

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 January 2021

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee approves

- (1) three community grants to local organisations as stated totalling £1,500;
- (2) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £25,809 for the upgrades at West End Parish Centre;
- (3) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £25,000 for the automation of the village clock and upgrades to the clock tower in Botley;
- (4) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £22,320 for upgrades to the Drummond Centre in Hedge End;
- (5) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £13,132 for toilet upgrades at either the Old School House or the Town Centre in Hedge End;
- (6) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £20,673 for upgrades to the play area at Moorgreen Recreation Ground;
- (7) the allocation of the developer's contribution of £41,125 for upgrades to the play area at Botley Recreation Ground;
- (8) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £33,544 for upgrades to the outdoor recreation facilities at Turnpike Way Recreation Ground;
- (9) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £47,242 for the public art project at Hatch Farm;
- (10) the allocation of the developers' contributions of £10,554 for upgrades to the pathways at Pudbrook open space in Botley;
- (11) the allocation and receipt of funding from the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware Solent) of £132,300 for the upgrade of existing paths at Itchen Valley Country Park subject to final confirmation;
- (12) notes the expenditure of £1,920 for 6 litter bins from this Committee's revenue budget;
- (13) the expenditure of £2,390 for a speed indicator device from this Committee's

reserves; and

- (14) the expenditure of up to £1,300 per year for the relocation of the speed indicator device from this Committee's revenue budget.

Summary

This report highlights projects which have been previously identified in this Committee's Community Investment Programme or form part of the Committee's annual community grants process. The Clerks of Hedge End Town Council and the Parish Councils at Botley and West End have also been consulted to ensure that all of the projects reflect current local need.

External funding from Bird Aware Solent is also detailed within the report and is to be considered by the Committee with reference to the upgrading of pathways at Itchen Valley Country Park.

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. This report's recommendations realise many of the Council's objectives and the corporate aim of "Supporting Communities and Improving Lives." The community grants enable people to have healthier lifestyles; the upgrading of local facilities such as community centres and play areas will mean that activities can take place which will also enhance residents' health and well-being not just from a physical point of view but also socially. The Pudbrook and Itchen Valley Country Park projects along with the provision of litter bins will enhance the environment in line with the objective of an Excellent Environment for All. Finally, the principles of Local First are enhanced as all of the projects are needed locally.

Community Grants

2. The Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Community Grants application process has been slightly different this year as it has involved online applications only. Also due to Covid, many community groups have been unable to meet or have sadly disbanded. Consequently this year's applications were reduced from 21 to 12 compared to the previous year.
3. The HEWEB Community Grants Panel comprising Councillors Garton, Gomer, Jurd and Trace reviewed these applications against agreed criteria. However for the majority of the applications, the Panel was unsure as to

whether the activities would be taking place due to Covid restrictions. This mainly related to activities at Wildern School and the Botley Floral Club. The Assistant Local Area Manager was asked to contact these organisations to gain further information for the Panel.

4. The Committee was keen not to delay funding for outdoor activities and approved the award of £500 each to the West End Garden and Allotment Association for upgrades to their huts and the purchase of replacement scales and to the QE2 Activity Centre as a contribution towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible motorboat for use on the River Hamble. £500 was also awarded to Wildern Leisure Centre for top up swimming lessons for primary school pupils who need extra support to achieve the Key Stage 2 requirement of being able to swim 25 metres. These lessons will go ahead once the current restrictions are lifted.
5. Given the reduced number of applications, the Panel agreed that one off “bounce back” grants would be made available to help local groups get back on their feet. These would be advertised via the Council’s website, the Town and Parish Clerks and contact would be made with previous applicants. The closing date is 25 January 2021 and a further update will be brought to the March Committee.

Community Infrastructure Projects

6. In discussion with the Parish Clerk at West End, the most urgent community infrastructure project concerns the Parish Centre, currently registered as WE.1 in this Committee’s Community Investment Programme (CIP) 2019 - 2024 and is recorded as a high priority. Upgrades to the roof, fire doors and car park are required and therefore it is proposed that the following developers’ contributions are allocated to provide this grant funding to the Parish Council: -

DCF/14/74943/Dog Kennel Farm and Land adj Telegraph Road, West End Receipt date:12/06/2018	£19,613
DCF/14/74943/Dog Kennel Farm and Land adj Telegraph Road, West End Receipt date:15/01/2019	£2,304
F/14/74943MSP Dog Kennel Farm & Land adj Telegraph Hill, West End Receipt Date:11/03/2020	£3,892

7. In Botley, the Parish Council has had a long-term aspiration of automating the operation of the village clock and upgrading the clock tower. These are both in the ownership of the Parish Council with the remainder of the Market Hall building being run by a charitable association. This project is registered as B.1 in this Committee’s CIP and is a high priority.

