

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Member Place, Paul Claussen

To: Cabinet – 7 February 2017

Author: Clive Rayner, Grant Officer, Norfolk Community Foundation

Subject: Match Funding (large) application

Purpose: To consider the decision to award funding to Mattishall Parish Council

Recommendation:

- 1) That the Executive Member for Place approves the following grant awards:
 - £20,000 (or 26.5% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to Mattishall Parish Council towards the cost of a new play area at the Old School site.

BACKGROUND – Mattishall Parish Council

- 1.1 Mattishall Parish Council is seeking a match funding grant of £20,000 towards a large project with a total evidenced cost of £75,372.24. The new play area to be provided on the Old School site in the centre of the village will feature play equipment, adult fitness equipment, a concrete table tennis table and seating. Also included in the cost are various associated works including paths, fencing, litter bins, safety surfaces and delivery and installation.
- 1.2 Following the demolition of the former school building in 2013 there was public consultation to consider ideas for the site. This process included a public meeting in March 2014 attended by around 60 people. Following this meeting a committee was formed to further develop ideas for the site. From this process the decision was made to devote the whole site to a play and exercise. Subsequently the committee carried out a consultation of both adults and children to determine what types of play and exercise equipment were wanted. The consultation was delivered to each house in Mattishall. Residents were also consulted at village fetes and events. Adults were asked to list the equipment they most wished to see on the site, children were asked to draw pictures of the equipment that they wished to have. The children's consultation was organised through the school. Following the consultation, the committee drew up a specification for the play area and invited three companies to produce designs and indicative costs. Following this, the committee recommended a preferred design to the Parish Council, and Playdale as the preferred contractor.
- 1.3 The project costs are evidenced by a quote from Playdale (£70,781.75 excluding VAT which the parish council will be able to recover) plus a separate quote of £2,300 from Mant Leisure for the table tennis table and £1,000 for paths from a Dereham based company.
- 1.4 The proposed children's play area will have nine pieces of equipment with items suitable for all ages from toddler to teenager. The four pieces of adult equipment

plus an all-weather table tennis table will be separated from the children's area by a metre high fence.

- 1.5 The parish council has to date secured £37,410 (50%) of the necessary funds. If a grant is awarded at the requested level of £20,000 this would mean that 76% of funding was secured. Secured amounts include £8,000 from Tesco Bags of Help, £9,396 from the Breckland Outdoor Sport & Play Fund, £2,500 from the Shelroy Charitable Trust, £2,000 from the Paul Bassham Charitable Trust, £2,362 from village fundraising events and £12,000 from Mattishall Parish Council's own resources. Other grant applications to raise the balance of funding are in progress or already submitted. These include requests to the Aviva Community Fund, Norfolk Playing Fields Association and the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation.
- 1.6 A number of measures will keep users safe and the equipment in good condition. At an early stage the project sought advice from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer. The area will be entirely fenced and will have self-closing gates. On the side that faces the road, there will be an additional barrier to prevent exit from the play area, across the footpath and onto the road. All of the equipment in the quotation from Playdale conforms to appropriate safety standards. Monthly safety inspections will be performed by a member of the Parish Council, and there will be an Annual Professional Inspection and risk assessment. Once installed, the facility will be maintained by the parish council.

2) **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Fully fund the application set out in the report
- 2.2 Part fund the application set out in the report
- 2.3 Do nothing

3) **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 The grant applications meet the criteria of the scheme.

4) **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 Provide opportunities for recreation and exercise.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 5.2.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.3 **Contracts**

- 5.3.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 The application aligns with the Breckland Council objectives of “support groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities within their communities which further improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing,” and “work with partners and local communities to make public spaces cleaner, greener and safe. The application states that providing a play area and adult exercise area will promote a cohesive centre for outdoor activity, in a safe, purpose built environment. It will encourage children to play collectively and socially in a constructive manner, contributing to physical activity, and also provide the availability of an adult component. The project will also provide an easily accessible site in the centre of the village.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 The grant request is for £20,000. There are adequate funds in the Match Funding reserves held by the NCF for 2016/17 to cover this grant expenditure.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications

5.10 **Safeguarding**

5.10.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Staffing**

5.11.1 It is of the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.12 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.12.1 Breckland Councillor Paul Claussen has verbally confirmed his support for the parish council's application saying that this is the right project in the right place in the village and that he supports it 100%. He comments that the way the project has been developed is a credit to the community and the parish council.

5.13 **Other**

5.13.1 Any offer letters made should reflect the conditions applied by the grant panel members.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 Mattishall.

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 NCF – Norfolk Community Foundation

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Application