

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 28 September 2020

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

It is recommended that this Committee

- (1) Notes the expenditure of £643 for the cricket nets at Turnpike Way Recreation Ground from this Committee's revenue budget;**
 - (2) Notes the allocation of the developer's contribution of £70,486.21 for the play area at Hatch Farm;**
 - (3) Notes the expenditure of £540 for the repairs to the Botleigh Bridge, Hedge End from the Committee's revenue budget;**
 - (4) Allocates £200 from its revenue budget for the purchase of Neighbourhood Watch signs;**
 - (5) Approves expenditure of £1,066 from its revenue budget for tree works at the Copse adjacent to 21 Barbe Baker Avenue, West End; and**
 - (6) Approves expenditure of £1,890 from its revenue budget for a speed indicator device.**
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Summary

This report identifies funding for provision to meet local need and to enhance the local area. It provides an update for councillors concerning funding which has been allocated. In this instance, councillors are asked to note this decision.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area

Strategic Implications

1. The proposals and financial decisions within this report are in alignment with some of the key Corporate objectives for the Council. The health and wellbeing of residents is a priority and the funding for the cricket nets and the play area supports this priority. The repairs to the Botleigh Bridge will mean that this route is maintained for walking and cycling which accords with the green objectives of the Council to help reduce congestion and pollution. All the projects meet local need as outlined in the aims of the strategic project Local First.

Cricket nets, Turnpike Way Recreation Ground, Hedge End

2. The cricket nets at Turnpike Way had been extremely well used during the early part of the Summer. However, they were taken out of use as the nets became damaged beyond repair.
3. Local residents requested their replacement due to their popularity and with the Government allowing recreational cricket matches to recommence, this was a project that local councillors wanted to support. The owners of the cricket provision at Turnpike Way, Hedge End Town Council informed the Local Area Manager that the total replacement cost would be £1,285. Therefore, the Committee is asked to note that £643 has been allocated from its revenue budget.
4. The Borough Council's Health and Well-being Lead Specialist has also supported this project by approving a small grant of £250. The Town Council has paid the total cost upfront and will be reimbursed with £893.

Hatch Farm Play Area, West End

5. A working group has been established to discuss the community projects contained within the Section 106 agreement for the Hatch Farm development. This group consists of Parish and Borough councillors and staff, a consultant and representatives of the Barnsland Residents' Association.
6. Play area designs were agreed by the Group and a consultation was arranged with the residents. This took place in March and although COVID19 affected the planned face to face consultation, residents voted in favour of a design which is now being installed at the time of writing.
7. The Committee is asked to note the allocation of the Section 106 contribution as follows: -

<p>OSF/15/77718 Radian, Land at Hatch Farm, North of Barbe Baker Avenue, West End £70,486.21 Receipt Date:15/05/2019</p>

Botleigh Bridge, Hedge End

8. This bridge forms an integral part of the pedestrian and cycle route from the Botleigh Grange campus including the Woodhouse Lane complex and forthcoming care home onto the housing development at Stag Drive.
9. Over 10 of the timber spindles on the bridge had been damaged. The upkeep of the bridge is this Committee's responsibility and it needed to be repaired urgently. Consequently, the Chair has approved the repair costs of £540 from this Committee's revenue budget. Councillors are asked to note this expenditure.

Neighbourhood Watch signs

10. The Local Area Manager has been approached by the Secretary of Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch to seek support for future funding of signage. Agreement has also been reached with the other four local areas to enable the organisation to purchase the signage in bulk which will realise some savings.
11. The signs will either be for new schemes or replacements for existing ones. It is felt that a faded sign indicates that the scheme is no longer in operation and that was the main reason that this Committee replaced a number of signs a few years ago.
12. Each sign costs £9.12 and the Committee is requested to allocate £200 from its revenue budget.
13. Updates on new schemes will be provided to councillors on a six monthly basis.

The Copse adjacent to 21 Barbe Baker Avenue, West End and Hatch Farm

14. The Council owns the Copse at the above address and is therefore responsible for its maintenance. Over a number of years, the residents of 21 Barbe Baker Avenue have been concerned about the proximity of the trees to their property. Some tree works have been carried out in the past by the Council.
15. A site visit was held last year to discuss these trees and the options regarding the Copse. Some of the options involve selling the land to the resident in part or whole or retaining the land and carrying out some tree works. These discussions have not been concluded with the resident and whatever option is chosen, the trees adjacent to the property will need to be removed to provide a three metre clearance. The proposal is then to replace these with whip plants as these are more appropriate for this area.

16. The Committee is therefore requested to allocate £1,066 from its revenue budget towards tree works as advised by the Head of Direct Services.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

17. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are an improvement on the current speed limit reminders. The graphics are better with either a “red angry” face or “green smiley” face being shown dependant on whether the driver is exceeding or below/at the current speed limit for that road. SIDs remind drivers of the speed limit by standing out from normal signs. The aim is to help break the habit of drivers who speed excessively.
18. The SIDs also provide very useful data i.e., average speed, number of vehicles and maximum speed reached within the period of deployment. This data is then analysed by the Council’s Local Engagement Officers to determine whether there is a speeding problem on any particular road, as often speed is perceived rather than actual.
19. Each Local Area Committee (LAC) is now being offered the opportunity to purchase a SID for its own exclusive use.
20. Currently 2 SIDs have been purchased by the Council. Each device costs £3,150. If the 5 Local Area Committees contribute to the purchase of 3 SIDs, the cost will be £1,890 each.
21. It is recommended that the purchase of a SID is funded from the Committee’s revenue budget.
22. Initial reaction from the other Local Area Committees to the purchase of the SIDs has been favourable except for one LAC. If this remains the case, the funding will have to be reviewed with the Committees’ Chairs.

Financial Implications

23. All the identified projects can be afforded from the Committee’s current capital and revenue budgets.

Risk Assessment

24. Several of the projects address reputational and health and safety issues and therefore funding has been and is imperative. The Neighbourhood Watch and improved speed reminder signage will help towards current anti - social behaviour issues in the local area.

Equality and Diversity Implications

25. The Equality Act is not relevant for the majority of decisions in this report because many of the recommendations are for the Committee to note decisions already taken or they are a response to an outside body’s request for funding and it is therefore their duty to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). The design of the play area does conform to national

standards and accessibility requirements. It will be subject to external assessment before it can be used.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

26. None of the recommendations should lead to adverse climate change or environmental implications.
27. The replanting of tree species which are more suited to the Copse in West End should negate any future removal of trees from this area.
28. The installation of a play area at Hatch Farm and upgrade of the cricket nets will mean that local residents can walk to this type of facility rather than having to drive.
29. The timely maintenance of the bridge will mean that this route remains accessible to walkers and cyclists.
30. Improved speed limit reminders will hopefully reduce speeding traffic and change motorists' behaviour.

Conclusion

31. The recommended projects will provide future benefit to the local community and residents. Those that have already been approved were urgent for reputational and health and safety reasons.

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Appendices Attached: None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.