

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder

13 July 2010

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities)

GAMLINGAY DUAL USE SPORTS FACILITY GRANT

Purpose

1. To consider a revision to the Gamlingay Dual Use Sports Facility Scheme; Cabinet approved a grant of £200,000 in December 2007. This revised scheme involves dividing the funds available as follows:
 - (a) A grant of up to £150,000 to Gamlingay Parish Council towards the cost of building a floodlit multiuse games area (MUGA) on land at the recreation ground.
 - (b) A grant of up to £50,000 to Gamlingay Village College towards the cost of extending the fitness suite, providing more storage and creating separate toilet and changing facilities for the school and fitness suite.
2. This is not a key decision since it is in line with the budget available for dual use facility grants and meets the objectives of the Council's Dual Use Strategy.

Recommendations and Reasons

3. That the Portfolio Holders approve the revised scheme and awards the relevant grants to both Gamlingay Parish Council and Gamlingay Village College, to further enhance the sports provision for all residents living in and around Gamlingay.
4. That the grant is subject to:
 - (a) Both parties signing a Dual Use Agreement and complying with conditions.
 - (b) Detailed, costed plans for the MUGA being received from GPC by officers for approval, in advance of the building contract being awarded.
 - (c) Detailed, costed plans for the fitness suite extension are received from GVC by officers for approval, in advance of building contracts being awarded.

Executive Summary

5. Cabinet have already approved in principle to a grant of £200,000 to improving sports facilities in Gamlingay. Following this decision in December 2007 and subsequently that of Cambridgeshire County Council to review secondary education in South West Cambridge, which included Gamlingay Village College; SCDC officers, Gamlingay parish Council and Gamlingay Village College have worked very hard to develop a solution that benefits all. This revised scheme ensures the long-term viability of facilities, which can be enjoyed by the whole community, including improvements to the community gym facility located at the village college.

Background

6. The Council's Dual Use Strategy was approved in 1998 and formalised the Council's strategic approach to improving the districts dual use sports centres. The Strategy has been very successful with a programme of seven schemes having been

completed at Comberton, Sawston, Linton, Melbourn, Swavesey, Bassingbourn and Cottenham. Major improvements to Impington Sports Centre are due to be completed this summer for a September launch. Gamlingay is the last of the Dual Use Sports Centres to be improved.

7. To date the whole programme has cost over £7.5M SCDC will have contributed a total of £2.8M over 10 years to the programme. Cambridgeshire County Council will have contributed over £3.7M with over £800,000 being raised from external funding agencies such as the Football Foundation and Sport England. This means that SCDC has contributed less than the 40% total capital costs which Members agreed as part of the original Strategy.
8. In December 2007, Cabinet approved the final two Dual Use Capital Grant awards to Impington and Gamlingay Village Colleges. This included a grant of £200,000 for a MUGA and Fitness Suite at Gamlingay, both of which were to be located at the Village College and managed on behalf of the school by GVC Leisure Ltd.
9. In 2009/10, Cambridgeshire County Council commenced a review of secondary education in South West Cambridge, which included Gamlingay Village College. The issues and options were discussed with the schools concerned between 9th – 14th June, and officers will be reporting on a proposed way forward to the 19th July meeting of the Children and Young People's Policy Development Group (PDG). Ahead of this report County Council officers have relayed the following information:
 - (a) There will not be sufficient capital funding to make wholesale changes to secondary educational provision in South West Cambridgeshire.
 - (b) The County Council will, therefore, have to concentrate its resources on meeting its highest priority needs in the area e.g. Cambourne.
 - (c) There is now a much greater level of clarity from Central Bedfordshire on their future plans, which makes the retention of the First and Middle School pattern of provision in Gamlingay a viable option again.
10. Following concerns raised by the Portfolio Holder relating to the long term future of the school and therefore the sustainability of locating all the facilities at the school site, officers agreed to explore how the sporting needs of Gamlingay could best be met. This has involved discussions with both the Parish Council and the Village College and this revised scheme involving two village locations has been developed.
11. The £50,000 grant for the Village College will enable the relocation of the PE store and consultation room to purpose built areas allowing an extension to the fitness suite for more equipment. It will also provide the fitness suite with its own toilet and shower, removing the safeguarding issue that currently occurs with the sharing of school facilities. The College expect a 10 – 15% increase in useage of the fitness centre within 12 months of completion of the project. Improvements will also benefit the Fitness for Health exercise referral programme delivered in the gym and part funded by SCDC. Planning permission has already been approved for the extensions (S/2007/08/F) and the College is keen to progress works over the summer break.
12. The £150,000 grant to the Parish Council will enable the construction of a floodlit Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on land owned by the Parish Council at the recreation ground. It will be adjacent the Village College, allowing for access from the College to the MUGA by pupils. The College will fund a gate and path to the MUGA from the College grounds. The MUGA will be owned by the Parish Council and managed by the Gamlingay Community Eco Hub (GCEH) who will take a management fee. Changing facilities for community use of the MUGA will be provided

at the Ecohub. A Planning application for this facility has been submitted with SCDC (S/1044/10/F).

13. Both Bar Hill and Fulbourn Parish Councils currently manage similar MUGA's very effectively.

Considerations

14. Beyond Gamlingay the nearest facilities are eight miles away at St Neots Community College. In Bedfordshire facilities are located at Sandy and Biggleswade. The nearest floodlit artificial training pitch is at Sandy Upper School five miles away and has no additional capacity for demand.
15. The 'Active People' survey carried out by Sport England, measures the amount of people participating in moderate intensity sports and recreation on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. The last survey showed one in five people in South Cambridgeshire engaged in regular sport or recreational activity, which was in line with the East of England, but lower than the rest of the County especially in the 16-54 age group. South Cambridgeshire also has one of England's highest participation rates in football.
16. To encourage people to increase their physical activity levels, local facilities need to be of a good standard, accessible and meet the needs of the local community. Gamlingay sports facilities cannot meet the demands of the local community without the extension to the fitness suite and floodlit training areas. Local residents are currently forced to go elsewhere but are more than likely not taking part in sport and recreation at all.
17. Gamlingay Parish Council believe the MUGA will allow for:
 - (a) Gamlingay Village College and Gamlingay First School to achieve government targets for activity for children from age 9 to 13.
 - (b) Extended Schools to make provision for children from age of 4 to 13.
 - (c) Gamlingay Football Club to develop their youth training programme.
 - (d) Gamlingay Football Club to run 5 a side competitions throughout the year.
 - (e) Gamlingay Tennis Club to run all year coaching.
 - (f) Forward Gamlingay to establish a children's and women's hockey club.
 - (g) County Council Youth Club to run sports events.
 - (h) Forward Gamlingay Youth Café to run sports events.
 - (i) GCEH to provide children's football/tennis and hockey parties throughout the year.
 - (j) Other football clubs to hire the facility.
18. The Village College have indicated they would make full use of the MUGA facility during the school day and possibly for after school clubs too but this usage would be very dependent on cost. On all other Dual Use sites, free access is achieved for the schools using the facilities. This is a slightly different situation in that the facility is not within school grounds. SCDC officers, GVC and GPC are in the process of negotiating the details around access, cost and maintenance and hope to reach a satisfactory situation for all to ensure maximum use of the MUGA by the school during the school day when community bookings are unlikely.
19. Currently the disabled toilet and one changing room within the school is all that is available for the Fitness Workshop users to access during school hours. This represents major child protection issues and only provides changing for one person at a time. Within the past few years the village college met the full costs of £28,000 to

resurface the existing tennis courts and this has enabled much greater community use of this facility.

Options

20. There are three options available:
- (a) To approve or reject the revised joint scheme, including an award of £150,000 to Gamlingay Parish Council towards the cost of building a “Dual Use” multiuse games area (MUGA) on land at the recreation ground and the award of £50,000 to Gamlingay Village College towards the cost of extending the fitness suite, providing more storage and creating separate changing facilities for the school and fitness suite.
 - (b) To approve or reject the award of £150,000 to Gamlingay Parish Council towards the cost of building a “Dual Use” multiuse games area (MUGA) on land at the recreation ground.
 - (c) To approve or reject the award of £50,000 to Gamlingay Village College towards the cost of extending the fitness suite, providing more storage and creating separate changing facilities for the school and fitness suite.

Implications

21. To approve the revised scheme will provide enhanced sport and health facilities, increased opportunities and improved access to all members of the community. Not to approve the revised scheme will undermine the project aims and objectives of both parties and lead to a possible deterioration of the facilities therefore forcing local community groups and sports clubs to travel further to access adequate facilities, some of which are already used to capacity.