8. The Parish Clerk has received some quotes for these works and in addition planning consent may be needed so it is recommended that the following contributions amounting to £25,000 are allocated to provide this grant funding for the Parish Council as follows:

DCC/13/72630 Mr A Jennings, Botleigh Institute Building, Church Lane, Botley Receipt Date:01/08/2013	£3,188
DCC/14/74099 First Wessex, land adj 65 High Street, Botley Receipt Date:26/06/2014	£1,865
DCC/15/76808 J A Appleby, Millstream House, Donkey Lane, Botley Receipt Date:22/12/2015	£1,384
DCC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:27/05/2016	£5,385
DCC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:30/09/2016 PART	£1,988
DCF/04/52650 Roxan Construction Re: Josephines, Grange Road, Hedge End Receipt Date:25/02/2005	£1,074
DCF/12/71186 Burton Property Ltd, Thaxted, Winchester Road, Botley Receipt Date:08/10/2013	£3,201
DCF/13/72542 Mr M Mead, Brooklands, High Street, Botley Receipt Date:30/07/2013	£2,794
DCF/14/74088 First Wessex. Garage Court r/o 2-12 & 4 Mortimer Road, Botley Receipt Date:24/04/2014	£4,121

9. Improvements to the Town Council's Drummond Centre in Hedge End have been a longstanding priority for the Committee especially with reference to the flooring and windows. These projects are included under HE.4 in the Committee's CIP priorities. A developer's contribution of £2,148 for the flooring has been previously allocated and it is proposed that the following developers' contribution is used as grant funding towards these projects:

DCF/12/71663/ Town Quay Developments, Wildern Mill, Charles Watts Way, Hedge End. Receipt date: 26/04/2014	£22,320
--	---------

10. There are two toilet projects within the Town Centre and the Old School House in Hedge End, HE.21 and HE.6 on the Committee's CIP list, which deserve equal consideration. The Town Clerk has received quotations for both projects and will be seeking guidance from the Town Council as to which project should be prioritised. It is therefore proposed that the Committee's remaining community infrastructure developer's contribution of £13,132 is allocated for either project at the Town Council's discretion: -

DCV/11/68617/ Foreman Homes, Kings Copse School, Hedge End. Receipt date:31/05/2013	£13,132
---	---------

Play Areas

11. A survey of play areas within Hedge End, West End and Botley is about to commence as many existing play areas will require replacement within the next few years. There are limited developers' contributions available now and so different forms of funding will have to be found. In the meantime, in conversation with the Clerks, it is recommended that the following developers' contributions are allocated to the upgrade of the play areas at Moorgreen Recreation Ground, Botley Recreation Ground and Turnpike Way. (All of these play areas are included in the Committee's CIP priorities). Also regarding Turnpike Way, part of this funding could be used for outdoor recreation.

MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND	
OSF/08/63467Autovue, 86 Chalk Hill, West End Receipt Date:29/01/2016	£7,443
OSF/14/74943Dog Kennel Farm & Land adj Telegraph Road, West End Receipt Date:12/06/2018	£10,500
OSF/14/74943MSP Dog Kennel Farm & Land adj Telegraph Hill, West End Receipt Date:15/01/2019	£591
F/14/74943MSP Capital, Dog Kennel Farm & Land adj Telegraph Hill, West End Receipt Date:11/03/2020	£2,139

BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND	
OSC/13/72630 Mr A Jennings, Botleigh Institute Building, Church Lane, Botley Receipt Date:01/08/2013	£1,708
OSC/14/74099 First Wessex, land adj 65 High Street, Botley Receipt Date:26/06/2014	£980
OSC/15/76808 J A Appleby, Millstream House, Donkey Lane, Botley Receipt Date:22/12/2015	£760
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, 21 Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:03/02/2017	£7,988
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, 21 Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:05/06/2017	£7,953
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:27/05/2016	£8,143
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:30/09/2016	£8,080
OSF/12/71186 Burton Property Ltd, Thaxted, Winchester Road, Botley Receipt Date:08/10/2013	£1,714

