

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Development Grants</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder – Councillor Trevor Egleton</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Claire Speirs – 01895 837306 – Claire.Speirs@SouthBucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All wards (based on users not location)</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a requests for a Community Development Grant for 2015-16 from the following organisations:

- Iver Heath Bowls Club
- The Friends of Holtspur Park
- The Curzon Centre
- Farnham Common Village Hall
- Denham Bowls Club

RECOMMENDATION

The Policy Advisory Group is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the grant requests outlined in this report and as to the level of funding that should be awarded.

2. Executive Summary

The Portfolio Holder has received the following applications:

Organisation	Details of Request	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sum Requested
Iver Heath Bowls Club	Replacement of existing boilers in the clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Healthy Lifestyles • Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population • Enhance and Protect the Local Environment 	£1,500
Friends of Holtspur Park	3D schematics and master landscape plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and Protect the Local Environment 	£400
Denham Bowls Club	Purchase of motorised sit on lawn bowls green roller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Healthy Lifestyles • Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population. 	£1,500
Curzon Centre	Upgrade of building to enable rooms to be soundproofed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce energy use and carbon emissions across the Districts, including promoting the use of alternative fuels and forms of transport, improving 	£3,000

		the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing consumption.	
Farnham Common Village Hall	Replace windows with double glazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Healthy Lifestyles • Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population • Tackle Climate Change 	£6,170

3. Reasons for Recommendations

Members are required to make decisions as to which applications to approve and which level of funding is agreed.

4. Content of Report

4.1 Community Development Grants

4.2 Iver Heath Bowls Club

Iver Heath Bowls Club has 95 members who regularly attend the club for matches or to socialise. The current heating system in the clubhouse is over 20 years old, the boilers are expensive to run and frequently break down. The clubhouse is used throughout the year by members and this is proving to be difficult with the existing heating system

4.3 A report into the performance of the existing boiler has been submitted with this application. The report was commissioned as the club had been experiencing high gas bills. In 2014, the club spent £1,165.84 on gas, the report states the boiler is at the end of its design life.

4.4 The cost to replace the boiler is £4,270, this includes the purchase of the boiler and all installation costs. Grants can be awarded under the Community Development Grant for 50% of the project costs up to £1,500; the maximum grant Iver Heath Bowls Club is eligible for is £1,500.

4.5 A condition of the application would be that where practicable, acknowledgment of South Bucks District Council's contribution should be acknowledged.

4.6 Friends of Holtspur Park

Holtspur Park is being transformed by a partnership between the Friends of Holtspur Park and Beaconsfield Town Council. A new outdoor gym was fitted last year and a new teenage fitness area has been installed in March 2015. The junior playground was officially opened on 20th June 2015.

4.7 The next stage of the transformation is to make the park accessible to people of all ages including those who simply want to relax and enjoy the environment and feel part of a community. It is intended to have a nature or garden type area where people can sit and relax. To do this the group need to produce 3D schematics and master plans of the proposed park.

4.8 The cost to produce the plans is £800, grants can be awarded under the Community Development Grant for 50% of the project costs up to £1,500; the total eligible to the applicant is £400.

- 4.9 A condition of the application would be that where practicable, acknowledgment of South Bucks District Council's contribution should be acknowledged.

4.10 Denham Bowls Club

Denham Bowls club has 65 members regularly playing bowls and has been running for 92 years. The green is maintained by a green keeper who is paid £6,000 per annum, however greens rolling is not part of his job description. Rolling is carried out by 2 volunteers who push a heavy metal roller across the green 1-2 times a week. The volunteers who carry out this work have an average age of 70 and some have health problems.

- 4.11 The club would like to purchase a sit on roller. This would eliminate the need for volunteers to use the heavy manual roller and will improve the greens enormously. The cost to purchase a new sit on roller is £8,100 including vat, a second hand roller (August 2012) can be purchased for £6,834 including vat.

- 4.12 Grants can be awarded for 50% of the project costs up to £1,500; the maximum grant payable to Denham Bowls Club is £1,500. The organisation plans to fundraise to make up remaining funds required for the project.

- 4.13 A condition of the application would be that where practicable, acknowledgment of South Bucks District Council's contribution should be acknowledged.

4.14 Village Hall Grants

4.15 The Curzon Centre

The Curzon Centre has 3 areas and a fully equipped kitchen available for the general public to use. The Watson room is an interior room and often cannot be used due to the noise from the Page Hall and Owen Room. The Curzon Centre would like to refurbish the area fitting acoustic doors, skylights, flooring, lights, ceiling tiles and replacing the folding partition with a proper sound proof wall.

- 4.16 There are currently 30 regular user groups at the centre. The centre provides various activities for all age. It is also the home of the Beaconsfield Young Theatre Group and the Beaconsfield Operatic Society.

- 4.17 The overall cost of the project is £70,500. An application to Veolia for £49,000 is pending decision. The building is owned by Bucks County Council, who is not contributing to this project. The Curzon Centre has applied for £3,000 towards the project. The Village Hall Grant Scheme has no upper limit but must fall within budget and can only fund 50% of the project costs.

- 4.18 A condition of the application would be Building regulations approval must be obtained prior to the commencement of building works should this be required. A plaque must be installed in a prominent position acknowledging the contribution of South Bucks District Council. South Bucks District Council must be acknowledged on any publicity material relating to the project.

4.19 Farnham Common Village Hall

Farnham Common Village Hall dates back more than 100 years; it is used for a wide range of activities from baby music to keep fit for the elderly. The hall is now experiencing difficulties in keeping the building warm. Their last quarterly heating bill was over £2,500.

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- 4.20 The village hall would like to replace the current windows with new double glazing to retain heat and reduce bills. The building is owned by a charitable trust therefore further permission for replacing the windows is not needed.
- 4.21 Two quotes have been sought for the replacement of windows. The lowest quote for is £12,340 including VAT. Grants can be awarded for 50% of the project costs; the maximum grant payable to the organisation is £6,170. Alternative sources of funding are being sought to make up remaining funds required for the project. The Village Hall Grant Scheme has no upper limit but must fall within budget and can only fund 50% of the project costs.
- 4.22 A condition of the application would be building regulations approval must be obtained prior to the commencement of building works should this be required. A plaque must be installed in a prominent position acknowledging the contribution of South Bucks District Council. South Bucks District Council must be acknowledged on any publicity material relating to the project.

5. Consultation

Not Applicable

6. Options

The total sum of funding requested in this report amounts to a maximum of £12,570. The balance of the capital grants budget is currently at £15,000 however only 65% of the overall budget can be spent in the first 6 months, which results in a maximum available for allocation of £9,750 at the current time.

Members are asked to consider the 5 applications and advise the Portfolio Holder on their recommendations.

7. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

7.1 Financial

- 7.1 The total available for allocation at this time is £9,750; this cannot be exceeded in the first 6 months of the financial year.
- 7.2 This group meeting is the last within the first 6 months, the remaining budget is now available for further applications

7.2 Legal

- 7.1 None.

7.3 *And where appropriate; Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability*

- 7.1 None.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Sustainable Community Strategy Links

- Encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyles. Anticipating and meeting the needs of an ageing population.
- Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing.
- Enabling vibrant local communities where all citizens participate in decisions and are involved in the planning and delivery of responsive services.
- Increasing the feeling of belonging to the community

9. Next Step

Upon approval from Cabinet successful applicants are required to submit receipts within 12 months for payment. Evidence of other conditions attached to the grant is also required. Payment is made to the applicant for 50% of the project cost up to their grant amount

Background Papers:	Grant applications.
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