

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Member Place, Paul Claussen

To: Informal Executive Briefing, 2 January 2019

Author: Clive Rayner, Grant Officer, Norfolk Community Foundation

Subject: Match Funding (small) applications

Purpose: To consider the decision to award match funding to four projects.

Recommendations:

1. That the Executive Member for Place approves the following grant awards:
 - £3,861 (or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to Mundford Cricket Club to contribute towards the costs of sight screens, scoreboard and wicket cover sheets.
 - £2,300 (or 46% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to Thompson Parish Council to contribute towards the costs of installing adult exercise equipment on the Millennium Green.
 - £2,800 (or 48% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to Thompson Community Hall to create a petanque court.
 - £2,469 (or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to Old Buckenham Cricket Club to repair the scoreboard and install a new electronic scoreboard.

BACKGROUND – Mundford Cricket Club

- 1.1 Mundford Cricket Club runs two senior sides plus three junior teams with over 50 registered junior members playing in under 11, 14 and 15 teams. The 1st XI play in the Norfolk Cricket Alliance. The ground hosts county senior and junior cricket matches. The club has a total of 143 members and is Clubmark accredited meaning that it is well-run and has appropriate safeguards in place for participants of all ages.
- 1.2 The club is also used by a network of cluster primary schools, 30 in total, through work co-ordinated by the Breckland School Sports Partnership. The Partnership's School Games Organiser has reported that the club is a hub for cricket in the area hosting cluster and partnership Kwik Cricket events as well as teacher training CPD workshops. He states that any facility developments at the club would be of great benefit to thousands of school children across Breckland. He also reports that there are plans to host an inter-generational event to celebrate next year's Cricket World Club at Mundford Cricket Club.
- 1.3 Match funding is sought to contribute 50% of the costs of a range of equipment purchases. These are: Three new cover sheets to protect the wickets. These will go on the three mobile frames that the club already has. Two new sight screens which are easy to move and will double the area covered by sight screens behind the bowlers arm on the boundary edge. An electronic scoreboard linked to the Play-Cricket website. This will replace a manual face and will be much more visible to players and spectators and will be easier to use. Linking it to the Play-

Cricket website means that scores entered will go live on the site on entry. This will save time transferring the match scores which is usually completed after the game and means that score updates are available to a wider audience. The application comments that the sight screens and covers are needed to meet the requirements of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance in which the first team competes.

- 1.4 The Club has sought quotes and has evidenced the total cost at £7,721 (cover sheets £990, sight screens £2,400, scoreboard £4,056 including link to Play-Cricket and delivery £275). The balance of funding will come from the club's reserves.
- 1.5 The project aligns with Breckland Council's priorities around supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities within their communities which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing as well as supporting older people to remain active, participate and live independently within the community. The club offers recreational cricket to all ages and abilities and provides exercise opportunities for its 140 plus members as well as social activities. The club has a membership ranging in age from 7 to 70 with a number of members in their 50's still playing. Older members are able to participate through a range of roles such as scoring, umpiring or other administrative roles.
- 1.6 Breckland member Mike Nairn has confirmed his support for the project as follows: "I am well aware of the project and wholly support it. It is intended that the equipment sought will enhance not only the quality of the game but also add a greater level of protection and cover to the facilities. Mundford has a thriving sporting community and the Cricket Club is a fine example. With over a hundred adult members and upwards of sixty younger members under sixteen in addition, it is indicative how well founded the club is. I believe this project will help drive the club forward and assist them in expanding their role in the wider community and draw in new members, particularly from the youngsters in the village and nearby."

BACKGROUND – Thompson Parish Council

- 1.7 Thompson Parish Council is seeking funding towards the costs of improving recreational facilities in the village by installing four items of adult exercise equipment – a rider, a cross rider, a body twist and an arm bike. The equipment will be installed on the Millennium Green which is owned by the Millennium Green charity. However as the parish council is the sole trustee of the charity it is reasonable for them to be the applicant for this grant.

Originally this application and the one that follows from Thompson Community Hall were presented as one application by the parish council but during assessment it became clear that the two projects would in fact be delivered by different organisations and hence needed to be split into separate requests to ensure that any grant was awarded to an organisation that would have clear responsibility for the project. In reality the Parish Council and the Community Hall plus the Thompson Millennium Green charity are all working closely to improve sport and fitness opportunities in the village.

- 1.8 The parish council, community hall and Millennium Green charity canvassed views in the village on further improvements to recreation that were needed and the idea of installing fitness equipment (along with a petanque court) were the most popular choices.

- 1.9 The parish council has researched the equipment available from a variety of suppliers and also spoken to representatives of several villages where such equipment is installed. The equipment which will be purchased has unanimously been described as robust and trouble free by those who manage other areas where it has been installed. The selected equipment will provide for a varied range of exercises and will cost £5,000 to install. This price includes a £479 discount from the suppliers and excludes VAT which the parish council will be able to reclaim. The parish council is seeking a grant £2,300 which represents 46% of the total project cost. It will provide the balance of funding from funds it was allocated from Breckland's Outdoor Sport and Play Fund (via Norfolk Community Foundation) in 2018.
- 1.10 The project aligns with Breckland Council's priorities around supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities within their communities which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing as well as supporting older people to remain active, participate and live independently within the community. Thompson has an ageing population with a significant proportion past retirement age. This project will provide encouragement to improve fitness without the barrier of travelling to a gym or other leisure facility.
- 1.11 Phil Cowen, Breckland member for All Saints and Wayland ward has confirmed his support for both this and the following application as follows: "Thompson is a proactive Wayland village, has a robust community and draws upon nearby villages that can access facilities. I can unequivocally state that I support the community 100% and would urge you to look favourably upon their request. The bid ticks the boxes associated with the Health and Wellbeing agenda and is to be applauded."