OSF/13/72542 Mr M Mead, Brooklands, High Street, Botley Receipt Date:30/07/2013	£1,535
OSF/14/74088 First Wessex. Garage Court r/o 2-12 & 4 Mortimer Road, Botley Receipt Date:24/04/2014	£2,264

TURNPIKE WAY	
OSF/15/76447 Kingsgate, Home Farm, St. John's Road, Hedge End, Receipt date: 11/01/2019	£3,166
OSF/15/76447 Kingsgate, Home Farm, St. John's Road, Hedge End, Receipt date: 24/08/2018	£6,351
OSF/15/76447 Kingsgate, Home Farm, St. John's Road, Hedge End, Receipt date:25/03/2019	£3,229
F/17/80651 Waylands Place/Peewit Hill Close, Hedge End (St. John's Phase 2)	£20,798

Public Art at Hatch Farm

12. The Council's Public Art Officer has drafted a Project Initiation Document for the Hatch Farm public art project. The Hatch Farm Working Group considered this document at its meeting on 16 December 2020. The Group welcomed the ideas that were suggested and approved the Document in principle. The developers' contributions from the Hatch Farm development amount to £41,040 and the Group asked the Local Area Manager to review any other unallocated contributions to determine whether these could be used for this project. As a result, it is recommended that the following contributions are formally allocated to this project totalling £47,242: -

DCF/15/77718 Radian, Land at Hatch Farm, West End, Receipt date: 17/04/2019	£10,299
DCF/15/77718 Radian, Land at Hatch Farm, West End, Receipt date:08/08/2018	£20,603
DCF/15/77718 Radian, Land at Hatch Farm, West End, Receipt date:27/09/17	£10,138
DCF/16/98228 John Lewis re: Hamilton House, Mansbridge Road, West End, Receipt date: 25/08/2017	£6,202

Pudbrook

13. Owned by Botley Parish Council, Pudbrook is a well-used public open space adjacent to one of the tributaries of the River Hamble in Botley. It includes woods, meadows, a tidal stream and areas of geological and wildlife interest.
14. The pathways running through the site especially from Cheping Gardens to Lovers Lane are being eroded and therefore it is proposed that the following developers' contributions totalling £10,554.91 are allocated as grant funding towards upgrading these pathways as follows:

OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, 21 Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:03/02/2017	£2,621
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, 21 Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:05/06/2017	£2,610
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:27/05/2016	£2,672
OSC/15/77172 Ibex Land & Property, re Winchester Street, Botley Receipt Date:30/09/2016	£2,651

Itchen Valley Country Park – Footpath improvements

15. The Solent is a Special Protection Area (SPA) to safeguard up to 125,000 wintering birds, who fly to the Solent from as far as the Arctic. With more people using the coast for recreational purposes due to increases in residential development, these birds will be potentially disturbed when they need to be able to feed and rest in order to survive the Winter and to be able to fly back to their Summer breeding habitats.
16. Developers' contributions are allocated to support the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, co-ordinates this funding, using the brand name for this project of Bird Aware Solent. The Partnership is made up of local councils including Eastleigh, Natural England and conservation organisations. Partners can apply for funding if they can demonstrate that their projects mitigate the effects of these increased recreational pressures on the SPA arising from new developments in the Solent.
17. The proposed project at Itchen Valley Country Park (IVCP) is to upgrade just over two kilometres of existing paths. These are unusable in the wetter months. The aim is to upgrade the paths so that visitors can walk all year round at the Country Park, thereby reducing the number of people and dogs

using the coast during the Winter especially when the birds are at their most vulnerable.

