

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

To: Cabinet 20 November 2012

(Author: Mark Fretwell - Partnership Officer)

Subject: Grant Panel Report Round 3 2012/13

Purpose: This report summarises the funding recommendations that were made by the Grant Panel for round 3 of the 2012/13 financial year which was held on Wednesday 12th September 2012 and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of Match Funding.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the match funding applications for:

- Brisley Woodland & Amenity Project – **(up to £12,564 / 29% of total costs)**

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

- Necton village Hall - **(up to £2,900)**
- Icen Partnership - **(up to £3,619)**
- Etling Green – **(up to £3,000)**

Note for information the two grants awarded under the Activity Grant scheme.

Note for information the two grants awarded under the Gifted & Talented Grant scheme.

1. BACKGROUND

To ensure a joined up strategic approach is taken when awarding grants, the grant panel meeting on Wednesday 12th September 2012 has made some recommendations on the following applications.

Match Funding:

Five (5) applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Grant Panel meeting. The Grant Panel would like one (1) of these applications to be considered by Cabinet for funding and three (3) of the applications to be noted for information purposes only.

Brisley – Woodland & Amenity Project:

The overall plan is to create a woodland and public amenity area; including improving the allotments area (soil improvement, anti-rabbit fencing, single or multiple units), flower meadows, health walks, play area and a community orchard. Match Funding is sought to cover 'Phase 1' which will include the planting of woodland, restyling of allotments, seeding of the amenity grassland area and the construction of a path system.

The project has been supported well during the consultation survey conducted in June 2011. There was a 59% response rate with 77% in favour of creating a community woodland, 69% in favour of a community orchard and 18% said they would use the allotments if improved for use (including availability to neighbouring villages). A further survey in May 2012 conducted on households with children gained a 70% response rate which supported a children's play facilities. A 'play area' group has been formed to explore and plan the need and demand for

play options whilst raising funds. A range of purposes and access opportunities will be available to the local community including the local school, children, walkers, wildlife enthusiasts etc.

Significant external funding is in place therefore representing good value for the match funding reserve. The total cost of the project is £43,325 excluding VAT and the project has been awarded £1,000 from the Parish Council and the Forestry Commission will grant £26,304 and a further £6,576 at year 5 of the project.

Before taking a final decision the decision was deferred by the grant panel members who requested further information and clarification on the following areas:

- The 'Cash-Flow' during the lifecycle of the project, due to needing to spend first and then draw down retrospectively in the future, which will cause a delay in receiving the funding.
- Most cost effective options been chosen £25,000 for the paths and grass and circa £30,000 for woodland? Perhaps more volunteer Labour could be used? Therefore, are you able to provide more quotes in order to demonstrate Best Value?
- Why doesn't the Parish Council register and get the VAT back?
- Will you be able to provide some allotments in smaller plots for example half plots to encourage 1st time users?
- What work is planned to address the Environmental Awareness issues that this project could support?

A detailed response was received from the applicants concerning all the above points to the satisfaction of the grants panel with supporting documentary evidence including tender documents with three woodland quotes, cash-flow figures and written responses to the points raised.

The grant panel agreed to fund the project **up to £12,564** (29%) subject to other funding being in place and providing a total project is submitted upon completion of the project due to the cash-flow arrangements.

Delegated Decisions:

Necton Village Hall:

To provide external toilet facilities (disabled access) whilst the village hall is not open. The village hall is becoming a make-shift toilet due to there being no current toilet facilities. The increased use of the new children's play area, mini goal posts and the sports area have caused an increased need for a toilet facility to be available to prevent future incidents.

Necton Village Hall is a very active venue hosting events both inside and external to the facility. The new children's play area and exercise equipment has improved the footfall beyond their expectations and successful fetes and Diamond Jubilee celebrations have taken place. Consideration has been given to the potential vandalism or Anti Social Behaviour that may occur by planning to install the toilet facility at the front of the building (facing houses), a door time lock to be installed, and by engaging with the local Police. There are potential plans to install CCTV to cover the area in the future if required.

The total cost of the project is up to £7,998 including VAT and the project has been awarded £1,000 from the Bernard Matthews Fund and the Necton Rural Community Centre currently holds £4,098 of its own funds.

