

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 14 APRIL 2016

PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND **ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FOR 2016/2017** **REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY** **DIRECTION)**



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL PARISH WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Scrutiny Commission endorses the allocation of grants through the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2016/17.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the funding allocations of as detailed in section 4, from the Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2016 (as supported by SLB).
- 2.2 That Scrutiny consider recommending to SLB amending the scheme conditions as outlined in 4.6, to allow a further 5 schemes to be supported.
- 2.3 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the carry forward request of £2,263 as detailed in 4.7, allowing previous years schemes to be completed (as supported by SLB).

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund has distributed nearly £906,000 towards 223 local parishes or voluntary organisation schemes.
- 3.2 In 2015/16 the scheme received 26 applications from across the Borough and a total of £63,321 was awarded to 23 schemes.
- 3.3 The fund was increased for 2016/17 from £100,000 to £125,000 as part of the budget setting process at Council (February 18 2016).

4. APPLICATIONS FOR 2016/17

- 4.1 The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary from the assessments made of all the applications by the Green Space Team.
- 4.2 The assessment panel then determined grants to be allocated. This panel consisted of Caroline Roffey Head of Street Scene Services, Ian Pinfold – Green Space Manager, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, Paul Scragg – Senior Green Space Officer, Chris Pocock - Green Space Officer, Susan Chambers - Green Space Officer and Jackie Lee – Public Spaces Officer
- 4.3 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, the lowest submitted quote has been used to calculate the maximum eligible grant, unless a good reason has been provided for using a higher quote.

41 applications have been received requesting a total of £118,149.

4.4 Based on the information in Appendix 1 the assessment panel recommends funding the following schemes totalling £87,379: (Applications are set out in alphabetical order by parish and parish name is given in brackets)

1. Roof repairs to St Peter's Church, Thornton – Bagworth Thornton and Stanton under Bardon PCC (Bagworth & Thornton)
Outline: Repairs to the church roof and guttering: £1,460
2. Playground refurbishment at Bosworth Road Park – Barlestone Parish Council (Barlestone)
Outline: New play equipment for younger children: £9,958
3. Basketball and goal end for Radford Park – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: The installation of a new basketball hoop and goal end: £1,854
4. Public toilet refurbishments – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: Improvements to the disabled toilets to comply with disabled peoples needs: £990
5. World War One Bench – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: The installation of a first world war commemorative bench at Barwell War Memorial: £915
6. New Cemetery Noticeboard at Kirkby Road Cemetery – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: The installation of a new information board at Barwell Cemetery: £390
7. New Market Stalls – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: The introduction of 6 market stalls within Barwell Town Centre to serve the local community: £509
8. Re-carpeting the Parish Council Offices – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)
Outline: Replacement of the carpet in the Parish Council Offices with commercial carpet tiles: £761
9. Burbage Library Renovation – Burbage Community Library (Burbage)
Outline: Replacement of all existing single glazed doors and windows with double glazed units and the conversion of existing WC to disabled toilet: £6,712
10. Cadeby Church Hall Refurbishment – Cadeby Parish Council (Cadeby)
Outline: Refurbishment of Cadeby Church Hall to provide a community facility for the village: £8,500
11. New Marquee – Friends of St Andrew's Church (Carlton)
Outline: The purchase of a Marquee for using to hold village events: £2,225
12. New gate – Carlton Parish Council (Carlton)
Outline: The installation of a new pedestrian gate on public right of way S68 replacing a high stile, to allow easy use by walkers: £193
13. East Green Kerbing Project – Carlton Parish Council (Carlton).
Outline: The installation of kerbing to protect the registered village green from damage : £2,306
14. Enhancement and refurbishment of play area– Desford Parish Council (Desford).
Outline: Improvements to the children's play space and improvements to junior football pitch at Kirkby Road Recreation Ground, Desford: £2,275

15. Community Sports Club improvements– Sport in Desford (Desford)
Outline: Lighting for tennis courts, new flooring in changing rooms and toilets, new gym equipment and improvements to football pitch: £7,757
16. Heating System upgrade – Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland (Earl Shilton).
Outline: The complete upgrade of the central heating system at the Earl Shilton Senior citizens centre: £3,060
17. Cemetery Labyrinth improvements – Market Bosworth Borough Council (Market Bosworth).
Outline: Upgrade the labyrinth area of Shenton Lane Cemetery, to ensure better visibility of the memorial plaques and easier maintenance and accessibility: £1,598
18. Installation of Solar Panels - Markfield Parish Council (Markfield).
Outline: The installation of solar panels at Markfield Community Centre: £5,650
19. Development Of Community Facility – All Saints Church (Nailstone)
Outline: The removal of 4 wooden pews to improve disabled access, and the installation of electric heaters: £1,743
20. Public Access Computers – Our Library @ Newbold Verdon (Newbold Verdon).
Outline: The installation of 10 x computers for use by library members, to replace computers being removed by Leicestershire County Council in March 2017: £1,000.
21. Stapleton Methodist Church Sign – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton).
Outline: To provide road signage on the A447 in Stapleton to help sign the Methodist church on Chapel Street, Stapleton: £256
22. Dog bins for Peckleton Ward - Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton).
Outline: The installation of dog bins along regular dog walking routes in Peckleton: £397
23. Resurfacing of play area entrance and safety surfacing - Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton).
Outline: Install an area of hard standing inside the gates at Stapleton recreation ground to improve access and the replacement and improvement of safety surfacing at the play area in Kirkby Mallory: £4,661
24. Provision of Electricity supply – Ratby Parish Council (Ratby).
Outline: To install an electric supply and feeder pillar at Ferndale Park in Ratby, to allow for future park improvements including lighting, CCTV and the installation of changing facilities: £2,365
25. Refurbishment of the band room – The Ratby Cooperative band (Ratby).
Outline: The replacing of the floor coverings at the band room headquarters: £1,800
26. Defibrillators at Shackerstone Parish – Shakerstone Parish Council (Shakerstone).
Outline: Installation of four defibrillators in Shakerstone, Bilstone, Barton in the Beans and Odstone: £1,920
27. Sibson Church Pathway – Sibson District Church Council (Sheepy).
Outline: Repair and resurfacing of the pathway to Sibson churchyard: £4,072
28. Mobile vehicle activating sign – Sheepy Parish Council (Sheepy).