18. This proposal will result in approximately 4.5 kilometres of all year-round walking routes. There is no conflict with the masterplan work that is currently being undertaken for IVCP.
19. Bird Aware Solent has informed the Council that it has been successful in applying for funding and an award of £132,300 has been made subject to final ratification at the Partnership's Board meeting in January.
20. The funding must be spent on this project during the next financial year, i.e., April 2021 – March 2022. The Country Parks Manager has confirmed that this is achievable.
21. Councillors should also be aware that there is a previously allocated developer's contribution of £13,664 which can be added to this project as it involves part of the route to be upgraded.
22. The Committee is therefore requested to approve the allocation and receipt of this funding subject to final confirmation from the Partnership and agreement on final terms and conditions.

Litter Bins

23. The Committee is requested to note the purchase of six litter bins totalling £1,920 for the Turnpike Way Recreation Ground/Wildern Nature Reserve and Mallett Close near to the train station footpath following requests from residents, the Town Council and voluntary groups.

Speed Indicator Device

24. Councillors will recall that this Committee approved expenditure of £1,890 last year towards the purchase of a speed indicator device (SID). At the time it was unclear whether the other Local Area Committees would approve funding which would have enabled the purchase of three SIDs to add to the two devices which were already owned by the Council.
25. It has now been confirmed that all of the Committees did contribute and consequently, there are five SIDs, one per area and the cost per area was reduced to £1,605, a saving of £285 for this Committee.
26. These devices provide improved data and have better graphics using the "green smiley" or "red angry" faces dependent on whether the speed limit is observed or not.
27. It is now proposed that another SID is purchased exclusively for the HEWEB area to provide greater coverage, consistency and reliability when compared with the old speed limit reminders This could potentially cover another 26 locations on a fortnightly basis per year. The cost is £50 per location resulting

in an annual cost of £1,300 which can be afforded within this Committee's revenue budget.

28. The one-off cost for the outright purchase of the SID is £2,675 minus the saving of £285 which equates to £2,390. This can be afforded from this Committee's reserves.

Financial Implications

29. All of the funding proposed within the recommendations is affordable mainly through the allocation of developers' contributions or from this Committee's revenue budgets and reserves. It is understood that the funding from Bird Aware Solent will be available in April 2021.

Risk Assessment

30. A significant number of these projects will be carried out by the Town and Parish Councils within HEWEB. Therefore there is no direct risk to the Borough Council if the projects exceed their budgets. If this funding is not allocated, the majority of these projects will not go ahead due to the financial circumstances of these councils as a result of Covid. Similarly the award of the community grants will assist these groups with their viability. The Hatch Farm Working Group will oversee the expenditure on the public art project along with the Council's Community Projects Board which will receive monthly highlight reports from the Project Manager. The Bird Aware funding is subject to final terms and conditions which must be accepted by the IVCP Programme Board. The Committee should be aware that the developer's contribution for part of the Turnpike Way outdoor facilities funding for £20,798 has yet to be received by the Council. This forward funding is at risk if the development does not proceed.

Equality and Diversity Implications

31. As previously stated, the majority of the funding is in the form of a grant to the Town and Parish Councils or external voluntary organisations. Therefore it is the responsibility of these organisations to ensure that any Equality and Diversity implications are assessed by themselves.
32. The Council's directly managed projects are the public art project at Hatch Farm and the pathways' upgrade at IVCP. The public art project is at the concept stage and is subject to the Council's internal project management processes which will address any equality and diversity implications once the projects are approved. The pathways' project focusses on accessibility for all and an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out by the Country Parks Manager once terms and conditions have been finalised with Bird Aware Solent.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

33. None of the recommendations should lead to an increase in Greenhouse Gas/CO2 or damage to ecology and the environment. In fact the reverse will

certainly be true as the projects at IVCP and Pudbrook are designed to protect the environment and ecology. They also involve changing people's patterns of behaviour.

34. The automation of the clock in Botley will reduce the number of maintenance visits and the upgrades to local facilities will reduce the need to travel further afield.
35. The provision of litter bins especially around the nature reserve in Hedge End, will assist with maintaining a clean environment.
36. Upgraded speed limit reminders across the HEWEB area will hopefully reduce speeding traffic and change motorists' behaviour.

Conclusion

37. The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations which relate to funding for local projects within the HEWEB area.

JULIA BIRT
LOCAL AREA MANAGER

Date: 02 January 2021
Contact Officer: Julia Birt
Tel No: 023 8068 8437
e-mail: julia.birt@eastleigh.gov.uk
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.

Hedge End, West End and Botley Community Investment Programme Priorities
2019-24