

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Report of Adrian Stasiak, Executive Member for Community and Benefits to the CABINET: 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2011 (Author: Cat Lang, Community Development Officer)**

#### **BRECKLAND COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING: FUNDING ROUND 4 2010/11**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report summarises the funding recommendations that were made by the Grant Panel for funding round 4 which was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of Match Funding.

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

###### **2.1 Approve the match funding applications for:**

- Hardingham Village hall (£20,000 capital)
- Billingford Village Hall (£4,709 revenue)

###### **2.2 Note for information the following match funding applications which have been approved by delegated decision:**

- Necton Adult Exercise Equipment (£1800 capital)
- Old Buckenham Allotments (£1000 revenue)
- Breckland Dance Part time artist (£3000 revenue)
- Fit Together, Active Norfolk (£3000 revenue)

###### **2.3 Note for information the grants awarded under the Pride in Breckland, Activity, Access Arts and Gifted & Talented Grant schemes**

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

###### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 As detailed in an earlier Cabinet report 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009 all funding applications for Breckland Council Match Funding, Pride in Breckland grants, Activity grants, Green grants and Gifted and Talented grants are now reviewed by a Grant Funding Panel prior to consideration by Cabinet.

3.1.2 This approach ensures that: -

- a) A strategic and joined-up approach is taken to grant giving
- b) Maximum funding opportunities are available to applicants
- c) A clear audit trail aligned to the Authority's priorities is maintained
- d) A consistent approach is taken to grant giving across the Authority

3.1.2 The fourth meeting of the grant panel for the 2010/11 financial year has taken place and all applications received prior to this date have been considered

###### **3.2 Issues**

## Match Funding

- 3.2.1 7 Applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Grant Funding Panel meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Four applications have been successful through delegated decision.

### 1) Hardingham Village Hall

Hardingham Village hall have requested £20,000 of capital match funding towards a £222,000 project in order to build an extension to allow for storage space and a self contained meeting room. The funding would also help improve the kitchen facilities and disabled facilities at the venue which will create an accessible village hall for all within the community.

There is currently no storage space available for some of the groups which use the hall on a regular basis, and the kitchen in its current state restricts the number of potential lettings. The kitchen improvements will enable for catering to be produced at the venue rather than being reliant on outside caterers.

This project meets the following council objectives:

1. Building safer and stronger communities

Improving facilities encourages more involvement, greater community spirit and to contribute to the health of our district.

2. Prosperous communities

Breckland aims to try and maintain and improve small village facilities, including those that promote a healthier lifestyle.

It is recommended that this project is supported, as the facility is valuable to the community and has been the centre of the village for over 100 years and continues to be so. There is also good evidence of community consultation and therefore a need has been identified for the work to be completed.

### 2) Billingford Village Hall

Billingford Village Hall have requested £4,709 towards improvements to the hall in order to attract further use and to provide a safe and modern amenity for the residents of Billingford and surrounding parishes. This funding would provide a new ceiling, flooring, lighting an insulation which is a priority in order to create a warm and safe environment for the users, especially for the older and disabled users.

The village hall committee have been approached by group leaders and organisers who would like to use the hall to provide classes such as yoga/Pilates but due to the current condition this can not be introduced. It would be expected that with the improvements an uptake in use would be seen therefore making the hall financially sustainable.

- The project meets two of the council priorities:

1. Building safer and stronger communities

Improving facilities encourages more involvement, greater community spirit and to contribute to the health of our district

2. Prosperous communities

Breckland aims to try and maintain and improve small village facilities, including those that promote a healthier lifestyle

It is recommended that this project is supported for £4000 on the condition that the groups seek £709 from other sources. The village hall has never sought funding from external bodies before and to this date has organised fundraising events to maintain and improve the village hall. These improvements would fully equip the hall for all types of events and activities, therefore keeping the village hall active within the community it serves.

### **3) Necton Adult Exercise Equipment**

Necton Rural Community Centre has applied for £3,833 towards adult exercise/play equipment to compliment the children's play area facility which has recently been installed. It will consist of seven pieces of outdoor gym equipment which is low maintenance and hard wearing. This would enable the parents/grandparents who are taking their children to the play area, to be active and use this equipment at the same time.

