

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Julie Banks
Portfolio: Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services
Date of Background Report: 12/04/22

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £10,000 to Potten End Cricket Club

In the Winter round 2021 a community grant application was made Potten End Cricket Club which has received approval at the grants panel meeting on 16 December 2021.

Following several incidences of cricket balls leaving the boundaries of the cricket club and causing damage to local resident's properties, the Parish Council (Nettleden with Potten End) requested an investigation into the current safety measures in place at the cricket club. One of the cricket boundaries sits close to residential properties, and approximately one ball per game leaves the boundaries of the cricket pitch and lands in one of the gardens adjacent to the playing area. Currently there is a 30m long and 6m high net in place which helps to reduce the number of these incidents.

As part of the investigation, the club paid for a ball trajectory report via the English Cricket Board (ECB). The conclusion of the report is that the only suitable and viable option is a higher net. The report suggests that a 12-13m high net will significantly reduce the majority of incidents. The Parish Council have requested the net is 85m long. They have suggested that the new higher and longer net will meet with approval from their residents and be granted planning permission.

If the club can get financial support for the purchase and installation of the net, the village will benefit from increased opportunities to play cricket, and the club can reintroduce younger teams and training activities. All of which supports the Dacorum Borough Council's aims in the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The club facilities will also be available for a local football club to use for training during the cricket off-season, and for Potten End Primary School's children to use for Physical Education lessons.

Total project cost £38,000

Funding:

£10,000 DBC grant

£5,000 contribution from own resources

£5,000 raised from fundraising activities

£18,000 applied for from other funders (English Cricket Board, Sport England, Hertfordshire County Council Locality Fund, Hertfordshire Community Foundation)

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Background

Potten End is a traditional village cricket club, located between Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. While the official club records only date back to 1926, it is believed that the club was officially formed in 1910 and there was informal cricket in Potten End as early as the 1890's.

In 2022, the club will have two teams playing in the Herts Saracens League on Saturdays; the first XI will play in Division 5B and the second team will be in regional Division A West. The club's Sunday fixtures are split between friendly games and some fixtures in the Chess Valley League (division 3).

The club have applied to the community grants scheme for a grant as they do not have the funds to pay for the netting and installation in its entirety. They are contributing funds from their own resources as well as fundraising activities, and they have applied for grants from other funders, namely the English Cricket Board, Sport England, HCC Locality Funding and Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

The proposed installation of safety netting will enable the club to host home games, both as part of leagues and friendly matches, while adhering to the requirements of the Parish Council.

The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who will be looking at how well it meets the criteria of the fund; whether the project supports the Councils objectives and how it supports the following five ways to well-being: be active, take notice, learn, give and connect.

Agree recommendation []
Request further information []

Financial Implications:

The money will be taken from the community grant budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Reports considered:

Potten End Cricket Club community grant application Winter round 2021 – reference ID - 1596

Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:

Niamh Thomas, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Funding and Partnerships)

Fay Murphy, Assistant Accountant, Finance

Alex Care, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team Leader

Joe Guiton, Community Safety and Children's Services Team Leader

Darren Flanagan, Accountant, Finance

Claire Foster, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Physical Activity and Sport)

Annie Smith Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Projects)

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Also consulted: Mandy Peters, Tenancy Sustainment Team Leader
Danielle Bulpit, Civic Events and Corporate Support Officer
Marion Rawdon, Assistant PA
Kim Gioiosa, PA to the Chief Executive
Matt Stedman, Adventure Playgrounds Lead Officer

Deputy Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer Comments:

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Further to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a local authority has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities.

Deputy Section 151 Officer:

The grant awards follows and application and approval process by panel. The cost of the award will be covered by existing Community Grants budget.

Implications:

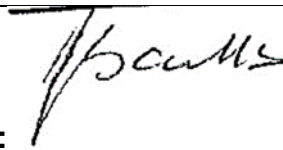
Risk: there are no specific risks identified that relate to the allocation of funding as described in this report

Value for Money: the community grants criteria looks to gain additional value from supporting community projects with a small amount of resource which yields maximum community benefit. It therefore provides good value for money. Many of the projects and activities are also directed towards external funding sources.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant as detailed - This has been rejected because the application fulfils the Council's scoring criteria within the community grant scheme.

Portfolio Holders Signature:



Date: 01/04/22

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

For Member Support Officer use only

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 05/04/22

Date Decision Published: 12/04/22

Decision No: PH-007-22

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 21/04/22

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET