

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Sheron Wilkie
Portfolio: Portfolio Holder for Place
Date of Decision: 23/08/2023

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £10,000 to Aldbury Parish Council

In the Spring round 2023 a community grant application was made by Aldbury Parish Council which received approval at the grants panel meeting on 13 June 2023.

The pond in Aldbury is a picturesque village feature that attracts visitors and make the locals proud, however the APC have identified that the pond is in urgent need of work so that it retains water during dry weather spells. Aldbury pond isn't a simple dew or spring-fed pond, it also forms an integral part of the village drainage system. Unlike most village ponds in the Chilterns and elsewhere, their pond receives most of its water from run off during and after rainfall. That water brings with it silt and organic material which gradually build up in the pond and require regular removal. Very few ponds have these distinctive characteristics. In the 80's the pond had a liner installed to help it retain water. That liner was punctured during silt removal and then taken out altogether in 2018. Since then the pond hasn't been able to retain water properly and during the dry spells last summer and this winter it has looked far from its best. Requiring a liner to hold water whilst at the same time needing regular silt removal poses a particular challenge for our pond. Liners can be damaged during silt removal and because the base of the pond is chalk, as seen over the last few years it won't simply self-seal. The will require a new liner but it will also need a more robust protective layer over the liner to avoid damage during necessary silt clearance.

Total cost of project? £35,000

Funding

Own resource - £20,000

Confirmed funds from fundraising - £5,000

DBC Community Grant - £10,000

Budget

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Feasibility study - expert advice from Inland Waterways Association | £1,000 |
| 2. Work to deepen the pond (to accommodate liner, a 10cm protective layer, plus possibly additional water capacity) | £15,000 |
| 3. To lay a new liner | £15,000 |
| 4. Improving water drainage to mitigate flood risks | £4,000 |

Background

Aldbury village attracts visitors from all parts of the country and we have had filming productions and filming companies wanting to use Aldbury village pond to feature in their productions. They were turned down on occasions because the pond did not look as expected. APC was contacted by their MP, and was asked to look into restoring the pond.

The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically

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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. Applicants 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:

Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:

Fraser Willcox, Economic Development Officer

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

Annie Smith, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer

Deputy Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer Comments:

Deputy Monitoring Officer:

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.

Section 151 Officer:

This will be funded through the existing approved community grant 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.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date: 23/08/23

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