The project meets two of the council priorities:

- a. Building safer and stronger communities
- b. Prosperous Communities

It was agreed by the grant panel that this project is funded to the value of £1800 through delegated decision which would enable the group to purchase three pieces of equipment. As this type of project has not been delivered within the district to date, it would give the group a chance to evidence the use of the equipment and if proven popular consideration will be given to develop the site further in the future.

Please note:

The authority needs to be mindful of the terms of the Councils PFI contract which includes a "New competing facilities clause". This clause relates to:

- a) any facility which the Council has taken positive steps to promote, commission, replace or modernise,
- b) within a 10 mile radius of either the Thetford or Dereham Leisure facilities
- c) which offers services comparable to the services under the PFI which could compete.

The proposed outdoor gym equipment falls within the 10 mile competing facilities area and competes with services at the Leisure centres. However the authority is permitted to grant community organisations for an amount equal to or less than £30,000. When taking this decision, members were mindful that granting the sum of £1800 will not breach the competing facility clause but will reduce the total amount available to be granted to other community groups with comparable services in subsequent years.

### **4) Old Buckenham Allotments**

The residents of Old Buckenham approached Old Buckenham Parish Council to seek space for allotments to be provided within their community. The parish council has responded to this request and has arranged for allotment space to be provided on Ragmere Road for 16 full plots in order to grow fresh produce and create opportunities for exercising outdoors. The funding would be to provide water supply and fencing around the area.

This project is a community led project with strong community support and also includes the local school renting a plot as part of their curriculum. This project has been awarded £1,000 of revenue match funding through a delegated decision.

### **5) Breckland Part-time Dance Artist**

Norfolk Dance applied for £3,000 towards a partnership project to recruit a part time dance artist to deliver a community dance programme for two areas of Breckland – Thetford and Litcham. This project would deliver 60 classes in both Thetford and Litcham as well as delivering 20 classes as part of the Breckland holiday activities programme across the district specifically for 5-16 year olds.

Existing dance provision will be mapped across the district, a community dance programme will be delivered and professional development provision will be made for the artist through Norfolk Dance.

With only £3,000 being requested from Breckland for a project costing £18,720, this provides good value for money, high quality community dance provision and a cost effective way of delivering services. It has a strong partnership approach and will

attract a wide cross section of the community – young, teenage, adults/older people. This project has been awarded £3,000 through a delegated decision.

### **6) Fit Together**

For three years, Active Norfolk has been managing the Fit Together Walking for Health project in Breckland, with the officer that oversees the day to day running of it being based in Thetford. The walking scheme itself has existed within Breckland since 2005 and is now considered a stable offer of health activity for residents aged 50+ within the district. They currently have 1054 registered walkers, attending 540 walks across the district on an annual basis.

The project has evidenced that 73% of walkers engaged feel an improved sense of health, 25% visit their GP less often and 40% feel less stressed.

This project is a fantastic and well subscribed offer of health related sports/activity provision for the 50+ age group in Breckland and has proved to be a continued success in maintaining and improving health of this demographic of the district since its conception. This project has been awarded £3,000 through a delegated decision.

### **7) Colkirk Play barriers**

Colkirk Parish Council has been awarded £415 through a delegated decision towards the purchase and installation of a swing barrier for their nest swing situated on their play area. After a recent accident on another site, ROSPA had advised the parish council to install this precautionary barrier in order to minimise the risk of any future accidents or harm coming to children and young people using the play area.

### **Activity Grant:**

#### **8) Embrace**

A project based within the Icen Partnership has been awarded £500 from the activity grant scheme to set up a new community basketball group in Swaffham for their residents and the surrounding area. This project has been identified by a group of the eastern European community who feel the whole community would enjoy and participate in this sport should it be available. The funding will provide 13 weeks of training time in the local leisure centre and will be working with Breckland's Sports Development Officer to secure further funding to make the project sustainability.

### **Pride in Breckland Grant:**

#### **9) Heritage Apple Orchard – Griston**

Griston Parish Council have been awarded £134.40 towards starting a heritage apple orchard which will encourage community involvement in planting and maintaining the trees. Members of the community will be able to pick fruit for their consumption.

#### **10) Beetley and Bilney Welcome Spring**

£250 has been awarded to Beetley Parish Council towards their springtime bulb planting project. This will enhance the local community through planting bulbs throughout the village. Children from the local primary school will be involved to help identify the planting locations and planting the bulbs.