BACKGROUND – Thompson Community Hall

- 1.12 Thompson Community Hall is seeking funding towards the costs of creating a petanque court behind the hall.
- As explained above, this project was originally included within the parish council's application but as the Community Hall is responsible for this area and will deliver the project it was asked to apply in its own right to ensure a proper line of accountability for any grant contract.*
- 1.13 Having successfully completed construction of the hall in 2018 and launched a wide range of activities in it, the petanque court is the community hall's next project. At a hall open day, residents' views were canvassed on future potential improvements and construction of the petanque court was the most popular choice.
- 1.14 The work will be carried out by a contractor and will create a playing area of 15m x 10m. The work involves digging out the area to a depth of 200mm and filling with three layers of material plus a membrane between the first and second layers to give a firm playing surface. The excavated soil will be spread elsewhere on the site. The work is quoted at £4,740 plus VAT to give a total cost of £5,688. In addition a small sum is being budgeted to grass the area where the soil is spread. This brings the total cost to £5,800. Once complete the area can be used for

social play and for competitive matches. There are a growing number of petanque teams in Norfolk and an established league system.

- 1.15 The Community Hall is able to provide a contribution of £3,000 and so a grant of £2,800 (48%) is needed.
- 1.16 The project aligns with Breckland Council's priorities around supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities within their communities which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing as well as supporting older people to remain active, participate and live independently within the community. Thompson has an ageing population with a significant proportion past retirement age. This activity is suitable for older people and encourages flexibility and balance. It can be played socially and competitively and as a team game it encourages interaction.
- 1.17 Phil Cowen, Breckland member for All Saints and Wayland ward has confirmed his support for this application and the preceding one as follows: "Thompson is a proactive Wayland village, has a robust community and draws upon nearby villages that can access facilities. I can unequivocally state that I support the community 100% and would urge you to look favourably upon their request. The bid ticks the boxes associated with the Health and Wellbeing agenda and is to be applauded."

BACKGROUND – Old Buckenham Cricket Club

- 1.18 Old Buckenham Cricket Club runs three adult men's team, an adult ladies' team and a thriving junior section for both boys and girls with players ranging in age from 6 to 17. The club has boys, girls and mixed teams at junior level. The club also operates the "Chance to Shine" programme which provides cricket in primary, secondary and a special school in the Breckland area. The cricket ground also provides a home for many county age group games from under 11 through to over 70's. In total the club has a membership of around 100. It is Clubmark accredited meaning that it is well-run and has appropriate safeguards in place for participants of all ages.
- 1.19 The Club is seeking a 50% match funding grant to renovate the scoreboard and update the electronic components of the scoreboard. The application states that the current facility is having to be repaired on a regular basis. The scoreboard uses an old fashioned bulb and fuse system and the Club has been advised that this now needs replacing after 25 years of use. The project will upgrade the facility using modern LED lighting. This will be longer lasting, use less energy and will help anybody playing or watching any game to see the scores much more clearly. A small 'repeater scoreboard' will also be installed in the clubhouse displaying total runs, wickets and overs.
- 1.20 The club has sought quotes for the work which identify the cost as £625 to repair the scoreboard and £4,314 to install the electronic scoreboard. The repair work will be completed by a local tradesperson that the club has used previously and the scoreboard will be installed by a specialist supplier. The club will contribute the balance of funding from its own funds and will aim to get the work completed ahead of the 2019 season.
- 1.21 The project aligns with Breckland Council's priorities around supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities within their communities

which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing as well as supporting the Breckland Health and Wellbeing Partnership to address key local health, care and wellbeing issues. The club provides opportunities for its 100 or so members to participate in sport. The membership includes males, females and junior players. Over the course of a season around 50 matches are played at the ground.

- 1.22 Breckland member Adrian Joel has confirmed his support for the project as follows: "I have known Old Buckenham Cricket Club for the last 35 years. They are an excellent Organisation and have a high profile in Old Buckenham and in the County of Norfolk. The Club has several teams which includes both Men and Ladies Teams. Old Buckenham has an excellent Coaching Team who coach both boys and girls from Old Buckenham, local villages and Attleborough and in addition they Coach at Old Buckenham High School. The Cricket Club meets the Breckland Council objectives in providing local facilities for all age Groups. Old Buckenham Cricket Club is a sustainable and modern organisation and in desperate need to upgrade their electric score board, which I remember being built 25 years ago. I am pleased to support this application."

2) REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The four applications meet the criteria of the scheme.

3) EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 3.1 **Mundford Cricket Club** – improve facilities for adult and junior players helping the club to retain and increase membership. Improve safety by providing sight screen and covers which can be quickly put into place.
Thompson Parish Council – provide opportunities for aerobic exercise for adults encouraging health and fitness.
Thompson Community Hall - provide opportunities for communal sporting activity for people of any age.
Old Buckenham Cricket Club – updated facilities will enhance the experience of 1,000+ players who play at the club over the course of a season.

4) IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint/Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The Match Funding reserves held by Norfolk Community Foundation have a current available balance of £87,250. In addition to the four applications covered by this report, there are also two large match funding applications requesting £40,000 that are going forward for decision in January 2019. There are therefore sufficient funds to meet the recommended expenditure of £11,430 in this report.

5) WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

- 5.1 **Mundford Cricket Club** - Bedingfeld ward/Mundford.
Thompson Parish Council - All Saints & Wayland/Thompson.
Thompson Community Hall - All Saints & Wayland/Thompson.
Old Buckenham Cricket Club - The Buckenhams & Banham/Old Buckenham

6) **ACRONYMS**

- 6.1 Any acronyms are explained in the body of the report

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Applications and Proforma B