The grant panel agreed to fund the project **up to £2,900** (36%) subject to other funding being in place and reporting back on progress in one year. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Iceni Partnership:

To provide a 'Handyman Service' within the Swaffham area targeted at over 60's, long-term illness and those with disabilities. Services offered would include general home repairs, minor plumbing, and electrical works and gardening. There would be no call out charge and no hidden

add-ons; but a fixed hourly rate and the cost of materials.

It supports vulnerable people within the Swaffham area who are potential targets for rogue traders and in financial difficulties and require local value for money services. It provides local employment and will employ local people within the community.

The total cost of the project is up to £12,065 including VAT and the project is awaiting a decision from the Norfolk Community Foundation of £4,515 and the Icen Partnership currently holds £3,931 of their own funds.

The grant panel agreed to fund the project **up to £3,619** (30%) subject to it being one-off funding, workers to have CRB checks and to present the project at a future Breckland Older People's Forum meeting. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Etling Green Trustees:

To provide funding for the stabilisation of the structure of the mission room and to ensure the building and roof is weatherproof (stabilise front wall, stripping roof for repairs and replacement, replace guttering, internal plasterwork repairs) in order to ensure its future use is sustained. Providing funding will facilitate and enhance community cohesion and improve the quality of life for the local residents. It is currently used as a meeting room, to hold social events and is available for private hire for parties and to hold classes etc.

The project supports a small rural hamlet to continue utilising a focal point for the local community; which boasts an active residents' association who will act as volunteers to keep the costs of the repairs down where possible. There is much support locally as fundraising has provided donations towards the renovation costs. It provides an improved community facility thus providing an opportunity to meet and socialise with like-minded people. An improved facility is more likely to generate an increase in income streams from hirers of the facility.

The total cost of the project is up to £6,100 including VAT and the project has been awarded £1,000 from Dereham Town Council and the Etling Green Trustees have raised and hold funds of £3,100.

The grants panel agreed to fund the project **up to £3,000** (49.2%) subject to other funding being in place and seeking advice from the Historic Buildings officer at Breckland Council. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Gifted and Talented:

Tommy Hoven:

Tommy is aged 13 and belongs to the Dereham Otters club. Tommy has improved from gaining 2 County Qualifying times in 2011, to qualifying for all County events and winning 7 County titles this season. This performance has seen him ranked as No 2 in his age category for Norfolk, and No 10 nationally in his age category for the 100m Freestyle. In order to progress and reach his goal of making the Nationals next year, Tommy needs to compete this coming year in Level 1 Galas. This will incur a further £1,600 to the total costs his participation in Swimming added up to during the 2011/12 season.

Tommy is in a period of significant improvement and development. Whilst the award of a Gifted and Talented Grant from Breckland would assist financially. It may also provide the extra encouragement and inspiration required to surpass his current level of training and sustained commitment in order to improve further in order to achieve his goal to compete nationally.

The funding is required to assist with costs associated with annual training, competition, accommodation and equipment costs. Total costs to be incurred £3,392.

It was agreed to fund Tommy with the full funding amount of **£500** as requested.

Daniel Corbyn:

Daniel is aged 14 and belongs to the Kings Lynn Gymnastics Club (Tumbling and Acrobatics) Daniel was National Tumbling Champion in 2011 for his age group. He has been competing at National Elite Level in Tumbling for the past 2 years. In May of this year he won silver and bronze medals for team and individual events respectively at the National finals in Stoke on Trent. Daniel is due to compete 3 more times nationally this season in Basingstoke, Stoke on Trent, and Leeds in September, November and December of this year. Each of these tournaments takes place over weekends and requires transport and accommodation costs as well as entrance fees. Daniels references describe an extremely talented and dedicated young man, with a very bright future, performing at the elite level within his sporting discipline.

Daniel is an elite level athlete competing at the top of his sporting discipline at National Level. The costs incurred by his family ensuring he can attend training in Kings Lynn 4 times a week, and travel monthly to national tournaments across the country are vast. For Daniel to continue to have the opportunity to realise his potential it is imperative that he finds funding due to his families modest income. On the back of the success of British Gymnasts in London this summer it would be great to be able to offer our own Gifted and Talented residents support towards achieving their indisputable potential.

The funding is required to assist with costs associated with annual training, competition, accommodation, and equipment costs. Total costs to be incurred £4,465.

It was agreed to fund Daniel with the full funding amount of **£500** as requested.

