

BISHOPSTOKE, FAIR OAK & HORTON HEATH (BIFOHH) LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE (LAC)

Wednesday 23 November 2022

FINANCE MONITORING REPORT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendation

It is recommended that £10,000 is allocated from developer contributions to Bishopstoke Parish Council, to deliver feasibility studies for the provision of a boardwalk at Bishopstoke Cemetery, and to improve water supply for the allotments at Underwood Road.

Summary

This report contains a recommendation for expenditure from the Committee's developer contributions.

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

2. 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

Healthy Community: to enable healthier lifestyles and wellbeing

Bishopstoke Cemetery Extension

3. Bishopstoke Parish Council are hoping to create a scenic walk around the back of Bishopstoke Cemetery, which they own and manage, leading through to Stoke Common Cemetery. Included would be two or three wider platforms

for people to stand / sit and contemplate, as well as potentially scatter ashes. The anticipated construction would need to be wheelchair friendly.

4. The first requirement is to determine whether a suitable route can be found through the trees and whether the slope would be shallow enough for wheelchair use. Cost estimates at this time are unknown and vary significantly depending on the location of the boardwalk. Therefore, it has been proposed that funding for a feasibility study, including designs, specifications and quotes be sort.

Underwood Road Water Supply

5. The water supply at Underwood Road allotments, which is owned and managed by Bishopstoke Parish Council, is not meeting current needs. There is a single 25mm pipe feeding the site which then branches off to approximately 15 standpipes. The site is also sloped, meaning that if two of the standpipes are in use at the bottom of the site, the top of the site has no supply at all. As temperatures increase, access to water will become an ever more important feature of allotments. Therefore whilst all plot holders are encouraged to use water butts, an enhanced water supply will still be required.
6. Potential solutions include. - increasing the size of the entry pipe to the site, although this may still not be enough to keep 15 standpipes in use when needed. Introducing a second feed at the top of the site, thus reducing the number of taps each feed needs to supply and adding water pumps, possibly solar powered, where necessary across the site.
7. The first stage is to ascertain which solution or solutions would produce the best results and determine their cost and viability. Therefore, a request for funding to undertake a feasibility study is required to agree a way forward.
8. Councillors are therefore recommended to approve the below developer contributions to progress these two feasibility studies.

F/15/75500 Land West of Hammerley Farm, Horton Heath	10,000
TOTAL	£10,000

9. It is important to note that the Council has a role only in supporting the delivery of built infrastructure to help mitigate the impact of development. The provision of staff (GPs, nurses and other clinical and non-clinical staff) is a matter for the NHS, with revenue-based costs (i.e. staffing) funded through contractual and commissioning mechanisms, often on a per capita basis.

Financial Implications

10. The recommendations in this report can be contained within existing allocated and unallocated developer's contributions.

Risk Assessment

11. The recommendation in this report carries a low risk to the Council and its partners. As the proposal is for funding for feasibility studies, the proposals that come from the feasibility studies will contain more tangible risks which can be assessed.
12. Should Members not be minded to approve the feasibility studies, there is a risk that these much-needed community projects may either not happen, or mistakes will be made in the project briefs, which could lead to eventually lead to higher costs.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out, because each individual project will have due regard to equalities impacts. Therefore an impact assessment will be completed where it is proportionate to do so and prior to the delivery of the approved projects.
14. The need for the boardwalk to be fully compliant with wheelchair access and sympathetic to users, is a key element of the proposed feasibility report, ensuring it will be of the latest modern standards to enable all users to access boardwalk.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

15. The recommendation within this report will have a low impact in regard to climate change. The brief for both feasibility studies will be in line with the Council's climate emergency statement, ensuring at every opportunity, the greenest and most carbon efficient methods will be proposed.

Conclusion

16. Councillors are requested to agree expenditure from this Committee's available developer contributions.

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Appendices Attached: 0

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.