

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Julie Banks
Portfolio: Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership
Date of Background Report: **15 December 2019** (date of notification of Portfolio Holder Decision):

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £9000 to Great Gaddesden Cricket Club

In the Winter round 2019 a community grant application was made from Great Gaddesden Cricket Club which has received approval at the grants panel meeting on 17 December.

Their project is to replace the roof of the pavilion. The club's main pavilion building is old, with an original (heavy) slate roof. This is now leaking in several places and in medium-term danger of failing completely at one end. Dampness from the various leaks has caused internal ceiling panels to warp and the paint on them to flake. Short-term (immediate) action in the form of internal redecoration is required to comply with Dacorum Council's recent (August 2019) food hygiene inspection (cricket teas are served in this area to visiting teams during the summer season). The club will be undertaking this redecoration work itself in Spring 2020, when the winter weather is past. However, the underlying problem of the aging, leaking roof must be addressed to keep the pavilion clean, dry and safe and thus enable the club to continue. This will require completely replacing the roof with lighter, weathertight panels. The club is beginning various fund-raising activities now to raise the money required so that the work can be carried out following the 2020 cricket season (i.e. next FY). In this way the work to replace the roof can be in a planned, preventative way and properly scheduled before critical future problems arise from its increasingly poor condition

The club have provided quotes to support their application which show the roof-replacement work will cost c.£20,000. The club will commit some of existing resources and also fundraising. They will apply to external funders such as the London Luton Airport Ltd. Community Fund (Near Neighbours) in February 2020 which is when the next funding call takes place. They are currently in the process of trying to identify other funding organisations and bodies to approach. A grant from Dacorum Council is the first step in this process. It will provide a 'kick-start' for obtaining the overall funding required, enabling the project to take place within the scheduled time-frame and before the roof condition becomes critical.

It is recommended that funding is approved for release once the remaining funding has been raised to ensure that these funds are spent in line with the formal approval given by the grants panel.

Total project cost £20,000
Funding:
£9000 DBC grant
£2000 own resources

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£2000 fundraising
£7000 other funding applications

Background

Great Gaddesden Cricket club is a local cricket club that plays both league and friendly cricket matches in and around North Herts and South Beds. They run a Saturday and Sunday side and are open to players of all ages and backgrounds. They have had both male and female players in our teams and actively encourage as wide and diverse membership as possible. They are particularly keen to attract young players to keep the club vibrant and youthful. The club is situated at Briden's Camp, a small hamlet about 2 miles outside Hemel Hempstead

The club's facilities are also used by visiting teams and the wider local Dacorum community. For example, our main pavilion facilities are used by the local Riding for the Disabled Association (located adjacent to our pavilion) to host their own fund-raising and social events (every year); the local village schools host their summer Sports Day (approx. every 3 years). We also hosted our first Junior Cricket Match in 2019 in collaboration with other local cricket clubs.

There is a shortage of locally-available cricket facilities to enable participation in the sport at all ages, with many local and village clubs having closed over recent years and the remaining clubs struggling to find venues to host games - especially for Junior teams.

The club always works closely with the land owners (the Halsey Estate) and especially the adjacent Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) both in its day-to-day activities and also with any projects that it undertakes. Any regular ground maintenance work or specific projects carried out at the club clearly must not have any adverse impact on the RDA's ongoing activities for disabled children

The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who will be looking at how well it meets the criteria of the fund; whether the project supports the Council's objectives and how it supports the following five ways to well-being: be active, take notice, learn, give and connect.

Agree recommendation []
Request further information []

Financial Implications:

The money will be taken from the community grant budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Reports considered:

Great Gaddesden Cricket Club community grant application Winter round 2019 – reference ID - 1267

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Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the Corporate Grants Panel

Deputy Monitoring Comments:

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Further to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a local authority has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities.

Deputy Section 151 Officer:

The Community Grant award will be funded from the approved Community Grant budget for 2019/20. The Funds will be released once the remaining funding shortfall has been fulfilled.

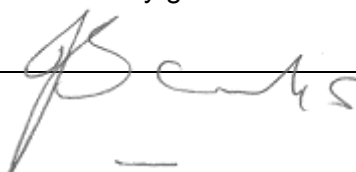
Implications:

Risk: there are no specific risks identified that relate to the allocation of funding as described in this report

Value for Money: the community grants criteria looks to gain additional value from supporting community projects with a small amount of resource which yields maximum community benefit. It therefore provides good value for money. Many of the projects and activities are also directed towards external funding sources.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant as detailed - This has been rejected because the application fulfils the Council's scoring criteria within the community grant scheme.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date: 28 April 2020

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:**For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 28/04/2020

Date Decision Published: 29/04/2020 Decision No: PH-006-20

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 07/05/2020

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: