



Grant Working Party 11 December 2012

Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme Application for project funding 2012/13

1. Summary and reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Officers have received applications for Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme funding from the Hopton Community Swimming Committee and the St Edmund's Archers. Both applications are for over £5,000, so according to the Council's Grant Policy they must be considered at a Grant Working Party meeting rather than via the email voting system.
- 1.2 Hopton Community Swimming Committee have applied for £10,000 towards the refurbishment of their swimming pool and changing room facilities. This will enable them to open up their swimming pool as a year-round facility for all the community. The officers' recommendation is for the full £10,000 to be granted, since this facility will provide great health benefits for the Hopton community and further afield, plus it will provide a good link to the local primary school.
- 1.3 St Edmund's Archers have applied for £10,000 towards an indoor range with a clubhouse and associated amenities, including kitchen and toilet facilities and parking, at Whepstead. The current facilities are fairly basic and this new purpose-built facility will attract more members. The officers' recommendation is for a grant of £8,000 since, although this project will bring a great deal of investment into a rural village, archery is a more specialist sport and is not likely to benefit as many members of the community.

2. Recommendations

That:

- 2.1 a grant of £10,000 be awarded to the Hopton Community Swimming Committee towards the refurbishment of their swimming pool and changing room facilities.
- 2.2 a grant of £8,000 be awarded to the St Edmund's Archers towards an indoor range with a clubhouse and associated amenities.

Contact details

Name

Title

Telephone

E-mail

Portfolio holders

Cllr John Griffiths

Leader of the Council

01284 757001

john.griffiths@stedsbc.gov.uk

Cllr Robert Everitt

Portfolio Holder for Tourism
and Community Services

01284 769000

robert.everitt@stedsbc.gov.uk**Lead officer**

Kirsty Pitwood

Economic Development Officer

01284 757109

kirsty.pitwood@stedsbc.gov.uk

3. Corporate priorities

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the Corporate Plan:

- (a) Corporate priority: 'Working together for strong, healthy and diverse Communities'; and
- (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place: which has one of the healthiest resident populations in the country (V:He1); where the wide range of accessible leisure and cultural facilities on offer provide opportunities for all sectors of the community (V:L2); and where all residents live within walking distance of recreational and countryside activities (V:L4).

4. Key issues

4.1 Hopton Community Swimming Committee

- 4.1.1 Hopton Community Swimming Committee have applied for £10,000 towards the refurbishment of their swimming pool and changing room facilities.
- 4.1.2 The project will include replacing the internal fabric of the pool; cleaning and re-using a cover sourced from a closed pool in the area (the project has been greatly helped by the acquisition of a second hand enclosure, pool cover and various other pieces of equipment which has saved the applicant in the region of £50,000) and will provide a facility that has all year round use with a heating source.
- 4.1.3 Until Summer 2010 only the primary school held swimming lessons during six weeks of the Summer term and the rest of the year the facility lay dormant. Suffolk County Council (SCC) has cut its funding since swimming is not a curricular activity for four to nine year olds and thus the swimming pool has fallen into disrepair.
- 4.1.4 As part of the school reorganisation in September 2013, Hopton Primary School and the five other primary schools in the local pyramid will become home to Year 5 and subsequently Year 6 pupils whose curriculum does include swimming. The applicants a community group and not a schools-based organisation, has the support of all the pyramid schools, along with agreement from SCC, to refurbish a pool on their grounds and run it accordingly. There are also proposals for a free school to be sited at Ixworth which would be within the catchment area. With the current economic climate and ongoing funding cuts, the feedback is that a more local facility would be very attractive.
- 4.1.5 The Hidden Needs Report presented in 2011 by the Suffolk Foundation, has highlighted that there are hidden pockets of need. Deprivation and inequality go beyond income poverty and include other forms of disadvantage such as loneliness and social isolation. By refurbishing and covering the existing swimming pool, the project would not only be able to create a welcoming local, accessible facility for individuals in the area, but also provide a life skill to all the schoolchildren in Hopton and neighbouring schools.

4.1.6 The application form clearly states the project's wide ranging benefits to people of all ages:

- (a) families – promoting family life in joint activities;
- (b) parent and baby groups – providing social activity for stay at home parents/carers;
- (c) pre-school children aged two to four years – weekly classes during the day, developing children's confidence in the water from a young age;
- (d) age four to nine year olds – the five local primary schools currently have 432 pupils within a 7.5 mile radius;
- (e) age nine to 13 year olds – the local middle school has 387 pupils who could be offered local swimming lessons and after school clubs;
- (f) age 14 to 19 year olds – Keystone Development Trust which establishes projects that cover the needs of the local community has recognised that the area has a higher than average number of under 16's than most areas. The pool activities will educate and include local teenagers in a supportive environment that offers them a focus and benefit to the community;
- (g) over 50's – importantly we want to offer a facility to these individuals by creating classes for those groups who are disadvantaged by transport or a mobility issue; and
- (h) groups that offer care for individuals with a disability, either physical or mental.

4.1.7 The applicants intend for work to be commenced in early 2013 and for this to be completed by September 2013. This will ensure that the facility is available for the start of the school year.