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| | Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SCDC | £150,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Gamlingay Parish Council | £10,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Funds already spent (Paid by GVC for architects fees and planning applications.) | £17,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The grant applicants have provided all financial information. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legal | A Dual Use agreement will be signed to ensure community and school use of the facilities. The grants will also be subject to agreed conditions to ensure long-term use and management of the facilities. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffing | No significant implication to SCDC staff. The MUGA will be managed by the Parish Council and the fitness suite staffed by GVC Leisure Ltd. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Risk Management | Very low risk – no requirement on the council except to provide grant monies and some Building Control resources. The MUGA will be owned and managed by the Parish Council and the Fitness suite is the responsibility of the Village College. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Equal Opportunities | This facility will be used to help deliver the Councils Sports Development programme and encourage participation by specific target groups, including girls and women, people with a disability and Travellers. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Climate Change | A sustainable approach to the construction/installation of this project will be considered where appropriate and achievable within current timescales and resources. |
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Consultations

23. All local clubs were in favour of the proposed plans as expressed through face-to-face meetings. Gamlingay FC has assisted in the development of this facility and will use it extensively. There is a high demand for provision of an artificial turf surface in this catchment area due to the number of clubs with growing junior sections. The need for an all-weather floodlit surface was highlighted through the consultation process. All users of the Fitness Workshop expressed a need for an increase in capacity and updated equipment due to its popularity and successful GP referral classes.
24. Considerable discussions have taken place with the Parish Council and Village College to come up with the details for this report.
25. View from Gamlingay Village College:
"We have been involved with this bid for several years and are delighted that the project is finally coming to fruition, albeit in its altered state. The Fitness Centre Extension, although smaller than originally planned, will greatly improve the facilities for the whole community. The College will benefit from improved storage for the PE equipment, with the new toilet facilities improving the safeguarding for all users of the College. It will also enable classes to be run for our older pupils to increase their cardio-vascular fitness, which is very limited at present. The wider community will benefit from the larger space; new equipment, the new consultation room and self contained toilet and shower facilities.
26. Whilst disappointed that the MUGA will not be on our site, the proposed location is still close enough to provide a very exciting resource for our young people. With our increasing roll the MUGA will provide a valuable additional teaching space, and will enable extra-curricular activities after school during dark evenings. If this resource is made freely available to the Gamlingay Schools we believe that it will be well utilised and help to enhance the physical wellbeing of all the school age children in the village. There will also be an opportunity for providing a wider Extended Schools programme for all young people within the community.
27. View from District and Parish Councillor Bridget Smith:
"As the District Councillor I need to declare an interest in this application as I am employed by Gamlingay Parish Councillor as their projects' facilitator. However, I am fully supportive of the award should the PFH decide to make it as Gamlingay has been identified as having sports facilities well below those recommend for a community of its size. The MUGA would provide facilities to support the work of the youth club and the community youth café as well as creating new opportunities for the village college and the existing and new sports clubs to develop and expand."
28. View from District Councillor Sebastian Kindersley:
"I am very supportive of the collaborative approach taken by the Village College, the Parish Council and the District Council which will provide Gamlingay with a facility we can all be proud of. I would also highlight (as County Cllr) the point made about the future of the Village College which now seems assured."

Effect on Strategic Aims

29. The Dual Use Facility Grants help to meet two of the Councils Aims; ensuring South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for families and making South Cambridgeshire a place residents can feel proud to live.
30. Awarding these grants will help us to achieve the 2010/11 Council priority of increasing the number of teenagers taking part in positive activities.

Conclusions / Summary

31. These facilities at Gamlingay are part of the Councils Dual Use Sports Strategy and their construction will mark the completion of all nine schemes, providing a network of local sports centres across the district. Officers have been working closely with the school, the Parish Council, The Football Association and Forward Gamlingay plus the many different user groups over the past three years in planning for the project.
32. The facilities will enhance the current provision for the residents of Gamlingay and surrounding villages. In addition, it will strengthen existing links between schools, clubs and individual users of the current facilities. Furthermore, providing a true multi-sport environment will allow the development of a more extensive range of sporting activities and facilitate the development of sports for girls, boys and adults of all ability levels.
33. The circumstances at Gamlingay are unique. This approach to delivery of the identified dual use sports facility requirements at Gamlingay offers the best solution to both the Council and to the local community.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Cabinet report - 13 December 2007
- Letter from GVC 21st June 2010
- GPC MUGA report June 2010
- DOE Sports quote June 2010
- Letter from CCC 18th June 2010

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