Activity Grant:

Mundford Junior Badminton Club:

Post a successful Badminton taster session held by Active Norfolk and Breckland Council as part of the Mundford Village Games 'Road show' in spring of this year. The Parish Council and local qualified coaches are now looking to establish a junior badminton club within the village in order to offer a new activity for the youth of the area. Some 30 young people took part in the Village Games 'Road show', evidencing interest in the sport in the area. Subsequently, Breckland and Active Norfolk have assisted a resident of the village to become qualified as a Level 1 Badminton Coach. This coach will support the initial delivery of the sessions with a view to taking it over in the long term once having gained more experience under the guidance and expertise of the initially employed Level 2 coach. The application represents an opportunity to make minimal investment into a project that could soon become sustainable in its own right. In light of the recent success of the London 2012 Olympic Games, the timing has never been better to be looking to promote new opportunities for participation in sport.

The total project costs are £480 and in order to make the club sustainable they are requesting £240 (50%) funding towards badminton equipment and hall hire costs for the first season in order to allow the initial participant subscriptions during this period to fund future coaching and venue hire costs thereafter.

It was agreed to fund Mundford Junior badminton club with funding of **£240** as requested.

Breckland Older People's Forum (BOPF):

Our aim is to promote organisations which can offer advice, information and practical help to older people in the Breckland (particularly Thetford) area by holding a hands-on event about Health and Wellbeing for older people.

BOPF has members from across Breckland who meet regularly to discuss issues affecting older people in Breckland. From these meetings we identify relevant topics eg advice on dementia, financial issues and management, safety issues, health and wellbeing etc which we can then target for events which we hold across Breckland (3 per year).

The total project costs are £290 The event will allow the dissemination of information on Health

and Wellbeing which they can then utilise for their own needs. We hope to have a total of 12/13 stands at the event including NHS Health Trainers, Joy of Food, Norfolk Library Service, Mobility Aids, Footcare, Pharmacy Health Checks.

It was agreed to fund the Breckland Older People's Forum with funding of **£240** as requested.

2. OPTIONS

2.1

- To approve the match funding for Brisley Woodland & Amenity Project up to the value of £12,564.
- To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards Brisley Woodland & Amenity Project.
- To decline the match funding application.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1

Grant panel has recommended approval for Brisley Woodland & Amenity Project based on the following reasons:

- The project has been supported well locally during the consultation survey conducted in June 2011.
- Significant external funding is in place therefore representing good value for the match funding reserve.
- A range of purposes and access opportunities will be available to the local community including the local school, children, walkers, wildlife enthusiasts etc.
- The applicants provided further detailed information regarding the project when requested to do so by the grant panel, which passed further panel scrutiny.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

- An opportunity to enhance the local offer to a wide range of local people and all visitors to the area who wish to take part in a wide range of activities including walking, gardening, wildlife, photography etc.
- An opportunity to improve the green agenda whilst providing an accessible facility which has significant local support to be developed further in the future to include a children's play area and a fruit orchard.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Legal:** A letter dated 11th May 2012 from the nps group – (land agents on behalf of Norfolk County Council) to Brisley Parish Council stated the following:

With reference to the Brisley Woodland & Amenity project, please note that the tenancy that the Parish Council holds is subject to the Agricultural Holdings Act (1986) and this agreement affords the tenant lifetime security of tenure. As the Parish Council is the tenant, rather than a person, the length of tenure can be said to be in perpetuity.

Unfortunately, I am unable to say categorically that your landlord would not, at some point in the future, seek to regain possession of the land. However, I can confirm that the current policy of the County Council is to retain its County Farm Estate of which, your Council's tenancy forms part. I would also hope that your Council finds significant comfort in the fact that its proposals would not alter the nature of the tenancy and therefore the security in perpetuity of tenancy as discussed above."

- 5.2 **Risks:** In terms of the future land-use, see the legal section above.
- 5.3 **Financial:** See appendix 1 for the Proforma B in relation to the above match funding application requiring approval.
- 5.4 **Timescales:** The projects requiring approval will be completed during this financial year (2012/13) or the during quarters 1 and 2 next year subject to external funding being approved and on schedule.
- 5.5 **Equality and Diversity:** N/A
- 5.6 **Stakeholders / Consultation:** The residents of Brisley and potential users of the facilities 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:** Brisley and the neighbouring Wards, however it is accessible to all visitors to the area.

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Key Decision – No**Appendices attached to this report:**

- 1.Proforma B – Brisley Woodland & Amenity Project

Background papers:- Available upon request.