

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 19th APRIL 2012

REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER BUSINESS, STREET SCENE AND CONTRACT SERVICES **RE: PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FOR 2012/2013**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL PARISH WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request Scrutiny approve the allocation of grants through the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2012/13.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Scrutiny approves the funding allocations as detailed in section 5 for the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2012.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund has distributed over £580,000 for 118 schemes to local parishes or voluntary organisations.
- 3.2 In 2011/12 the scheme received 22 applications from across the Borough and a total of £104,130 was awarded to 21 schemes.

4. CHANGES TO THE FUND

- 4.1 After the awarding of grants for 2011/12, Officers recommended consultation with parishes, grant recipients, community groups and Borough Councillors to determine priorities for the allocation of grants, to seek to improve the application process, and to ensure that the fund was meeting the needs of rural communities. This consultation took place during the summer 2011. Changes to the fund were agreed in a report to Executive in October 2011.
- 4.2 The key changes were as follows:
 - Funding prioritised towards schemes such as children's and young peoples play and community buildings
 - Boundary walls and fences, bus shelters and car parks no longer funded
 - Help in kind will be offered where possible (dependent on project, and capacity of services to assist)
 - In the event the fund is over subscribed, then priority will be given to applicants who did not receive a grant the previous year.
 - Maximum grant £10,000 per project and £10,000 per parish
 - Value for money and evidence of need will be the priority areas for assessors.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR 2012/13

- 5.1 The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary of the assessments made of all the applications by the Public Space Team.
- 5.2 The assessment panel then determined grants to be allocated. This panel consisted of Caroline Roffey – Public Space Manager, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, Paul Scragg – Public Space Team Leader (Community and Development), Lisa Kirby – Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader and Chris Pocock Green Space Technical Officer.
- 5.3 The maximum amount of funding available to each Parish is £10,000. The grant will fund a maximum of 50% of the project costs. Each applicant must seek support from their Parish Council and Borough Councillor. Only capital items are funded, and because the fund is over subscribed, the lowest submitted quote has been used to calculate the maximum eligible grant.

32 applications have been received requesting a total of £142,344. The applications were scored using new criteria, based on the results of the consultation carried out in the summer 2011. The panel determined applications must score 57 points or more to be funded.

- 5.4 Scrutiny may wish to consider lowering the points score for funding to 54. This would make more projects eligible for funding: Sheepy Memorial Hall tables (£701), the digital projector in Desford (£476) and St Giles Parish Church organ, Barlestone (£1,250). Details are given in c, g and a below. This would allocate a further £1,177 of the fund. N.B. Funding the St Giles organ will not increase the allocation of the fund as the grants to the other two projects in Barlestone will need to be reduced to ensure a maximum allocation to Barlestone of £10,000.
- 5.5 As regards the latter eligibility, as there is a limit of £10,000 per Parish, Scrutiny may wish to consider referring the three applications which fall within Barlestone Parish to Barlestone Parish Council in order that the Parish Council (in consultation with the two churches) can recommend the allocation of the £10,000 grant within their Parish. This is suggested because although Elohim Church project scores highly, this organisation has received funding in 2010/11 and 2011/12.
- 5.6 Based on the information in Appendix 1, the assessment panel recommends funding the following schemes totalling £92,126: (Applications are set out in alphabetical order by parish and parish name is given in brackets)
- i. Old Colliery Sports Ground Project – Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council (Bagworth & Thornton)
Outline: Demolition of old pavilion and replace with new pavilion and associated facilities to provide better quality sports provision.
Recommended grant: £2,550
 - ii. Club House Toilet Block Extension, Bagworth Bowls Club – (Bagworth and Thornton)
Outline: To extend the existing clubhouse to provide toilet facilities for males and females, plus disabled provision.
Recommended grant: £3,725

