

# **BURSLEDON, HAMBLE-LE-RICE AND HOUND LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

## **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND REVENUE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Local Area Manager**

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#### **Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that :

- (1) £20000 is allocated towards the Bursledon, Hamble-Le-Rice and Hound (BHH) History and Wayfinding Trail project, funded from Developers Contributions**
  - (2) £6409 is allocated towards the moving of the Bofors Gun, funded from Revenue Reserves**
  - (3) £12500 is allocated as a yearly grant to Pilands Wood Community Association, funded from Revenue accounts for the years 20/21 and 21/22 and retrospectively for the years 17/18, 18/19 and 19/20.**
  - (4) £680 is allocated for two new dual waste bins at Victoria Road Netley and Bursledon Station, funded from Capital accounts**
  - (5) £1890 is allocated for the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device for BHH, funded from Developers Contributions**
  - (6) £5000 is allocated for the Beach Lane traffic regulation order, funded from Developers Contributions.**
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#### **Summary**

This report details a number of projects and schemes to improve the prosperity, environment and wellbeing of residents in the Bursledon, Hamble-Le-Rice and Hound Area. The Local Area Committee's support is sought to enable their implementation.

#### **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.  
S.106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

## **Strategic Implications**

1. The works outlined below contribute to the following strategic priorities:
  - Local First: where possible taking decisions at a local level about things which affect people's lives, and using contributions from local developments for local projects
  - Excellent Environment for all: creating a sense of place through improved pathways, additional bins and air quality
  - Enabling health and wellbeing and tackling deprivation; improving community infrastructure and places where different people can meet and receive support and services

## **BHH History and Wayfinding Trail project**

2. Eastleigh Borough Council have received initial notice of a successful grant of £65000 towards a total project cost of £85000 from the South Western Railways (SWR) Customer and Communities improvement fund. This is for the BHH History and Heritage Wayfinding Trail.
3. This project seeks to provide a public art wayfinding trail to improve passenger access to local BHH railway stations and tourist attractions within the vicinity of stations in the Bursledon, Hamble and Hound Area including Royal Victoria Country Park and the SWR Station Ambassador for the Area.
4. The project will help residents and visitors find their way around the local area by providing creatively designed signage and way markers which will be integrated into the environment through a variety of art forms including sculpture, textures, craft works (such as street furniture) and environmental art. This will give an opportunity to express what is special and unique about the local area, environment and history.
5. A wide number of people will benefit from the project including local residents, existing and potential visitors and rail passengers passing through the local stations.
6. The project will include community engagement and consultation and will need to be viewed holistically with other aspirations and projects for the BHH Area.
7. The conditions of the grant require that the difference between the grant and the total project cost of £20000 is provided by BHH. It is recommended that this sum is allocated to this project from Developers' Contributions (DC) for public art, as identified in the table below:

DC Reference	Details	Amount required
DCO/14/74322	Foreman Homes – Land at Providence Hill Bursledon	£20000

## **Moving of the Bofors Gun**

8. In December 2019 the BHH LAC approved the sum of £5535 from revenue reserves to move the Hamble Gun to the EBC Depot at Dutton Lane for safe storage, pending a decision being made on the future of the concrete emplacement.
9. The background to this decision is that the concrete World War II Bofors gun emplacement at Hamble Point has been badly damaged by the sea, to the extent that BHH had to take urgent action at the end of 2017 to fence it off to protect the public.
10. Since 2017, erosion by the sea has continued and there is a risk that the emplacement will collapse, destroying the gun.
11. The coastline in the area of Hamble Point has been designated by the Environment Agency (EA) as requiring “no active intervention” (no planned investment in defending against erosion - from the National Coastal Erosion Risk Map). In the medium term (to the year 2060) the EA estimate that the shoreline is likely to retreat 10m – well beyond the emplacement.
12. The emplacement forms part of a scheduled monument. This means that any works on the emplacement must be approved by Historic England (HE).
13. It is felt that the Bofors gun is the most identifiable element of the emplacement. Given the cost of repairing the concrete emplacement and the likely retreat of the coastline, repair is unlikely in the short term. For this reason, it was proposed in December 2019 that the gun be removed to a place of safety (Eastleigh Borough Council’s depot), whilst a longer-term plan for the emplacement is considered. To this end an application to HE to move the gun was made and they approved it, provided that a number of stringent conditions were met.
14. From December 2019 until July 2020 the Method Statements were produced and refined to meet the requirements of Historic England. In June 2020 the Method statement to move the gun was approved by HE and in July 2020 the Method Statement for storage was also approved.
15. Since the Method statement for moving the gun has been approved by Historic England, the emplacement has listed to one side. A further structural survey is required because of this and we will need to approach Historic England again to establish whether our original Method Statement will need to be amended or a new Method Statement is required.