Outline: The purchase of a mobile vehicle activated sign, to assist with speed control analysis in the parish: £1,275

29. Equipment for Village Hall – Stanton under Bardon Village Hall Trust (Stanton-under-Bardon).

Outline: New tables and chairs for use in the village hall: £1,076

30. Access Improvements – Without Walls Christian fellowship (Stanton-under-Bardon).

Outline: The installation of a new access ramp into the building to improve access for all: £1,275

31. Secure doors at Village Hall – Norton Juxta Twycross Village institute Committee (Twycross).

Outline: The replacement of external doors to the village hall: £1,500

32. New Notice Board – Witherley Parochial Church Council (Witherley).

Outline: The installation of a new notice board at St Peter's Church Witherley: £725

33. Playground renovation – Witherley Memorial Playing Field Trust (Witherley):

Outline: The repair, refurbishment and replacement of play equipment at Witherley memorial Playing Fields: £6,201

- 4.5 The assessment panel recommends **rejecting** the following applications, totalling £25,446, because they don't meet the fund criteria:

- 1R. Dry Stone Wall repairs at St Peter's Church, Thornton – Bagworth Thornton and Stanton under Bardon PCC (Bagworth & Thornton)

Outline: Repairs to the dry stone wall on the north boundary of the churchyard: £2,100

Rationale: The criteria for the grant states that boundary walls will not be funded, under the scheme.

- 2R. Replacement of stacking chairs – Desford Free Church (Desford).

Outline: Replacement of existing chairs which have become old and unsafe for use: £598

Rationale: The £10,000 per Parish limit, as stated in the grant criteria, has been reached from other applications for Desford. Out of the three applications received this application scored lowest with the assessment panel.

- 3R. Carpark refurbishment – Groby Parish Council (Groby).

Outline: Levelling and resurfacing of car park on Sycamore Drive, Groby: £8,244

Rationale: The criteria for the grant states that car parks will not be funded, under the scheme.

- 4R. Resurfacing of Church Road and Footpath– Higham-on-the-Hill Parish Council (Higham-on-the-Hill)

Outline: The resurfacing of the combined driveway/public right of way and parking area leading to St Peter's church in Higham to improve access for church users: £7,930

Rationale: The criteria for the grant states that car parks will not be funded, under the scheme.

- 5R. Security Fencing – Market Bosworth Sports Club (Market Bosworth).

Outline: Provision of a 1.8m high security fence and gates at Market Bosworth Sports Ground: £4,187

Rationale: The criteria for the grant states that fences will not be funded, under the scheme.

6R. Repairs and refurbishment – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton).

Outline: Repairing and painting of a number of Parish Council assets, including play equipment, benches and notice boards: £787

Rationale: The panel considered that the scheme couldn't be considered to be a capital scheme, as it is maintenance of an existing feature, and the criteria for the grant states that it will only fund capital projects.

7R. Peckleton Village Hall Windows - Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton).

Outline: Replace the rotted parts of the window frames within Peckleton village Hall: £600

Rationale: The panel considered that the scheme couldn't be considered to be a capital scheme, as it is maintenance of an existing feature, and the criteria for the grant states that it will only fund capital projects.

8R. Sheepy Magna CE School Peace Garden – Sheepy Magna CE School PTA (Sheepy).

Outline: The refurbishment and restoration of a school community garden area: £1,000

Rationale: The panel consider that the project was essentially for school use only and did not benefit the wider community. The criteria of the grant states that the project must provide public access at all reasonable times.

4.6 By amending the scheme criteria for 2016/17 as follows further projects could be funded for 2016/17.

- Fund works to boundary walls and fences. (1R and 5R)
- Increase parish Initiative to £11,000. (2R)
- Fund car parks. (3R and 4R)

If this was agreed a further £23,059 would be allocated.

4.7 Previous Years Applications

There is 1 grant totaling £2,263, which was approved for 2015/16 where the project has been delayed. This will be completed in 2016/17. The project is: Disabled Toilet Refurbishment – Sheepy Memorial Hall (Sheepy Magna)
Confirmation has been received that work will be started in March 2016.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (CS)

5.1 The total capital budget for 2016/17 is £125,000. The total grants recommended for approval is £87,379.

5.2 If the amendments to the criteria are agreed, as per section 4.6, a further £23,059 would be recommended for approval

5.3 If the carry forward of the project in 4.7, totaling £2,263, is also approved the revised budget requirement for 2016/17 will be £112,701.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (JB)

6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 empowers the Council to give financial assistance where it considers that that expenditure promotes the economic social or environmental well being of the borough.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Parish & 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. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. 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

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