirkby Mallory     | ● Peckleton             | ● Thornton             |
| ● Cadeby              | ● Merry Lees         | ● Pinwall               | ● Twycross             |
| ● Carlton             | ● Lindley            | ● Ratby                 | ● Wellsborough         |
| ● Congerstone         | ● Market Bosworth    | ● Ratcliffe Culey       | ● Witherley            |
| ● Cross Hands         | ● Markfield          | ● Sibson                | ● Upton                |
| ● Dadlington          | ● Nailstone          | ● Shackerstone          |                        |

### Further information

For more information please contact:

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Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission                      26 November 2020

Wards affected:                              All Wards

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### **Review of Parish & Community Initiative Fund and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund grants**

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Report of Director (Environment & Planning)

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the Scrutiny Commission with a review of the current PCIF and HCIF grant funds.
- 1.2 To update the Scrutiny Commission on the progress of this year's scheme.
- 1.3 To propose to the Scrutiny Commission a number of improvements and changes to the schemes.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the recommendations for the changes to the 2 schemes as detailed in section 3.4.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the change in the timetable for scheme as detailed in 3.5.

#### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 Review of the Scheme

The details below represent information collated for the Parish and Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) since 2005; however; the scheme has run for a number of years prior to 2005. The Hinckley Community Initiative Fund (HCIF) was started in 2014 to mirror the PCIF for the wards of Hinckley.



To date, since 2005, the PCIF has awarded £1,425,613 to 387 community projects within the parishes of Hinckley and Bosworth and the HCIF fund has awarded £34,391 to 19 projects in Hinckley since 2014.

PCIF grants are for capital projects only and will cover 50% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £12,000; there is also a threshold of £12,000 allocated per parish. The HCIF has a total budget of £10,000 and can fund a maximum of £10,000 for a project.

The two schemes are assessed and scored using a set of criteria. There are 6 essential criteria that must be met and projects must also show that they meet at least some of the Council's corporate aims and objectives.

The 6 essential criteria of the schemes are as follows:

1. Is the applicant a properly constituted community organisation, charity or Parish Council? Score 1 for yes 0 for no
2. Is it a capital project? Score 1 for yes 0 for no
3. Is the scheme in a Parish within the borough of Hinckley & Bosworth or a ward within Hinckley town? Score 1 for yes 0 for no
4. Is this work required as part of planning permission or a legal agreement? Score 0 for yes 1 for no
5. Is the land owned by the applicant? If not has a Landowner Permission Form been completed? Score 1 for yes 0 for no
6. Are all other necessary permissions in place? (or confirmation that planning permission is being applied for). Score 1 for yes 0 for no

Applicants must achieve a score of 6 in the essential criteria for the project to proceed to full assessment.

There are 6 more categories that are scored against:

1. Type of scheme – scoring is weighted based on the type of scheme. A consultation carried out in 2011 showed that the top priority for funding was for play area improvements and community building projects, medium priority for conservation projects, sports and fitness projects, footpaths and trails and historic features, and low priority for village signs, notice boards, landscaping projects and improvements to places of worship. Top priority schemes score 10 points, medium 5 points and low priority 1 point.
2. Compliance with HBBC corporate objectives – applicants must score 4 or more against the corporate plan objectives

3. Value for money and evidence of need – there are 5 sub categories under this heading:
  - Are there any similar or existing facilities/schemes within the parish?
  - Is the facility/scheme accessible within reasonable hours? **Reasonable hours are considered to be from 9am to dusk.**
  - Is the application linked to a village appraisal, village design statement or Parish plan?
  - Has a consultation been carried out? Do the results show support for the project?
  - Do you consider the scheme offers good value for money? **Value for money is evaluated based on the total project cost against how many people it benefits.**
4. Funding – This sections ensures the applicant has the remaining 50% funding in place to allow the scheme to be completed and that they have received the necessary quotes based on the Council's financial procedure rules.
5. Design, maintenance and equality – This section ensures that the scheme has been designed against the necessary regulations and standards (including consideration of equality) and that the applicant has the resources to maintain the scheme for at least 10 years.
6. Support – This section is to check that the scheme has support from the local Borough Councillor and from the Parish Council (PCIF only).

### 3.2 Decision Making Process

Borough Council members for the Parish or Hinckley Ward that the application is from should be contacted by the applicant to gain support for their project (as detailed above). If support has not been received after submission of the application, the first assessor should contact the relevant councillor for their support. Borough Councillor and Parish Council support will increase the overall score of the application.

As part of the reporting process a report with details of all of the applications that are recommended for funding and recommend for rejection is taken to the Scrutiny Commission for comment and endorsement before final sign off from SLT.

On receipt of applications the applicant is notified and the scheme is allocated to a first assessor to chase up any outstanding items, once the first assessor is satisfied that all the information required has been received and they have scored the scheme against the criteria, it is passed to a second assessor to score, an average score is then recorded together with a recommendation for funding or a recommendation for rejection if the scheme doesn't meet the criteria.

Once all schemes have been assessed by two independent assessors and the scores recorded, a meeting is arranged with all the assessors together

with the Head of Street Scene Services and the Strategic and Community Planning Officer, to look at each project and agree which should be funded and a final grant award for each, within the total grant fund of £150k.

