

APPENDIX E

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 20TH MAY 2008

Title:

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUND

- 1. EWHURST PAVILION PROJECT**
- 2. VILLAGE & COMMUNITY HALLS ADVICE SERVICE**
- 3. FARNHAM CASTLE KEEP**

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider whether the remaining balance of £24,400 of the Community Partnership Fund be used to:

- 1) consider a request from Ewhurst Parish Council for a grant towards its pavilion project from the Community Partnerships Fund;
- 2) consider a request from Surrey Community Action for a grant to continue funding the Village & Community Halls Adviser post in 2008/09;
- 3) consider a request from Farnham Castle for a grant towards its project to repair the castle Keep.

Environmental Implications

Ewhurst Pavilion Project

This project involves demolishing the wooden sports pavilion at Ewhurst Recreation Ground and building a new 2 storey pavilion which will be used by Ewhurst Football Club and the wider community so there will be a visible environmental change. The project will provide a new space for the community to use, therefore there will be a positive impact on the overall environment.

Village and Community Halls Advice Service

There are no environmental implications to the Village & Community Halls Advice Service.

Farnham Castle Keep

This project is to repair and renovate the Keep at Farnham Castle and to ensure it complies with health and safety regulations thereby extending the life of this historical building.

Social/Community Implications

Ewhurst Pavilion Project

The project to build a new pavilion will benefit Ewhurst Football Club and the wider community by providing improved changing facilities to meet the Football Association league criteria and Football Foundation guidelines, by helping the club achieve Clubmark status, and by providing a multi-purpose space for the wider community.

Village & Community Halls Advice Service

The Village and Community Halls Advice Service has a positive impact on the community, providing training, advice and support to village and community hall trustees in Waverley.

Farnham Castle Keep

The Keep is an important visitor attraction in the borough and is of significant historical interest. The project will enable public access to the keep to be extended to 300 days per year, free of charge.

E-Government implications:

There are no e-government implications.

Resource and legal implications:

The 2007/08 Capital Programme included £300,000 for community partnership schemes. In July 2007 Members agreed to suspend the scheme asking officers to undertake a review of how the community/voluntary sector can best be supported for one-off project finance. This review is expected to be undertaken in the autumn 2008.

The 2007/08 funding stream drew to a close on 31 March 2008 and new applications have not been invited, however, a balance of £24,394 remains in unspent funds. If Members are minded to support the three outstanding applications for funding for £9,900, £2,000 and £12,500, it is proposed that any amount agreed is funded from the remaining balance of the 2007/08 Community Partnerships Fund.

Introduction and Background

Ewhurst Pavilion Project

1. Ewhurst Parish Council owns Ewhurst Recreation Ground and the buildings on the site. The Parish Council have submitted an application for funding towards the construction of a 2-storey pavilion on the recreation ground to replace the original building which is a wooden hut built in the 1930's.
2. The priority user of the existing wooden hut is Ewhurst Football Club, however, the lack of appropriate facilities means it can be difficult to attract and retain players. The new pavilion will also support the delivery of the club's new

development plan. The new building will also have a multi-purpose room which will provide a venue for the football club, Ewhurst Youth Club and other community groups which will increase the capacity to generate revenue.

The Application

3. Ewhurst Parish Council has developed a business plan to upgrade the facilities at Ewhurst Recreation Ground. The current play and sports facilities will be maintained (ie MUGA, tennis courts, basketball court, play area), however, the Parish Council also plans to build a new mini soccer pitch, provide a new drainage system and build a new pavilion.
4. The Parish Council has applied to the Community Partnerships Fund for a contribution towards the new pavilion as there will be a shortfall in funding of £9,900 if all other grant applications are successful.
5. The primary user of the existing 1930's wooden hut is Ewhurst Football Club. The hut lacks appropriate facilities for the 21st Century and is in a poor state of repair. A survey, carried out in 2006, supported the view that the hut should be demolished, as it required significant repairs. The building also fell short of requirements in relation to access for the disabled.
6. To enable the Parish Council to run the new facilities effectively, it has established an independent body called EYSC Trust who will be solely responsible for the day to day running of the new pavilion. The Trust has been granted a 99 year lease by the Parish Council on a peppercorn rent and will work closely with the Parish Council to manage and operate the new facilities at the recreation ground.
7. The new facility will provide the football club with a high quality venue for training and competition which will enable them to attract and retain players. The aim is to become a Football Association Charter Standard club. The Parish Council has worked closely with the football club to produce a five year Football Development Plan, which has been endorsed by the Surrey Football Association.
8. The new pavilion will be compliant with Football Association league criteria and Football Foundation guidelines, complete with lift, home and away changing rooms, kitchen, viewing terrace and a multi-purpose community room. The building will have full disabled access and facilities.
9. The total cost to construct the new pavilion is £431,800. The Parish Council is in the process of submitting a number of grant applications with minimal funding secured at this stage although it is satisfied that it meets the criteria for all of the funding streams. An application will be submitted to the Football Foundation for £225,000, the major funder of the project. Although the application has not yet been submitted the Football Foundation has offered the Parish Council advice throughout the project development and has indicated that it would probably support the project. The Parish Council will contribute £25,000 towards the project.

