

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

05 JUNE 2018

Title:

FUNDING REQUEST – ALFOLD FOOTBALL CLUB GROUND IMPROVEMENT

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ged Hall
[Wards Affected: Alfold]**

Summary and purpose:

This report proposes to allocate funding from Waverley's capital receipts towards a project to improve Alfold Football Club.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Customer Service – this project will actively engage our sporting customers and identify their future needs as clubs.

Community Well Being – supporting the health and well being of our residents by ensuring sporting opportunities exists for all.

Value for Money – the funding of this project seeks to use PIC funds allocated towards playing pitches, maximizing the use of Council funds.

Financial Implications:

The costs and funding of this project is set out in the report.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

Background

1. Alfold Football Club was formed in 1921. It originally played in the Rudgwick and District League, before joining the Cranleigh and District league and then the Surrey and Sussex leagues.
2. Over the years Alfold has played on five different pitches, before moving to its current location, the recreation Ground, Alfold. The current pitches are in outstanding condition. The local community maintains them free of charge, and the whole operation is a community effort. From cutting the grass, putting the nets out and providing for and refreshments on match days, all is willingly given by the community

3. The club has experienced success over the years, being the proud winners of the Surrey County Cup, The West Sussex Premier league and most recent the Chichester Charity Cup, all outstanding achievements for village club, it has huge ambitions to make this a community facility at the heart of the village. The recreation ground is without doubt a central feature for Alfold. Not only does it have two football pitches, it has a cricket and stool ball team, the recreation ground is used for the annual Alfold Village fete and the bonfire night. Events that bring a real sense of belonging and community spirit.
4. In 2016, in order to meet its ambition, Alfold Football Club obtained a grant through the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund. Supported by the Sports and Social Club it has achieved impressive improvements. Four brand new changing rooms have been constructed, referee's rooms, all with individual shower and toilet facilities. Along with these were brand new Ladies and Gents toilets and new state of the art disabled and baby changing facilities.
5. With an infrastructure solidly in place, the results of the football team have improved. In the 2015/16 season it became a landmark in its history, with the first team playing in the Macron Store Southern Combination Football League Division 2. The success has continued and there is a real possibility that the team could achieve promotion to Division 1, Step 6 football.
6. To achieve this, the club must fulfill the criteria for Step 6 football. This includes extensive ground improvements. It will require match day floodlights, a 50 seat stand and a hard standing and walkway for both players and spectators. To achieve this there has been on-going dialog with the Football Foundation. They have indicated that they will provide a grant of 70% of the costs. The only stipulation is that the club are in a promotion position by the 31st March 2018 (Alfold are currently 1st), and that the improvements are in place by the end of the 2018/19 season.
7. Quotes have been obtained for the floodlights and stand, and indicative costs for the pathway and some additional electrical work
8. Alfold Football Club and the Alfold Sports and Social Club have invested time and money into making this a real community asset. This is an incredible opportunity for a village team to play at such a high standard. To achieve this additional funding will be required. There is a real desire and determination to achieve these ambitions aims which will provide a lasting facility for future generations.

9. **Finance Implications**

Estimated Costs	2018/2019
Floodlights	£63,600
50 seat stand	£15,000
Pathway and electrical works	£ 8,500
Total	£87,100

Funding	
Football Foundation Grant	£61,100
Planning Infrastructure contribution	£ 6,000
Waverley capital receipt*	£20,000
Total	£87,100

*It is proposed to allocate £20,000 from the capital receipt that Waverley received for its land interest in an easement in Alfold in 2017/2018. A similar arrangement was made with Dunsfold Parish Council in 2017/2018 with a contribution from the Council towards recreation facilities in Dunsfold.

Recommendation

It is recommended that subject to the Club securing Football Foundation funding, up to £20,000 is allocated to the project to improve Alfold Football Club's ground and facilities, funded from the capital receipt that Waverley was paid for an easement on land in Alfold, plus £6,000 of PIC funding.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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