

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 13 June 2022

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) Allocate £2,130 towards the funding of Friday Night Football sessions at Botley Recreation Ground from this Committee's revenue budget;**
- (2) Allocate £2,000 towards the funding of Park Sport 2022 from this Committee's revenue budget;**
- (3) Approve the grant of £300 to Berrywood School from this Committee's revenue budget;**
- (4) Approve the allocation of £52,541 (not including indexation) of developer's contributions from Boorley Park to install a new play area at Chancellor Park, Boorley Park. Also, to ask Cabinet to support the forward funding of the play area, if required, as detailed in the report and in line with the Council's infrastructure first approach;**
- (5) Allocate the Developer's Contribution of £20,135 towards improvements to Moorgreen Meadows SSSI;**
- (6) Approve the expenditure of £2,000 towards five dual-waste bins at Boorley Park from this Committee's revenue budget;**
- (7) Note the expenditure of £780 from this Committee's revenue budget towards two dual-waste bins in Hedge End;**
- (8) Note the expenditure of £1,265 from this Committee's revenue budget towards highway infrastructure repairs;**
- (9) Note the expenditure of £531 from this Committee's revenue budget towards Hatch Farm play equipment repairs;**
- (10) Approve the expenditure of £5,500 from the Committee's revenue budget as a contribution towards the Young People's Wellbeing Service for 2022/23;**
- (11) Approve expenditure of £4,080 from the Committee's revenue budget for six flower towers to be located in Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB);
AND**

(12) Allocate the Developer's Contributions of £27,121 towards Eastleigh Town Centre public realm improvements.

Summary

This report has been compiled following discussion with local stakeholders, Councillors and specialist staff and it identifies projects that will meet local need. The recommendations are to be funded using a mixture of developer's contributions and this Committee's budget.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011

Strategic Implications

1. The identified projects will assist the Council in achieving its corporate aims. In particular, the Friday Night Football and Park Sport initiatives will help to Enable Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing as will the work of the Young People's Wellbeing Service.
2. The Boorley Park play area and the litter bins will support an Excellent Environment; and the Moorgreen Meadows improvements will support Developing Green Infrastructure.
3. The flowers towers and public realm improvements in Eastleigh Town Centre will contribute to Reinvigorating Town and Local Centres.
4. All of the projects are in line with Local First as they reflect local need.

Friday Night Football

5. The Committee has previously provided funding for the Friday Night Football sessions at Botley based on a service level agreement with Botley Parish Council and the Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing team.
6. These sessions are very popular with young people and the Committee is therefore requested to formally approve the annual allocation of £2,130 from its revenue budget.

Park Sport

7. A report providing details of the Council's Park Sport 2021 programme has been circulated to Councillors and this outlined how the programme of activities successfully took place last year, amidst continuing restrictions.

8. It is proposed that Park Sport 2022 will go ahead this Summer and consideration is currently being given to further improvements to the scheme to facilitate increased inclusivity. Details of the proposals will be shared with Councillors in due course.
9. The Committee is requested to approve the allocation of £2,000 from its revenue budget to provide continued support for the delivery of Park Sport 2022.

Community Grant Funding

10. The Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Community and Youth Grants application process for 2021-22 was concluded in March and awards presented to the qualifying applicants. A late grant application was received from Berrywood School for £300 towards equipment to facilitate activities in the new creative arts centre. The Community Grants Panel has considered the grant request and it is recommended that the grant of £300 be awarded.

Boorley Park

11. As mentioned above, the Boorley Park development continues to be built out and areas of public open space are being completed. A second LEAP (Locally Equipped Area for Play) play area is to be installed by Eastleigh Borough Council on the open space known as Chancellor Park. It is anticipated that this open space will be transferred to the Council later this year. At present, £19,851 is available for the installation of the play area and a further £52,541 is due from this development. This contribution is expected shortly. It is recommended that the contribution of £52,541 is formally allocated towards this project.
12. To avoid delays to the project, should the contribution not be received prior to the play area contract being awarded, it is recommended that the Committee seeks to forward fund the contribution to enable the play area to be installed. Any interest cost incurred before the developer contribution is received is underwritten by the LAC, however it is anticipated that these costs will be met by indexation on the developer's contribution which is forecast to comfortably exceed these costs. Should HEWEB LAC approve the recommendation, if required, a recommendation will be taken to the next Cabinet meeting asking Cabinet to underwrite the financial risks associated with forward funding. This is in line with the Council's forward funding policy to ensure an infrastructure first approach.