16. The original quote to move the gun in December 2019 was £5535. However, no contingency was included in this sum and it does not include costs for Direct Services time, labour or storage.
17. A new quote for moving the gun has been obtained from Direct Services in August 2020 and a full breakdown of the total of £11944 is included in Appendix 1 of this paper.
18. The sum requested today is £6409. This is the total of the cost of the works of £11944 less the originally approved £5535.
19. If Councillors approve the use of the additional funds of £6409 from revenue reserves to enable the gun to be moved, officers will ensure that they work with HE to meet their conditions and move the gun as soon as possible.

### **Pilands Wood Community Association**

20. For several years this committee has provided funding for this Association which provides community services and runs the Community Centre in one of the most deprived parts of the Borough. The £12500 contribution has been used to employ a Centre Co-ordinator and contribute to other staffing costs for cleaning and caretaking. The funding for Pilands Wood is a key way for the Council to help to reduce socio-economic deprivation.
21. The value to this committee of providing this financial contribution lies in the support given by the Centre to the local community, where there is significant need for its services. The Centre represents a safe-haven, somewhere to go and be welcomed and it encourages those living locally to gain new skills, socialise with others, gain confidence and skills to seek employment, develop social and interactive skills and pursue hobbies and other interests.
22. The Centre also hosts a range of services including: access and training on computers to help people access work or for older people who are less confident with technology, pre-school provision, a café for socialising, various community groups, a book exchange, a job club linked with Hound Food Bank, adult learning opportunities, a variety of gentle exercise classes and activities for older people, opportunities for people to socialise and feel part of the local community, Pilands in bloom projects, summer and Christmas events, community bingo, advice giving, sign posting and advocacy, referrals to Hound Food Bank, attend the Slimming World club and use the much used Charity shop. In 2020 many activities had to be put on hold due to the Covid19 lockdown. However, the Centre is now open again and all of the above services are either back in place or due to be restored to normal service in the near future.
23. This year the Centre have plans to add a support group for people suffering from Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a common problem in the locality, a Smoke free Hampshire support group for those who want to give up smoking and another fitness class.

24. The staff and volunteers at the Pilands Wood Community Centre ensure that there is good communication and cohesion between the community and the range of agencies that provide services, in particular, the four housing associations with properties at Pilands Wood, the Police and the Council. Communication between council officers and the Association means that the estate is kept in good condition. Communication with the local Police team has helped keep antisocial behaviour and crime to low levels.
25. Centre income is generated from hall and room hire, and from the charity shop.
26. The demand and funding pressure on key services over recent years including Children's Centres, Children's Services, Youth services, Adult Social Care, the National Health Service and welfare reform plus the ongoing anticipated pressure in the next few years as a result of the economic impact of the Covid19 pandemic, means that there is a high level of need for a local coordinating agency in this community.
27. The Centre would like to be self-financing within four years although this does depend on many factors including the demands for use of the Centre, wider economic issues, the availability of funding and the demand for services and potential further impacts of the Covid19 pandemic. Plans are in place to improve the Centre's financial position by adding a larger café facility, expanding the pre-school and expanding the charity shop. The Centre also intends to fully explore grant funding opportunities.
28. It is recommended that the previous budget of £12,500 per year be continued for 2020/21 and 2020/22 with annual reports provided by the Association. It is further recommended that retrospective agreement is made for £12,500 per annum for the years 17/18, 18/19 and 19/20.