From this meeting a report is written to go initially go to SLT for support, then to Scrutiny Commission for endorsement and then back to SLT for final sign off.

The reporting path for the HCIF is currently to SLT, then to Hinckley Area Committee and then back to SLT for sign off, because of the relatively few applications for this scheme there is currently no meeting with the Head of Street Scene Services and the Strategic and Community Planning Officer.

Grants are only paid on completion of the project and on receipt of a final invoice. Grants will cover 50% of the final project cost or the agreed grant amount whichever is lowest. On receipt of the final invoice applicants will be contacted in writing to confirm the final grant payment and to instruct them on the requirements in terms of publicising the project and who to invite. The councillor currently responsible for the scheme is Councillor Martin Cartwright, who is also contacted to confirm that the project has been completed and that someone from the organisation will be in touch with regards to organising publicity.

### 3.3 Update on this year's Projects

33 PCIF schemes and 4 HCIF schemes have been awarded funding this financial year. Since award letters were sent out 1 applicant Cadeby Parish Council has withdrawn their application because they have been unable to secure the necessary match funding for the project.

To date 8 projects have been completed as follows:

- Keep Desford Beautiful – Desford Community Action Group - £233.00
- Replacement chairs - Desford Church - £2,304.00
- Achieving Our Goals- Market Bosworth Sports Club - £789.00
- Cemetery CCTV – Barwell parish Council - £1,412.00
- Heating & Lighting Renovation Sibson Village Hall – Sheepy P.C - £3,696.00
- Refurbishment of Allotment Car Park – Groby Allotment Society - £3,435.00
- Replacement Safety Surface, Barwell Park – Barwell P.C - £4,100.00
- A new verticutter – Market Bosworth Bowls Club - £2,850

The remaining projects are expected to be completed within this financial year.

### 3.4 Proposed changes for 2020/2021

- That the total project grant and parish amount remains at £12,000 for the Parish areas but the project amount is increased from £10,000 to £12,000 for Hinckley town area, together with a maximum of £12,000 for Hinckley.



- That the PCIF and HCIF are brought together, the scheme is called the Community Initiative Fund and administered jointly. This will mean a total budget of £162k (made up of the existing £150k budget for the PCIF grant and an increased £12k budget for the HCIF grant). This will help to streamline the assessing and reporting process and allow for only one round of applications per year.
- That applications must score 50 or over against the criteria of the scheme in order to be recommended for funding – this will help to ensure that only good quality schemes that offer a good community benefit are funded.
- That Environmental and habitat conservation schemes are weighted as top priority projects (including sustainable and renewable energy initiatives to public buildings) – To help meet the Council's climate emergency agenda.
- That the application form and assessment sheet are amended to include more emphasis on detailing the number of people who will benefit from a scheme. This will ensure we are allocated a higher score to projects that benefit the most people.
- Develop an option of an online application submission.

### 3.5 Timetable

It is proposed in future years to alter the current timetable to fit more closely to the financial year as follows:

- First week in September - The scheme will be launched and applications sent out.
- First week in December – Closing date for applications
- December, January and February – Assessing of applications
- Late February – Report to SLT
- March – Report to Scrutiny/Hinckley Area Committee
- April – SLT final decision
- April – Award offer letters sent out to successful applicants.

## 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 This report will be taken in open session.

## 5. Financial implications (AW)

- 5.1 If approved the HCIF budget will no longer be funded from special expenses charge, and will also be increased to £12,000 (from £10,000). This will then fall on the general fund budget of the council. This is in line with the maximum funding available to parishes under the scheme, and will form part of the new Community Initiative Fund.

## 6. Legal implications (MR)

- 6.1 None

## **7. Corporate Plan implications**

7.1 The Community Initiative Fund supports parishes and community groups to achieve the following aims and objectives of the Corporate Performance Plan:

- Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- Empowering Communities
- Providing value for money and pro-active services

## **8. Consultation**

8.1 Scrutiny Commission is consulted as part of the decision to agree grant applications, and also with regards to this review and possible amendments.

8.2 Parish Councils and other applicants have previously been consulted on this funding scheme.

## **9. Risk implications**

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
The projects rely on third party delivery and there is therefore a risk that some of the projects may not be delivered	Only projects that are likely to be completed in the following 12 months are recommended for funding	Paul Scragg
Certain projects have conditions attached.	Applicants are required to meet condition, before final grant is awarded.	Paul Scragg
Misuse of funds	Funding for projects is only released once scheme is completed and evidence of completion and payment of the works is received.	Paul Scragg
Increasing the score needed to be recommended for funding may result in more projects being recommended for rejection and the total budget not being spent.	Recommending higher scoring schemes ensures funding spent appropriately. Funding of other schemes will be at discretion of senior officers and council members.	Paul Scragg

## **10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

- 10.1 Grants are awarded to rural areas as well as Hinckley Town, parish council support is sought for each application and Hinckley Area committee approval for Hinckley schemes.
- 10.2 Equalities issues are considered as part of the assessment process

## **11. Climate implications**

- 11.1 The recommendations for proposed changes to the scheme include an increase in scoring for environmental projects which have a positive effect on the climate.

## **12. Corporate implications**

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications
  - Environmental implications
  - ICT implications
  - Asset management implications
  - Procurement implications
  - Human resources implications
  - Planning implications
  - Data protection implications
  - Voluntary sector

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