

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Member for Place
To: Cabinet – 21 May 2019
Author: Clive Rayner, Grant Officer, Norfolk Community Foundation
Subject: Match Funding (large) application
Purpose: To consider the decision to award funding to Caston Parish Council

Recommendation:

- 1) That the Executive Member for Place approves the following grant award:
 - £7,800 (or 30% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to the Caston Parish Council to create a play area in the village.

BACKGROUND – Caston Parish Council

- 1.1 Caston Parish Council is seeking grant support for its project to create a play area in the village. At present Caston has no specific facilities for children and the nearest play facility requires a car journey to the next village. The parish council is planning a project that will cater for children and young people aged between 1 and 16 years. The scheme will be installed on parish council owned land at Coronation Terrace, Attleborough Road. This location is close to the centre of the village.
- 1.2 In a village appraisal conducted in 2017 the provision of a children's play area emerged as the most desired additional facility with 65 of the 91 respondents (71%) identifying this as a facility that they supported. Responses to the appraisal helped the parish council to identify that there were at least 30 children under the age of 16 in the village. As 31% of households did not respond to the survey, this figure is likely to be an underestimate. Since the appraisal was completed a further 30 homes have been built in the village.
An open day at the Village Hall on 23rd February 2019, at which children were asked to review proposals received from play equipment suppliers. They were invited to discuss, and express preferences for, various items and configurations of equipment. Older children completed a questionnaire indicating the types of activity they most enjoyed in a play area. They were also able to add suggestions of their own. For younger children, colouring sheets featuring the various items of equipment were available. The children's preferences were indicated using stickers placed on the scheme designs. A total of 14 questionnaires were completed with a further 4 preferences indicated by stickers. Another 3 opinions were received from children who had asked their parents to respond via the village Facebook page.
- 1.3 A match funding grant of £7,800 would contribute towards a project which will cost £26,000. The project will see a nest swing, swings, a toddler tower incorporating a slide, a log pile climber and a four way spinning rocker installed. In addition safety matting, fencing, two benches, a waste bin and signage will be installed. A detailed quote from a Breckland based supplier clearly identifies the costs of the play equipment, safety surfacing and fencing at £23,732.75. Other quotes from a range of suppliers have been obtained for the other items and a sum of £150 has

been allowed for installing the non-play items. All costs exclude VAT as the parish council is able to reclaim this.

- 1.4 In addition to a match funding grant of £7,800 the parish council will contribute £6,000 from its own funds as well as £5,196 which was allocated to the parish from Breckland's Outdoor Sport and Play Fund (via Norfolk Community Foundation) in 2018. The parish council has also been successful with an application to Awards for All for the balance of £7,000. If a match funding grant is awarded the project will be fully funded and therefore able to proceed quickly.
- 1.5 Ongoing maintenance will be paid for by the parish council which intends to set aside a budget figure of £1,000 per year for this purpose. Regular safety inspections will be conducted by an accredited organisation. Signage at the site will inform users who to contact at the parish council to report any issues with the equipment.

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 application meets the criteria of the scheme, all of the other funding is in place, there has been effective consultation with young people in the village and there are sufficient funds remaining in the match funding budget to support this request.

4) **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1
 - Provision of new outdoor play opportunities for children and young people aged from 1 to 16.

5) **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.

5.1 **Financial**

- 5.1.1 The Match Funding reserves held by Norfolk Community Foundation have a current balance of £51,013. There are therefore sufficient funds to meet the grant expenditure of £7,800 proposed in this report.

5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

- 5.2.1 The project aligns with the following Breckland objectives: 'Supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing' and 'support the Breckland Health and Wellbeing Partnership to address health and wellbeing

issues.' At present the village has no play facilities and this project will encourage young people to become more active which can bring physical and mental health benefits. The project will also create a focal point for both children and adults encouraging interaction and reducing isolation.

5.3 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.3.1 Breckland member Phil Cowen has written to confirm that he “wholeheartedly endorses their request to seek funding for the play area.”

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All Saints and Wayland Ward/Caston.

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 NCF – Norfolk Community Foundation

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Clive Rayner, Grant Officer,
Norfolk Community Foundation
Telephone Number: 01603 623958
Email: cliverayner@norfolkfoundation.com

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report: