

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

To: Cabinet: 18 June 2013

(Author: Stephanie Barnard – Community Development)

Subject: Breckland Community Funding Applications

Purpose: This report summarises the funding recommendations made by officers and Executive Members as part of the ongoing process for the new SharePoint system as a way of accessing and reviewing new Community Funding Applications.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the match funding application for:

- East Harling Sports and Social Club – (£12,892.00 / 20% of total costs)

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

- Necton Parish Council – (up to £4,848.00 / 32% of total costs)

Note for information the one grant awarded under the Pride Grant scheme.

- West Norfolk Community Transport

Note for information the one grant awarded under the Access Arts Grant scheme

- Welborne Village Hall

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Match Funding:

Two (2) applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Executive Members comments. The Executive Members would like one (1) of these applications to be considered by Cabinet for funding and one (1) of the applications to be noted for information purposes only.

1.2 East Harling Sports & Social Club

The improvements will affect the wellbeing of the estimated 1,250 regular users of the facility and thus represents significant value for money. The fact that the project has already secured 70% of the total project costs with a £45,083 grant from The Norfolk Community Foundation, and is positively seeking a further 10% from other local sources means that Breckland would secure a £5 return for every £1 of investment. The project has earmarked the utility savings it will make through the installation of energy and water efficient systems to create a 'sink' fund in order to address future maintenance needs as they arise. That the development will also bring further participation means it will also create more income. All sports clubs currently accessing the facility are being stifled in their pursuit of improving the quality of provision they offer to their members by the current state of the changing facilities. The

developments will allow all clubs the opportunity to progress onto higher levels of participation, and for more clubs to simultaneously use the facility at one time resulting in higher rates of participation. The project comprehensively meets the 2 corporate objectives of 'Having Pride in Breckland', and 'Developing Stronger Communities'. Consultation has been carried out with a variety of local organisations all offering support for the initiative, clearly championing the need for the improvements to be made. As above, numerous local groups and members have been positively consulted, and funding offered to the tune of 70% of the total project costs has already been secured, with a further 10% of immediate local investment being sought with a decision being made in late May.

The Executive Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that funding of £12.892.00 (20%) be approved.

1.3 **Delegated Decisions:**

1.4 **Necton Parish Council**

Necton Parish Council has secured £10,000 from Awards for All for this project and they are applying for £4,848 from Breckland Council to fund the improvements to the recreational ground.

The project is planned to start next month and there is evidence of the responsibility now falling back to the parish council for the improvements from NRCC. This work aligns clearly with two of the Corporate priorities and the photographs and minutes of a parish meeting evidence the need for the new fencing.

The score awarded for this application is higher than the minimum required of 18.

The Executive Members agreed to support up to £4,848.00 or £3848.00 with the deficit of £1000.00 being funded by Necton Parish Council.

1.5 **Pride Grants :**

1.6 **West Norfolk Community Transport**

WNCT scheme benefits 450 individuals in the Breckland area. The application amounts to 2.74% of the total project budget for this year. Breckland's contribution amounts to £10 per beneficiary. A full detailed budget is provided, which also includes maintenance costs. Norfolk County Council is a funder of this scheme. All drivers are trained and accessed to the Community Transport Association's standards. Passenger assistants are trained through the Passenger Assistants Training Scheme and staff are training in emergency first aid and safeguarding.

The Executive Members agreed to support up to £4,925.00

1.7 **Access Arts:**

1.8 **Welborne Village Hall**

This application presents strong value for money. Welborne Arts Festival are applying for 23% of the total project costs and will involve 120 children from Breckland Primary Schools – Yaxham, Mattishall and Earthsea House, East Tuddenham (a residential therapeutic special school) directly and 500 children indirectly (audience members). Basic budget information has been provided and details around the timescales. Due to scale of this project, there is no requirement for anything more in depth than what is provided. Welborne Arts Festival is well established and attracts good quality arts activity and large audiences for such a small village. Despite being just outside of our district,

Welborne plan to work with Primary Schools / residential special school on three projects. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with UEA Drama Students and Jaya Dance – Bollywood Dance on performances for Welborne Arts Festival.

There are benefits for the 120 children taking part, as well as a live project for the UEA students to work on.

1.9 This project addresses two corporate objectives:

1. To have Pride in Breckland – build on the success of the Pride programme.

The projects celebrate diverse cultures, bring together young and old and contribute to the quality of life through the provision of good quality arts.

1.10 2. To Development Stronger Communities – improve health, wellbeing and standards of living. The connection to Students at UEA creates positive role models for the children. The nature of the workshops encourages physical and mental activity to improve health and wellbeing. Welborne Arts Festival is in its tenth year and is predicted to attract over 1500 people, based on previous years. There are various surveys and questionnaire results to evidence the local support for the festival, including the SOUL report (Norwich City College, 2006) which stated that Welborne was ‘encouraging social inclusion’ in a relatively isolated village. 91% of respondents felt the activities assisted in building community spirit. Welborne Arts Festival has created a very strong link with the UEA Drama Department, which will highly benefit the festival and the participants taking part in the Schools’ Project. They have a good working relationship with the schools and local artists.

The Executive Members agreed to support up to £500.00

2. OPTIONS

(1) To approve the match funding for East Harling Sports & Social Club to the value of £12,892.00.

(2) To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards East Harling Sports & Social Club.

(3) To decline the match funding application.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Executive members have recommended approval for East Harling Sports & Social Club with funding conditions.

- Agree some hosting of events/coaching during next 12 months (Cllr Turner)
- Grant from East Harling PC to be confirmed before payment is made. Hosting of children’s holiday activities should also be conditioned. (Cllr Kiddle-Morris)

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 Please see Paragraph 1.2

5. IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Risks: The project may not go ahead without the funding from Breckland Council

Financial: Contained in the report

Timescales: Contained in the report

Equality and Diversity: No implications identified

Stakeholders / Consultation: Contained in the report

Contracts: None

Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

5. **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:** East Harling, Necton, Watton, Welborne, Swaffham,
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Lead Contact Officer

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Key Decision – NO

Appendices attached to this report:

Background papers:-Available upon request.