- iii. Installation of heating system – St Peter’s Church, Thornton (Bagworth and Thornton)
Outline: To install a new heating system to replace the current old inefficient system. The facility is used for a variety of community events.
Recommended grant: £3,725
- iv. Youth Shelter – Barlestone Parish Council (Barlestone)
Outline: To install a youth shelter in Bagworth Road Playing Fields.
Recommended grant: £5,000
- v. Access for all at Elohim Church – Elohim Church (Barlestone)
Outline: Improve access to provide better provision for pushchairs and disabled users and provide learn and play equipment for toddlers.
Recommended grant: £5,000
- vi. Impact Play Area – George Ward Centre (Barwell)
Outline: Provide safety surfacing to a fenced play space for small children.
Recommended grant: £1,212
- vii. Kirkby Road footpath improvements – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: Renewal of Cemetery pathways at Kirkby Road Cemetery.
Recommended grant: £2,966
- viii. Jubilee Green Space – Cadeby Parish Council (Cadeby)
Outline: Planting of bulbs and plants at entrance points to the village.
Recommended grant: £1,821
N.B Discussions are underway with Cadeby PC to discuss if any parts of these works can be carried out by HBBC groundcare as work in kind.
- ix. Refurbishment of Desford Free Church – Desford Free Church (Desford)
Outline: Refurbishment of community room.
Recommended grant: £1,050
- x. Equipment for GP Referral Sessions – Sport in Desford (Desford)
Outline: provision of a multi-programmed treadmill for use in GP referral sessions.
Recommended grant: £2,375
- xi. Mill Lane Columbaria Project – Earl Shilton Town Council (Earl Shilton)
Outline: The installation of columbaria at Mill Lane Cemetery, this provides an alternative facility for the interment of ashes.
Recommended grant: £3,340
- xii. Quarry Park Play Area – Groby Parish Council (Groby)
Outline: The provision of a new play area at Quarry fields, for children aged between 4 and 14 years of age.
Recommended grant: £6,000
- xiii. Groby Scout headquarters improvements – 73rd Leicester (Groby) Scout Group (Groby)
Outline: The replacement of a flat roof, 3 windows and fascias to the entrance hall, group room and kitchen areas.
Recommended grant: £4,000

- xiv. St Peter's Church Toilet Provision – Parochial Church Council (Higham-on-the-Hill)
Outline: To provide a toilet facility in the church.
Recommended grant: £4,000
- xv. Footpath drainage and repairs – Market Bosworth Parish Council (Market Bosworth)
Outline: Resurfacing and improving drainage on the footpath at the Parish Fields in Market Bosworth, to allow improved access for all.
Recommended grant: £1,741
- xvi. New Adventure Play Equipment – Markfield Parish Council (Markfield)
Outline: The installation of a new item of play equipment at Mayflower Close play area.
Recommended grant: £4,363
- xvii. New Kitchen Project – Newbold Verdon Parish Church (Newbold Verdon)
Outline: Improvements to existing kitchen at Newbold Verdon Baptist Church.
Recommended grant: £2,668
- xviii. Peckleton Village Hall Kitchen Improvements – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)
Outline: Improvements to the existing kitchen.
Recommended grant: £3,244
- xix. Ratby Skate Park – Ratby Parish Council (Ratby)
Outline: Provision of a new skate park/wheeled sports facility at Ferndale Park.
Recommended grant: £10,000
- xx. Shakerstone Church restoration – Shakerstone Church Restoration Trust (Shakerstone)
Outline: Repairs and restoration of stonework and windows, replacement of floor in bell chamber.
Recommended grant: £10,000
- xxi. Windows and floor replacement – Without Walls Christian Fellowship (Stanton under Bardon)
Outline: To replace 7 timber framed windows, and remove and replace unsafe flooring.
Recommended grant: £5,399
- xxii. Stanton Youth Club roof repairs – Stanton under Bardon Youth Club (Stanton under Bardon).
Outline: To replace the remainder of the roof felt to make building watertight.
Recommended grant: £1,082