Total project costs	£431,800
Funding	
Secured	£34,000
Applied for / or to apply for	£387,900
Total if successful	£421,900
Shortfall in funding	£9,900

Village and Community Halls Advice Service

10. The Adviser, who is based at Surrey Community Action in Guildford, provides a Surrey-wide service for 9 Surrey authorities. The total cost of the service is £27,000 per annum with Surrey County Council contributing £9,000 and the other 9 participating authorities contributing £2,000 each. In recent years the Council has contributed to the cost of the service before the suspension of the Community Partnerships Fund.
11. The Adviser offers the following service tailored to the needs of hall management committees:
 - Training and briefing sessions for groups of village hall trustees
 - Resources, legislation updates and tailored information sheets
 - Advice and support, including site visits
 - Advice on providing accommodation for service providers such as Citizens Advice
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Access to the Action with Communities in Rural England Service
12. In addition, the Adviser manages the Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme which Waverley has previously participated in and has administered applications in accordance with the Community Partnerships Fund. A maximum of £40,000 was ring-fenced for village halls projects in the annual bidding round of the Community Partnerships Fund. Although the Council no longer has a budget for the Surrey Community Buildings Grant Scheme, the Adviser will still be offering the services listed above. Waverley village halls are the highest users of the service in Surrey.

Farnham Castle Keep

13. Farnham Castle was awarded a £1million Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant in 2005 towards Phase 1 of a project to repair and restore the castle. In January 2008 they submitted a further HLF application requesting a grant of £780,000 towards Phase 2 which is to repair the fabric of the Keep, to remedy a number of health & safety issues and install CCTV. The outcome of this application will be known by September 2008.
14. If the HLF application is successful Farnham Castle will need to raise £100,000 to meet the HLF's match-funding requirement. Farnham Castle has ring-fenced £30,000 towards the project and will approach Farnham Town Council for funding.

15. The Keep is currently open 80 days per year and adults are charged £2.90 entrance. On completion of Phase 2, Farnham Castle will take over responsibility for the Keep from English Heritage and will increase the number of open days to 300 per year and entrance will be free of charge.

Officer Evaluation

16. Officers have evaluated the application from Ewhurst Parish Council against the approved criteria and the scheme is eligible. The project will provide a pavilion and community facility for the 21st century and its long-term future will be secured through the management of the EYSC Trust and the Parish Council.
17. Surrey Community Action has been advised to apply for funding towards the Village Halls Adviser Post from the Sponsored Organisation Scheme in future years. The next bidding round will open in the autumn 2008 to fund organisations in 2009/10. In the meantime, in order to provide a service to the Waverley community Surrey Community Action have submitted a request for funding for 2008/09.
18. Officers have evaluated the request from Farnham Castle for a contribution towards the project to repair the Keep and the scheme is eligible. The project will secure the future of this historical building and increase public access significantly.
19. If the following recommendations are agreed the Community Partnerships Fund will be full spent.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. a grant of £9,900 be offered towards the Ewhurst pavilion project, to be funded from the balance of the Community Partnerships Fund, subject to the other identified sources of funding being successful;
2. the request for a £2,000 grant to Surrey Community Action for 2008/09 be agreed, to be met from the balance of the Community Partnerships Fund, and the organisation be advised that they should apply for consideration as a Sponsored Organisation in future years; and
3. a grant of £12,500 be offered towards the Farnham Castle Keep project, to be funded from the balance of the Community Partnerships Fund, dependent on the successful outcome of the HLF application.

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