Moorgreen Meadows Visitor Mitigation and Enhancements

13. Managed by Eastleigh Borough Council, Moorgreen Meadows is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). It comprises a mix of unimproved wet meadows and woodland. A popular dog walker venue, the use by visitors is having a detrimental impact on the biodiversity habitats. In addition, the SSSI is vulnerable to habitat degradation through limited management and disrupted groundwater flow. It is therefore proposed that the following developer's

contributions totalling £20,135 are formally approved for improvements to the meadows to mitigate the impact of visitors, including a new footbridge, and enhance the biodiversity value of the site:

DCO/15/76418Foreman Homes, Land off Botley Road, West End Receipt Date:11/12/2020	£7,445
DCF/15/77247BDW re Moorgreen hospital, Botley Rd, West End Receipt Date:18/11/2016	£12,690

Litter Bins

14. As the Boorley Park housing development continues to be built out, there is a need to increase the number of street bins to manage litter. The Committee is requested to approve expenditure from the revenue budget for five dual purpose bins totalling £2,000. The views of residents will be sought to ensure the bins are installed in the most appropriate locations. As the site is currently unadopted, the Head of Neighbourhood Services will discuss these locations with the developers of Boorley Park. The responsibility for ensuring that the bins are emptied would also be with the developers currently.
15. Elsewhere in HEWEB, the Committee is requested to note the purchase of two litter bins totalling £780 from the revenue budget for Kings Copse Road and Wildern Lane footpath following requests from residents.

Highway Infrastructure

16. The Committee is requested to note the revenue expenditure of £500 towards the replacement of fencing along West End Road that was damaged during Storm Eunice; together with £765 towards the replacement of missing dragons teeth near Freegrounds Junior School in the interests of highway safety.

Hatch Farm Play Equipment

17. Due to recent vandalism, a piece of play equipment at Hatch Farm has had to be closed to the public while a repair is undertaken. The Committee is asked to note the expenditure of £531 from the revenue budget to carry out the repair.

Young People's Wellbeing Service

18. The Young People's Wellbeing Service (YPWS) incorporates the Teenage Drop-In Centre (TADIC) at Hedge End Medical Centre and Eastleigh Youth Counselling.

19. TADIC is a charity and it provides a confidential and accessible service for young people to empower them to make informed choices about their own mental, emotional and physical health.
20. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who oversee the service provided by a team of health specialists ranging from doctors, sexual health nurses and counsellors supported by an administration team.
21. The service has continued throughout 2021/22 and has involved telephone, online and face to face consultations. The majority of these consultations were about contraceptive advice.
22. A rolling 12-month service level agreement between this Committee on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council, Hedge End Town Council, Wildern School and the YPWS outlines the parameters of the service. This service is funded through the contributions from the two councils and Wildern School.
23. Hedge End Town Council's Clerk has confirmed that the Town Council will continue to support a further 12 month's funding (£5,500). This Committee is asked to note the match funding for this service for 2022-23 of £5,500, taken from the revenue budget.

Flower Towers

24. Traditionally, this Committee has funded the installation of flower towers in the three village/ shopping centres across HEWEB which have been consistently well received by residents and business owners. The Committee is therefore asked to note the revenue expenditure of £4,080 towards the installation and maintenance of six flower towers during the period of June to October.

Eastleigh Town Centre Environmental Improvements

25. During the consideration of the planning application for the construction of the retail unit occupied by Pets at Home in Hedge End Retail Park, a retail impact assessment was undertaken that identified a detrimental impact on Eastleigh Town Centre. When the planning application was approved in 2017, a financial contribution was secured specifically to deliver environmental improvements to the town centre to enhance the visitor experience. The Eastleigh Town Centre public realm improvements project is progressing, and it is therefore recommended that the following developer's contribution are approved for this project:

DCF/16/78310 Land at Hedge End Retail Park Receipt Date: 21/08/2017	£27,121
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Financial Implications

26. All of the recommendations can be funded through the stated developers' contributions and the Committee's revenue budget as outlined.

Risk Assessment

27. If these recommendations are not supported, the Committee's ability to respond to identified local need will be hampered. The lack of approved funding would impact the ability for the projects and/or services to continue. There is also a reputational risk to consider if the funding is not approved.
28. In relation to the request to forward fund the Boorley Park play area if required, while there is typically a potential financial risk to the Council with forward funding projects, given that the trigger for the payment of developer's contributions has already been met, the risk in this case is minimal.

Equality and Diversity Implications

29. The Equality Act is not directly relevant to the decision in this report because each project current project, such as Friday Night Football and Park Sport have bespoke assessments. The Young People's Wellbeing Service is accessible by all; and all of the Council's projects are scoped in line with the approved project management documentation and processes which includes assessments of the equality and diversity implications.
30. Therefore it is considered that for this decision the Equality Duty does not need to be addressed and an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

31. The proposed flower towers will be imported from the Netherlands as there are none that can be suitably sourced more locally. They will contribute negatively to climate change through their production, transport, weekly watering throughout the summer and their eventual disposal. Consideration is being given to more sustainable options in the future.
32. The provision of litter bins at Boorley Park and elsewhere in HEWEB will assist with maintaining a clean environment; and the improvements to Moorgreen Meadows SSSI provide opportunities to protect and enhance a habitat of biodiversity and environmental value.
33. The continued support for active lifestyles and play for young people may indirectly encourage a reduction in motorised vehicle use through providing activities within walking distance of people's homes and improving general fitness.

Conclusion

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

KITTY BUDDEN

LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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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.

Background Papers:

TADIC Hedge End Clinic Yearly Statistical Report – April 21-March 22;
Park Sport Report 2021, Eastleigh Borough Council