

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DECISION

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Open | | Would any decisions proposed : | | |
| Any especially affected Wards | Discretionary | (a) Be entirely within cabinet's powers to decide YES | | |
| | | (b) Need to be recommendations to Council NO | | |
| | | (c) Be partly for recommendations to Council NO and partly within Cabinets powers – | | |
| Lead Member: Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds E-mail: cllr.elizabeth.nockolds@west-norfolk.gov.uk | | Other Cabinet Members consulted: None | | |
| Lead Officer: David Thomason E-mail: david.thomason@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616246 | | Other Members consulted: All ward members | | |
| Lead Officer: David Thomason E-mail: david.thomason@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616246 | | Other Officers consulted: Sarah Dennis Roger Partridge | | |
| Financial Implications YES | Policy/Personnel Implications NO | Statutory Implications (incl S.17) NO | Equal Opportunities Implications NO | Risk Management Implications YES |
| Date meeting advertised: 20 th September 2011 | | Date of meeting decision to be taken: 27 th September 2011 | | |
| Deadline for Call-In: 4 th October 2011 | | | | |

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAPITAL GRANTS

Summary

This report details the decisions made in relation to the second round of Financial Assistance Capital Grants for 2011/12.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the following grant decisions are approved:

- Denver Cricket Club – Award £4,000 (conditional)
- Dersingham Sports Ground Committee – Award £10,000 (conditional)
- Downham Town Cricket Club – Award £5,000 (conditional)
- Marham Parish Council – Award £5,500
- South West Norfolk Youth Opportunities Project – Award £2,500
- Upwell Playing Field Committee – Award £10,000
- Wiggenhall St Germans Memorial Hall & Playing Field – Award £2,000
- Wimbotsham Recreation Ground Ltd – Award £10,000 (conditional)

Wereham Village Hall - Defer

Tilney St Lawrence Village Committee – Defer

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – Refuse

West Dereham Village Hall Management Committee – Refuse

Reason for Decision

Determination of applications under the Financial Assistance scheme.

A grants panel meeting was held on 15 September 2011 to assess applications for capital grants which fall within the Shared Services and External Relations Portfolio. This report details the recommendations made at this meeting by the Portfolio Holder.

The recommendations featured in this report are subject to the 'call-in' procedure. When the grant decision becomes official the applicants will be notified in writing by Norfolk Community Foundation on behalf of the Borough Council. All terms and conditions of the grants will be stated in the official offer letter.

Grants of £2,500 or less

| Organisation | Project | Amount Requested | Amount Awarded | Reason why refused or full amount not awarded/comments |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| South West Youth Opportunities Project | To purchase a range of equipment to set up a new youth venue | £7,380.00 | £2,500.00 | Partial award offered to support the project. They are also advised to explore equipment available for loan from the Borough. |
| Wiggenhall St Germans Memorial Hall & Playing Field | A range of repairs and improvements to the village hall | £15,000.00 | £2,000.00 | Partial award towards the costs of improving disabled access. A further application may be considered when the success of other fundraising is known. |
| Tilney St Lawrence Village Hall Committee | To create a new area for families on the village hall site. | £11,269.00 | £0.00 | This project is at the earliest stages of its fundraising, and was therefore deferred for consideration at a later panel. |
| Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | To improve visitor facilities at the Snettisham reserve | £1,000.00 | £0.00 | The panel did not judge this application to be suitable for support through this fund |
| Wereham Village Hall | To build a new village hall | £15,000.00 | £0.00 | This project is at the earliest stages of its fundraising, and was therefore deferred for consideration at a later panel. |
| West Dereham Village Hall Management Committee | Interior fittings and equipment for the refurbished hall. | £10,000.00 | £0.00 | The panel had previously awarded £10,000 to this project towards build costs, and felt that with limited funds further support could not be offered. |
| | | Total: | £4,500.00 | |

Grants over £2,500

Denver Cricket Club – The club is seeking funds to replace its existing training nets, which are no longer fit for purpose. The club has an active and growing youth section, which particularly benefits from good quality training facilities.

