

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Portfolio Holder

26 October 06

AUTHOR/S: Cultural Services Manager

THE CURRENT BALANCE FOR COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANTS 2006/7 IS £207,420

THE CURRENT BALANCE FOR YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE GRANTS 2006/7 IS £160,280

APPLICANT: PHOENIX, GULDEN MORDEN

Purpose

1. To consider the following request for grant aid and make a decision on the level of award.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

2. Quality, Accessible Services	Improvements to the recreation area would meet the service objectives and be of benefit to all members of the community.
Village Life	Village facilities improve the sense of community and enrich rural community life for everyone.
Sustainability	The recreation area would provide residents with a facility that would be sustainable into the future.
Partnership	Working with the community enables residents to identify local needs and achieve improvements in their quality of life.

Proposal

3. This is a combined proposal for improvements to the recreation ground in two consecutive parts :-
 1. The refurbishment of the children's play area to include the following. This would be funded from the Community Facility Play Equipment Grants :-
 1. To remove the existing equipment
 2. To remove the earth mound
 3. To install new equipment and relevant safety flooring
 4. To install seating, bins and safety fencing.
 2. The installation of a multi-purpose hard court games area for older children to be funded from the Youth Sports Initiative Grants.

Background

4. The current play equipment at the recreation ground is outdated and badly functioning. The existing area is screened by a large mound of earth, which detracts from the area, making it unattractive, uninviting and a possible safety issue due to the possibility of attracting antisocial behaviour and vandalism. This, added to the severe lack of play and activity areas that can be accessed easily without the use of a car, is forcing families and young people to access facilities in neighbouring villages.

Considerations

5. The improvement of the recreation ground in general, and play area in particular, is essential if families are to be encouraged to remain in the village with their children, rather than drive to neighbouring villages in order to find areas that are attractive and safe to use.

Options

6. To award a grant would enable local families to utilise the play facilities knowing that they were safe and correctly installed.
If an award were not granted then this would potentially be a blow to the local community, with the play zone falling into further disrepair, and the recreation ground and surrounding area losing further appeal for people to use and enjoy.

Financial Implications

7.

Total cost	£110,397
Purchase and installation of play equipment, safety matting and fencing.	
Yearly Operating costs	£1,500 - These will be borne by the Parish Council.
Amount raised	£7,000 - Parish Council £10,000 - Awards for All £5,000 – Village Fundraising £7,000 – Local Network Fund
Total Raised	£29,000

Applications have been made to the following for additional Grant Aid:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Biffa Award | £40,353 - On to shortlist for December Panel |
| Population | 930 |
| Total Grants since 77/8 | £17,650 |
| Grants per head of population = | £18.98 (Average is 43.45) |

Legal Implications

8. None.

Staffing Implications

9. None.

Risk Management Implications

10. The Phoenix Group Committee is responsible for all fund-raising and associated tasks. Once grants have been acquired the funds will be given over to the Parish Council who, as landowners, will undertake responsibility for all future maintenance and required insurances.

Consultations

11. The Parish Council have pledged their support for the application through an initial grant contribution and a maintenance agreement. The local consultation document indicates that there has been extensive consultation, including comments from youth groups, local families, schools and disability groups. The Community Beat Officer is also very supportive of the scheme and all local residents will be kept informed of any developments.

Cllr Murfitt has been consulted and she gives her full support for this project.

Conclusions/Summary

12. In order to increase the existing number of users of the recreation area, and to prevent any further decline in the play area in particular, which would mean a rise in repair costs and subsequent increase in potential Health and Safety implications, it is imperative that this project goes ahead.
13. This application meets with current policy and offers good value for money. The three Officers directly involved have considered all the information now provided by the applicant and recommend formal approval of the grant award below. This facility will bring great benefit to young people and families in Guilden Morden. The proposed grant award will provide the local fund raising group with the motivation and timely encouragement needed to continue their hard work and achieve this exciting project.

Recommendations

14. To award a grant of up to £35,000 from the Community Facility Grant scheme and £7,000 from the Youth Sports Initiative Grant scheme.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Application form and attached information.

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