## **Bins**

29. The following bins are due to be replaced with the new dual bins at a total cost of £680 (£340 each).
  - On Victoria Road Netley near the intersection with Sedgemoor
  - At Bursledon Station

## **Purchase of Speed Indicator Device for BHH**

30. Each Local Area Committee (LAC) is being offered the opportunity to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for their own exclusive use.
31. SIDs are a variation of standard vehicle activated signs which can be moved around easily. They flash the speed that the driver is travelling at accompanied by a green smiley face or red angry face dependant on whether the driver is exceeding or below/at the current speed limit for that road. They also provide very useful data ie, average speed, number of vehicles and maximum speed reached within the period of deployment. This shows

whether or not there is actually a speeding problem on any particular road, as often speed is perceived rather than actual.

32. In an area where speeding can be a problem, SIDs remind drivers of the speed limit by standing out from normal signs. Their use can help to break the habit of drivers who consistently use excessive speed.
33. The cost of the device is £1890. There may be a discount of £150 if each LAC opts to purchase a new device.
34. In order to fund the purchase of the SID it is recommended that the following Developer's Contribution is allocated for this purpose.

DC Reference	Details	Amount required
TRF/13/73744	E Bridges, Astons, 131a Satchell Lane, Hamble	£1890

### **Beach Lane traffic regulation order**

35. The proposal at Beach Lane is to review the marked waiting restrictions, which do not currently comply with the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). It is proposed to remove the double yellow lines opposite the gate about halfway down the lane, and to progress a TRO to introduce "No waiting at any time" restrictions on the north side at the junction with Victoria Rd and at the turning head, and time-limited parking places on the north side (marked as parallel spaces on the easternmost end, and echelon where the road widens out towards the shore).
36. The following Developer Contribution has been identified to fund the Beach Lane traffic regulation order.

DC Reference	Details	Amount required
TRF/17/80123	Goodwill Homes Ltd, 100 Station Road, Netley Abbey	£5000

### **Financial Implications**

37. There are no financial implications apart from the commitments set out for each project. All expenditure can be contained within existing allocated developer's contributions, capital accounts and revenue reserves.

## **Risk Assessment**

38. The risk of not approving the BHH History and Wayfinding Trail project is that this would be detrimental to the community of BHH as they would miss out on an opportunity for a wider investment via a £65000 grant and the resulting arts and heritage project which will enhance community and visitor enjoyment of an improved environment and help foster community identity.
39. There is a risk that moving the Bofors gun may not be successful due to the complexity of the operation to move it. However, these risks have been mitigated by the detailed planning undertaken with Historic England and we have the agreed Method Statements for moving the gun and storing it to follow, so difficulties have already been anticipated and planned for, giving every opportunity for a successful operation.
40. The risk of not supporting the removal of the Hamble gun is that it could cause considerable public upset if the emplacement collapses and the gun is damaged or destroyed.
41. The risk of not approving the yearly grant to Pilands Wood would be the significant impact on the finances of the centre so that it may not be able to deliver valuable service to the local community.
42. The risk of not purchasing the Speed Indicator Device is that an opportunity will be missed for BHH to have a device for exclusive use enabling the Committee to intervene where speeding is observed and reported.
43. The risk of not moving forward with the Beach Lane traffic regulation order is that there will be continuing challenges with the issues raised, causing distress and inconvenience to local residents and road users. The opportunity to improve traffic movement and parking in Beach Lane would be lost.
44. Otherwise there are no identifiable risks attached to these proposals which should be brought to the attention of the Local Area Committee and Council.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

45. The Equality Act is relevant to the decisions in this report because as the decisions relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people.
46. A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out, because while there are some equalities impacts, it is not proportionate to carry out a full EIA.

## **47. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

None of the proposals within this report will lead to increases in Greenhouse Gas/CO2, or damage ecology or the environment.

The proposal to support the History and Wayfinding Trail will encourage residents to change their behaviours to walk around and enjoy the local community and this will potential benefit overall health and wellbeing.

## **Conclusion**

48. These recommendations are now submitted for Councillors' final approval from the Local Area Committee's revenue budget, revenue reserves and available developer contributions for the above projects. As further schemes are worked up, they will be brought before the Area Committee over the course of the coming months. Councillors are invited to indicate any schemes which they feel should be publicised in Borough News and local communications with residents and partners.

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LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: 1

### **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.

Eastleigh Borough Corporate Plan 2015-25

Bursledon Hamble Hound Local Area Action Plan 2020/21