#### **11) Hidden Treasure Trail**

The Quidenham Group of parishes and the Trustees of the Garnier Village Hall have been successful with a grant of £250 to plan a festival which will bring all four parishes in the Quidenham area closer together in their first joint social and community event. The event will encourage residents to visit each others parishes to discover services facilities and groups that they can utilise.

### **Access Arts Grant:**

#### **12) East Harling Social Support Group**

East Harling Social support group is a proactive group, aiming to promote disability awareness and social/recreational environment for its members. The group has a regular attendance and would like to provide different activities for members including

pottery, painting and more advanced Movement to music sessions. A grant of £500 has been awarded to assist with this project.

### **13) Sarah Caputo**

Sarah is a local artist from Dereham and has been awarded £500 towards hosting a visual arts festival working alongside The Gallery in the newly refurbished Dereham memorial hall in the future. The Tate has confirmed they will be willing to loan works for the exhibition which will be a fantastic achievement for the town. The content of the festival will include exhibitions, the production of a mural by local school children, mould-making, recycled art, textile workshops and figurine workshops.

### **14) Carole Colombi**

Carole is also a local artist living in Gt Dunham. To celebrate the opening of Gt Dunham Village Hall, the local school children and residents will be involved in creating artwork for an exhibition taking place in February 2011. A grant of £150 has been awarded to help with hosting the exhibition.

## **Gifted and Talented Grant:**

### **15) Albert Hicks**

A £500 grant has been awarded to Albert, from Attleborough to help with the purchase of a new kayak for his sport of Kayak Flatwater Racing of which he was crowned National Junior Champion in 2010. Albert has been competing above his age group for two years in international competitions for Great Britain. He is currently training in preparation for next years World Championships in Singapore and is considered 1<sup>st</sup> choice athlete for the national team.

### **16) Karlynn Edgeller**

Karlynn, from Weeting has been awarded £500 towards the costs of her training session in preparation for the European Championships in Basketball to be held in Spain. Karlynn has continuously developed in her sport, becoming a member of the Under 16 England squad. After representing her country at the European Championships, she will have a real chance of representing her country at the 2012 Olympics.

### **17) Declan Davis**

Declan was the fastest cycling time trialist for his age category in the country in 2010, winning the GHS Championships Trophy. He would now like a new bike and training equipment to develop further as his current bike has been assembled from spare equipment found in his grandfathers garage (an avid cyclist himself). The GHS time trial are unique in that you ride alone around a course with no pace-setters or competitors to spur you on and Declan was the fastest in his category by a 2 minute margin which marks him out as an exceptional talent. A grant of £500 has been awarded to Declan to help with his development.

### **18) Attleborough Boxing Club**

A grant of £233.87 has been awarded to this group consisting of over 300 members who actively participate in the sport on a regular basis. The club requires some new equipment due to wear and tear after three years of use which will help with the development of the club and its members.

## **3.3 Options**

- To approve individual match funding applications for the full amount requested.
- To award individual match funding applications a lesser amount
- To reject individual match funding applications

## **3.4 Recommendations**

- To support match funding Hardingham Village Hall application.

- To support Billingford Village Hall match funding application.

#### **4. Risk and Financial Implications**

##### 4.1 Risk

4.1.2 No risk identified.

##### 4.2 Financial

4.2.1 Please see the following Proforma B's for the match funding projects:

Appendix 1 – Proforma B Hardingham Village Hall

Appendix 2 – Proforma B Billingford Village Hall

Appendix 3 – Summary of match funding financial status

#### **6. Other Implications**

- a) Equalities: Assessments have been completed for the entire match funding projects.
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: None
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

#### **7. Alignment to Council Priorities**

1. Building Safer and Stronger Communities:
  - Promote the sense of community belonging and pride
  - Contribute to improving the health of our district
2. Prosperous Communities:
  - Develop flourishing rural communities
  - Protect and enhance our town centres

#### **8. Ward/Community Affected**

8.1.1 Upper yare, Upper Wensum, Thetford, Buckenham, Launditch, and Necton wards are affected by the Match Funding projects.

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only): not a key decision

Appendices attached to this report:

1. Proforma B Hardingham Village Hall
2. Proforma B Billingford Village Hall
3. Summary of match funding financial status