- xxiii. Play Area improvements Stage 2 – Stoke Golding Parish Council (Stoke Golding)
 Outline: Improvements to the play area at Stoke Golding recreation ground by replacing the current fencing to meet British standards and install a self-closing gate.
 Recommended grant: £2,563
 N.B. This scheme will be delivered by HBBC Groundcare as work in kind.
- xxiv. Dadlington Notice Board – Sutton Cheney Parish Council (Sutton Cheney)
 Outline: To install a new community notice board at Dadlington Green to replace the old one.
 Recommended grant: £498 (+ installation total value £676)
 N.B The installation of the notice board will be carried out by HBBC Groundcare as work in kind.
- xxv. Village Hall Energy Improvements – Norton Juxta Twycross Village Hall Institute (Twycross)
 Outline: To improve the energy efficiency of the village hall, by replacing the boiler, and improving insulation.
 Recommended grant: £3,625

The Assessment panel recommends **rejecting** the following applications:

- a) St Giles Church Organ Repairs – St. Giles Parish Church (Barlestone)
 Outline: replacement of blower in church organ.
 Funding applied for: £1,250
 Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. Only community benefit identified was during church services when organ in use.
- b) Parish Notice Boards – Lash Hill Community Group – (Burbage)
 Outline: Provision of community notice boards in two locations within Lash Hill Ward of Burbage.
 Funding applied for: £2,000
 Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. No evidence of any funding from applicant, no consent from landowner for installation, the total costs of scheme are unclear.
- c) Digital Projector project – St Martin’s Church (Desford)
 Outline: To install a permanent digital projector and pull-down screen.
 Funding applied for: £590
 Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. Has little overall community benefit.
- d) Heritage Street Lights – Desford Parish Council (Desford)
 Outline: To erect Heritage Lampposts in the conservation area.
 Funding applied for: £6,000
 Rationale: HBBC are already funding £6,000 towards this project from the Environmental Improvement Grant.

- e) Jubilee Village Signs – Nailstone Parish Council (Nailstone)
Outline: Erect a village sign to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
Funding applied for: £1,600
Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. No quotes were provided, uncertainties of positioning and permission from landowner.

- f) Toilet replacement at Ratby Church Rooms – Ratby Church Rooms – (Ratby)
Outline: New disabled facilities and better ladies and gents toilet facilities at Ratby Church rooms.
Funding applied for: £6,900
Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. Total allocation for parish already funded through other project.

- g) Tables and Storage Trolley at Sheepy Memorial Hall – Sheepy Memorial Hall (Sheepy).
Outline: Purchase of 10 new folding tables and a storage trolley.
Funding applied for: £701
Rationale: Failed to score sufficient points. Has little overall community benefit.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)**

- 6.1 The total Capital budget for 2012/13 is £100,000. The total grants recommended for approval is £92,578.

There are 3 grants totaling £22,297, which were approved for 2011/12 where projects have been delayed. These will be completed in 2012/13. A request to carry forward this budget underspend into the year 2012/13 will be submitted as part of the year end process. These are Bagworth and Thornton Community Centre Renovation £12,000, Stoke Golding Play Area improvements £3,889 and Barwell Parish Council New Pavilion project £6,408.

- 6.2 To allow for the carry forward of the three projects, the 2012/13 capital budget will be increased by £22,297. Additionally, the 2012/13 budget will be reduced by £7,874 to reflect the approved allocations in the year. For 2012/13 this will result in a revised programme budget of £114,423
- 6.3 If the points score is lowered to 54 as per paragraph 5.4 above this would result in an additional carry forward of £1,177. For 2012/13 this will result in a revised programme budget of £115,600.
- 6.4 Both options 6.2 and 6.3 are affordable. If approved, these budget revisions will form part of the year end accounting process.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 7.1 None raised directly by this report

8. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The Parish & Community Initiative fund supports Parishes and Community groups to achieve the aims and objectives of the Corporate Performance Plan to:

- Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods
- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

9. **CONSULTATION**

The level of consultation undertaken by applicants for grants is assessed as part of determining the grants to be awarded. A consultation took place in summer 2011 to determine the need for any changes to the funding process. These are detailed in section 4 of this report.

10. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

No significant risks identified.

11. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

All grants are awarded to the rural areas, and parish council support is sought for each application.

12. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications - some schemes will require planning consent
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers:	Appendix 1 attached
Contact Officer:	Paul Scragg – Senior Public Space Officer x5983
Executive Member:	Cllr B Crooks – Executive Member for Rural Issues