

Stourbridge Area Committee - 19th June 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a number of applications for a capital allocation and to note 2 decisions taken under delegated authority.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £49,864 for 2006/7, subject to the Council approving its capital budget for 2006/07 at its meeting in July 2006.
3. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-
 - (a) The allocation is to be spent on “capital” schemes as defined by legislation, i.e. “one-off” type expenditure on acquisition, construction, enhancement of land, roads, buildings, equipment or vehicles, which may also include the making of grants or loans for capital expenditure by others;
 - (b) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
 - (c) Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, i.e. not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups, and should make a difference in the local area;
 - (d) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
 - (e) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding); and

- (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
 - (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
4. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Application by Lye Cricket Club

- 5. An application has been submitted by Lye Cricket Club, Stourbridge Road, Lye for an allocation of £5,000 towards the project cost of £6,950 for the removal and repair of the existing artificial wicket at the Club. This wicket is used by Redhill School and 2 Asian teams in midweek and for practice during the season. The current wicket is beyond repair. The balance of funding will be secured from club funds.
- 6. The Club has a membership of 84 of whom 64 reside within Stourbridge.
- 7. The Club's annual accounts for the year ending the 30th September 2005 show that the Club made a surplus of around £1,500 for that year with net current assets of just over £5,800 including £5,200 in bank accounts.
- 8. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by Friends of Norton Covert

- 9. The Friends of Norton Covert was formed to improve the condition and usage of Norton Covert and to encourage awareness of ecology of woods and environmental issues.
- 10. The Friends propose to replace the fence on the Norton Road side of the Covert and then establish hedging behind to deter motorcyclists and off-road vehicles from entering and further damaging the wood. The total cost of the project is £1,000 and the application is for an allocation of £500. The balance of funding has been secured from other sources including private donations.
- 11. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by Pedmore Cricket Club

- 12. An application has been submitted by Pedmore Cricket Club whose ground is situated at Pedmore Hall Lane in Pedmore.
- 13. The Club has a membership of 283, of whom 80% reside within Stourbridge. The general aim of the Club is to promote the amateur sport of cricket in the Stourbridge area, and to provide social and recreational activities for its members and the local community in a secure and pleasant environment.
- 14. The Club is experiencing security problems with an increased number of break-ins and attempted break-ins together with extensive damage to the club building. The Club is proposing to provide roller shutters for external doors and windows

and to secure the storage container for mowers and grounds maintenance equipment. They also propose to secure the cage for the calor gas tank in order to comply with health and safety regulations.

15. The application is for an allocation of £4,016.37 to cover the cost of this project.
16. The Club's annual accounts for the year ended November 2005 indicate that the Club made a modest profit of some £1,100 having made a loss in 3 of the last 5 years.
17. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Hob Green Parent Teacher Association

18. The Hob Green Parent Teacher Association have submitted an application for an allocation of £4,200 towards the project cost of £5,950 for the construction of an adventure playground on the Hob Green School site. The project is in 2 parts:-

- a 40 tyre park which include 15 stepping tyres, 5 tyre seats and 20 tyres;
- a tyre tower consisting of 3 tyres giving a raised play aspect.

The balance of funding will be provided by the Pedmore Fields Residents Association.

19. The PTA's annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2005 show a net deficit for the year of £628 but including a contribution to school funds of £4,218. The PTA has a net balance of £3,755.
20. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Delegated Decisions

21. At its meeting on the 20th March 2006, the Area Committee authorised me, in consultation with the Chairman, to determine any application of an urgent nature that required a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. This delegated authority has been exercised in relation to the two following applications:-

- **Stourbridge in Bloom**

Allocation of £5,000 towards a project costing £10,000 for the provision of automatic watering systems and planters to be positioned around the town centre, with the balance of funding being raised from local businesses' sponsorship.

- **Stourbridge Quakers**

Allocation of £2,786 for the provision of a fence at the Friends Meeting House on the Stourbridge Ring Road.

Finance

22. The Area Committee's delegated budget allocation is funded by the Council's mainstream capital resources. The current position with regard to available resources for 2006/7 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

Law

23. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

24. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. All of the applications involve facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

25. It is recommended that, subject to the Council approving its capital budget for 2006/07 at its meeting in July 2006, the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Lye Cricket Club, Friends of Norton Covert, Pedmore Cricket Club and Hob Green Parent Teacher Association, and note the delegated decisions taken in respect of Stourbridge in Bloom and Stourbridge Quakers.

John Polychronakis

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List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by Lye Cricket Club.
2. Application submitted by Friends of Norton Covert
3. Application submitted by Pedmore Cricket Club
4. Application submitted by Hob Green PTA
5. Application submitted by Stourbridge in Bloom
6. Application submitted by Stourbridge Quakers
7. Correspondence in relation to the above applications.