

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Lynda Turner, Executive Member of Localism, Community & Environmental Services

To: Cabinet - 19th June 2012

(Author: Cat Lang, Community Development Officer)

Subject: Grant Panel Report Round 1 2012/13

Purpose: This report summarises the funding recommendations that were made by the Grant Panel for round 1 of the 2012/13 financial year which was held on Wednesday 21st March 2012 and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of Match Funding.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the match funding applications for:

- Swanton Morley Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment
- Improved Recreation & Play Facilities at East Harling
- North Elmham Village Green

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

- Amenity Area at Beetley Water Meadows
- Hardingham Village Hall

Note for information the grants awarded under the Activity, Access Arts and Gifted & Talented Grant schemes

1. BACKGROUND

To ensure a joined up strategic approach is taken when awarding grants, the grant panel meeting on Wednesday 21st March has made some recommendations on the following applications.

Match Funding

9 applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Grant Panel meeting. The Grant Panel would like two of these applications to be considered by cabinet for funding and two of the applications to be noted for information purposes only.

Swanton Morley Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment

Swanton Morley Parish Council would like to bring the currently inadequate kitchen facilities at the village hall from a domestic set up to a commercial standard, in order to accommodate the extensive and expanding usage of the overall facilities. The village hall is a hub for community activity and is very well used. The recent addition of two new football pitches and thirty more allotments has meant a dramatic increase in the usage of the hall and its facilities.

Swanton Morley Village Hall is a prearranged evacuation centre in the event of any local disaster, therefore it is imperative that the inadequate kitchen facilities are brought up to the required standard. In November 2011, Breckland Council conducted an environmental health inspection of the kitchen facilities and identified a number of areas

of improvement, including the health and safety hazard of the flooring and hygiene of the worktops.

There is a strong commitment from local people to make this project happen and many are giving their time and expertise as an 'in kind' contribution to ensure the project comes to fruition.

The Parish Council are requesting £9657 (30%) from Breckland Council towards this project.

East Harling Improved Recreation and Play Facilities

Harling Parish Council would like to purchase and install new play equipment to be located at the Recreation Ground on Church Lane in East Harling. Due to the community demand, the Parish Council has since conducted wide consultation to ascertain the need and views of the potential users.

The current facilities are inadequate and not suitable for all age groups and abilities. The current play provision within the parish is lacking despite the parish being a large village. Following from the consultation the following equipment is planned to be installed at the site and will cater for all ages and abilities:

- Nest Swing
- Supernova
- Climbing net
- Slide
- Improved seating area

The parish council have requested £8,121 (30%) of match funding towards this project. This project can demonstrate robust and in-depth consultation with the local community and therefore demonstrates a need for the equipment.

Purchase of North Elmham Village Green

In the recent village appraisal, printed in April 2011, there was an identified need to buy the village green, which is already in existence and used by the local community. The return rate for the appraisal was very high at 91.5%. As the owners of the land, Norfolk County Council have agreed to sell the land to North Elmham Parish Council for £88,500.

The Parish Council wish to purchase the land so they have the opportunity to develop the green as a community facility. In the ownership of Norfolk County Council the community were not allowed to so much as plant a tree. The long term plan is to develop a new play area, have more seats and possibly develop a car park. These plans all need further public discussion for future project development.

The Parish Council have requested £20,000 (23%) of match funding towards this project.

Amenity Area at Beetley Water Meadows

The following application has been supported with a match funding grant of £1352.50 (50%) through a delegated decision.

Beetley Parish Council would like to enhance Beetley River Meadows by installing new picnic benches, a wheelchair access bench, a hexagonal bench and litter bins. The area currently has play equipment and an area for ball games and it is a place of flora and fauna. At present the area does not have any seating areas in order for the community to enjoy the area comfortably.

Through consultation with the local residents identified the need for this project and therefore it is felt a good application for funding from Breckland Council to enhance the local community and increase activities amongst residents and visitors.

Hardingham Village Hall

Hardingham Village Hall previously received a grant of £20,000 towards the cost of refurbishing their hall subject to receiving other funding being in place. Unfortunately, the group have been unable to secure enough external funding to carry out the extensive work they had planned and therefore reduced the scale of the project to just essential work. Therefore, their grant offer has been reduced to £1587.55. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Gifted and Talented

Emma Dowlan

Emma has been awarded £500 towards accommodation, equipment and travel costs for an international boxing tournament in Finland.

Since her previous application, Emma has gone on to become the ABAE Junior British national Champion and has gone undefeated in all competitions in the last year. Emma at the age of 14 is now a member of the Team GB rising stars of the future programme and is being coached at national level with Brazil 2016 being a realistic target. By Emma entering and competing in the competition in Finland, if successful will enable her to reach European Champion status.

Her funding has been awarded with a condition that Emma wears the Breckland logo in recognition of the council's contribution.

Declan Davis

Declan Davis, from Watton, has been awarded £500 towards a new bicycle, equipment and transport for a higher level competition. Declan has progressed recently by winning the National 10 Mile Time Trial Championship at U14 level, and again securing the fastest in his year group in the country. Due to his growing successes, Declan is now required to purchase a new bicycle and to travel further afield to complete.