Support for this project was declined at the last panel meeting, due to concerns about the overall cost. The club has re-scoped this project with support from the Borough Council's Sport Development team, and has

reduced costs. However they are still in need of further funds to enable this project to go ahead, and are receiving support to make other bids.

Request: £5,500.00

Recommendation: Award £4,000.00 (on the condition that other funds are secured)

Dersingham Sports Ground Committee – The Committee offers cricket, football and tennis facilities for the local community, and is seeking funds to improve the tennis courts which have fallen into disrepair. There is a keen local tennis club, and interest from children and young people in summer coaching, but the current facilities limit use.

The Committee is receiving support from the Borough Council's Sport Development team to access the Inspired Facilities funding programme from Sport England to resurface the courts and renew fencing. A contribution is also requested from the Borough.

Request: £15,000.00

Recommendation: Award £10,000 (on the condition that other funds are secured)

Downham Town Cricket Club – This is a large and thriving cricket club, seeking funds to install a new 2-lane practice facility to benefit beginner and younger players. The new bays will offer an all-weather practice area, to replace the existing single net and frame which fails to meet demand from young players. Good links have been made with local schools, and the club has a thriving youth section.

The club is seeking other funding from a range of grant and loan options, and a contribution is requested from the Borough. The Club is also receiving support from the Borough Council's Sport Development team to access the Inspired Facilities funding programme from Sport England.

Request: £9,962.00

Recommendation: Award £5,000.00 (on the condition that other funds are secured)

Marham Parish Council – The Parish Council has secured funding from WREN and Awards for All towards the costs of a new MUGA for the Marham area – particularly to benefit Lower Marham which has poor links to the facilities at the RAF Base. £5,500 is requested from the Borough to fulfil the Third Party Funding requirement on a £49,972 grant from WREN, which will enable the project to go ahead.

Request: £5,500.00

Recommendation: Award £5,500.00

Upwell Playing Field Committee – The Committee is seeking funds to replace its dilapidated Pavilion with a new purpose built facility. The existing structure is over 30 years old, and is limiting use of the playing field facilities. The group has secured over £40,000 of Section 106 funding, which dictates that the project must get underway before January 2012, and are therefore taking a phased approach while further fundraising continues.

Request: £15,000.00

Recommendation: Award £10,000.00

Wimbotsham Recreation Ground Ltd – The village has recently taken over ownership of the recreation ground, and is keen to improve facilities. Funds are requested to replace outdated play equipment, which is no longer well used by local children and families. Local residents have been consulted, and these issues were also highlighted in the parish plan.

The group is in the early stages of fundraising, and has the option of phasing works to enable some progress while fundraising continues. A contribution is requested from the Borough.

Request: £15,000.00

Recommendation: Award £10,000.00 (on the condition that other funds are secured)

Total of grants over £2,500: £44,500

Financial Implications

The total Financial Assistance Capital Grants budget for 2011/12 is summarised as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---------------|
| Financial Assistance Capital Grants budget 2011/12 | 74,500 |
| Funds moved into Capital budget from Revenue | 10,942 |
| Commitments | |
| This report | 49,000 |
| Capital Grants already approved in 2011/12 | 36,442 |
| Total Commitments | 85,442 |
| Balance Of Funds Available 2010/11 | 0 |

Please note: Approval was granted to move funds remaining from the Revenue budget to increase the Capital funds available due to the high demand for grants at this panel.

Therefore there is sufficient budget provision to cover all recommendations in this report.

Policy Implications

The applications are in line with the Corporate Strategic Objectives.

Statutory Implications

None.

Risk Implications

Failure to assist local, voluntary organisations in helping meet the Borough Council's corporate objectives.

Access to Information

Completed grant application forms for each funding request.

Signed:

Cabinet Member for

Date