Access Arts

Advance Swaffham Action Group

The Advance Swaffham Action Group (part of ICENI Partnership) would like to host a free music festival for the town. Following a successful grant from the Rural Development Programme, the action group have been funded to encourage tourism activities within the town. The music festival will achieve their objectives to promote and further develop opportunities for sport, leisure and recreation.

The nearest music festivals are Kings Lynn, Hingham and Thetford Forest which are not easily accessible by public transport. They have been awarded £500 towards the cost of printing and professional fees.

Activity Grant

2012 Celebration – Hoe and Worthing

A grant of £283 has been awarded to Hoe & Worthing to organise a year of celebrations in order to promote the use of the 100yr old meeting room as a self financing and regular meeting place for individuals within the two villages to lead regular meetings and develop clubs. Volunteers have come forward to rejuvenate the meeting room back to being a social and friendly venue and they hold many ideas and enthusiasm to make the venue a clear part of the community. Activities include a family bike treasure hunt, an inter village rounder's match and art and craft exhibitions.

Elmham Queens Jubilee Street Party

A grant of £275 has been awarded to Elmham Queens Diamond Jubilee Street Party for the whole village. The party will also include the lighting of a beacon in the evening

which will be linked to the national celebrations and all children in attendance will receive a lasting keepsake. In order to leave a legacy for future generations, a commemorative tree will be planted on the village green and a time capsule buried for village organisations to contribute.

Jubilation – Bridgham

After borrowing a maypole in previous community events, Bridgham has been awarded £350.98 towards the purchase their own maypole ready for their Jubilee and Olympic celebrations this year. The local school has also declared an interest to teach the use of the maypole to the children. A gas cylinder beacon will also be purchased as part of the wider community celebrations of 2012.

Jubilee Kneelers – Pickenham

This is a new sewing/tapestry group formed in February 2012 with a mixed age group to encourage people to learn a new skill and come together as a community. There is an initial party of 6 forming this group with the intention to recruit another 6 people in the near future. The first project is to produce a range of Jubilee commemorative kneelers for North Pickenham Church, thus contributing to an exhibition planned by the church and the parish councils. A grant of £100 has been awarded to the group to help with the costs associated with the production of the commemorative kneelers.

Activities & Outings - Beeston

The village of Beeston has no village shop or post office. A monthly coffee morning was started a year ago and has now become a regular meeting place for 20-25 people. Due to the success of the coffee morning, a monthly lunch club has been formed and running for 6 months.

An award of £500 has been granted to the group in order to develop further activities within the village of Beeston after consultation with the group. Activities will include painting, Tai Chi and visits.

2. OPTIONS

2.1

- To approve the match funding for Swanton Morley Kitchen Refurbishment to the value of £9657
- To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards Swanton Morley Kitchen Refurbishment
- To decline the match funding application

2.2

- To approve the match funding for East Harling Improved Play & Recreation to the value of £8121
- To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards East Harling Improved Play & Recreation
- To decline the match funding application

2.3

- To approve the match funding for North Elmham Village Green to the value of £20,000
- To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards North Elmham Village Green
- To decline the match funding application

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1

Grant panel has recommended approval for Swanton Morley Village Hall Kitchen Improvements based on the following reasons:

- Complies with Breckland Council Health & Safety inspection and food hygiene recommendation

- Improved facilities will accommodate the growing community and the developing community need for the increased usage of the facilities.
- To accommodate new projects such as a dedicated breakfast and lunch club
- The project meets two of the council objectives
- The project has good support from the community and committed individuals.

Grant panel has recommended approval for East Harling Improved Play & Recreation based on the following reasons:

- The project meets two of the council's objectives
- It can demonstrate robust and in-depth consultation with the local community and therefore demonstrate a need for the equipment.
- Strong financial local support for the project
- Create improved physical and mental wellbeing for the children in Harling and surrounding parishes by installing a challenging and well catered play area.

Grant panel has recommended approval for North Elmham Village Green based on the following reasons:

- The project meets 3 of the council objectives
- The project has good support from the community
- The Parish Council are contributing a considerable amount of funding towards the project
- The response from the parish council following grant panel deferral was robust

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Increased community participation using recreational facilities within the district.
- Develops and enhances community facilities within rural areas of the district.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal

With reference to the East Harling Play and Recreation project, please note that the responsibility for the play area and maintenance of the equipment will be held with Harling Parish Council and therefore no future costs or responsibility will return to Breckland Council.

5.2 Risks: No risks identified

5.3 Financial: Please see appendix 1,2 and 3 for the Proforma B's in relation to the above match funding applications requiring approval.

5.4 Timescales:

Both projects requiring approval will be completed within this financial year (2012/13) subject to external funding being approved and on schedule.

5.5 Equality and Diversity: N/A

5.6 Stakeholders / Consultation

The residents of Swanton Morley, Harling and North Elmham have had an opportunity to comment on the project through a consultation conducted by the applicants directly.

5.7 Contracts: N/A

5.8 Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: N/A

6. WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

- Queens
- Swaffham
- Harling & Heathlands

- Swanton Morley
- Upper Wensum
- Wissey
- Launditch
- Watton

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision – No

Appendices attached to this report:

- 1.Proforma B Swanton Morley Village Hall Kitchen
- 2.Proforma B Harling Play & Recreation Improvements
- 3.Proforma B North Elmham Village Green