4.1.8 The cost of the project is £57,278.60 (excluding VAT since the group cannot reclaim this). The applicant has confirmed funding of £582 from local fundraising activities (their target is to raise up to £5,000); £4,000 from local donations; £5,000 from Havebury Housing Partnership; £2,000 from Hopton Parish Council; and £2,000 from Cllr Joanna Spicer's Locality Budget. This totals £13,582.

4.1.9 The applicants have applied for, but not had confirmed, funding of £30,000 from Sport England and £2,000 from the Suffolk Housing Association.

4.1.10 The application is supported by the local Ward Member, Councillor Ray: 'Suffolk County Council withdrew funding for the swimming pool at Hopton Primary School and it fell into disrepair. This project seeks to renovate and improve it and bring it into use as a community facility. It would be available to teach children to swim, an important life skill, and as a recreational facility for all in the local community. It would offer a local opportunity for exercise and encourage a healthy lifestyle. It would also be a meeting place which would foster community spirit, and counter isolation in the community. Furthermore, by offering a pool locally, it would offer an alternative to travel to pools in Bury St Edmunds, Diss, Stowmarket, and Thetford. The project team located and negotiated the transfer of a swimming pool canopy and other equipment from a

pool at a redundant middle school, and moved it to local storage on a self-help basis, thus reducing the overall cost of the project by about half. I strongly support this application.'

4.2 St Edmund's Archers.

- 4.2.1 St Edmund's Archers have applied for £10,000 towards an indoor range at Whepstead with a clubhouse and associated amenities, including kitchen and toilet facilities and parking. The building would be 40m x 15m to allow shooting indoors of up to 30 yards.
- 4.2.2 Planning permission was approved by the Borough Council on 17 January 2012 (Reference SE/11/1444).
- 4.2.3 The applicants' current facilities are basic and limited and are not ideal on a number of levels, e.g. temperature, health and safety and suitability for the sport. The poor standard of the facilities has been the main reason why new members are not sustained.
- 4.2.4 The land owner is fully aware and supportive of the applicants' plans, having already agreed to a 25 year lease for the land required.
- 4.2.5 In order to develop the club and continue to serve the community in its widest sense, the applicants need to retain more members and be able to accommodate more people on beginners' courses (current membership is up to 50 archers). The applicants have had over 100 individuals attending the beginner courses and several hundred people trying the sport every year at a number of 'have-a-go' opportunities that provided at local fetes during the Summer. A recent open day saw around 400 people attend and 45 sign up for the beginner course. The applicants are now running two beginner courses a week to try to meet demand.
- 4.2.6 The applicants aim to provide the premier archery facility in Suffolk with both permanent indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, allowing access at any time. This will give archers the shooting time necessary to improve standards quickly, allowing them the opportunity to progress and compete at the highest level.
- 4.2.7 The facility will cater for all ages (current members' ages range from eight to 78), including able bodied, disabled and those with special needs.
- 4.2.8 The cost of the project is £210,000 (excluding VAT since the group cannot reclaim this). The applicant has confirmed funding of £2,000 from local donations, £10,000 from Havebury Housing Partnership; and £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Trust. This totals £ 22,000.
- 4.2.9 The applicant has raised over £6,400 from local fundraising but this has already been spent by funding the upfront enabling work for this project (i.e. planning permission for the land, full planning permission for the building, modification of the road entrance and fencing to create an access route to the land). The applicants will continue to do further fundraising.
- 4.2.10 The applicants are currently applying for funding from a number of sources, including Sport England. Many of the larger funders require the applicants to achieve 50% of project funding before they will approve funding, so a Rural Initiatives Grant will help unlock further funding.

4.2.11 The application has been supported by the local Ward Member, Councillor Mrs Rushen: 'This is an exciting project for a club that has been running since 2007. It is the only dedicated club within a 15 mile radius of Bury. The nearest other clubs are in Sudbury and Claydon. The Archers cater for all ages (the youngest is 8 and the oldest 78) and abilities. An indoor range would enable activities to safely take place in the warm, which is an especially important consideration in Winter for all ages, especially the disabled. It is intended to engage with local schools to bring the sport more widely to the younger generation. At the moment it is extremely expensive to take the sport into schools where it can cost £30 an hour to hire a hall and is subject to limited availability due to safety concerns for other users. I have witnessed the club's activities as I drive by the meadow in Whepstead. Young people meet on a Tuesday evening, seniors meet on a Wednesday and Saturdays are open to all ages. Beginners courses are run on a Saturday morning. Archery is a sport that disabled people can fully participate in and it is envisaged that a dedicated time would be introduced for them. Special events such as parties and office outings would help with ongoing maintenance costs. Currently annual membership costs £120. This enables people to use the club twice a week.

Please support this application as, with indoor facilities, membership will grow and I can foresee the club going from strength to strength as a result.'

5. Other options considered

5.1 Both projects have been developed following extensive consultation and research which have proven the need. If the necessary funding is not forthcoming then the applicants could look to reduce the total project costs.

6. Community impact

6.1 Crime and disorder impact

6.1.1 Both applicants wish to provide facilities that will encourage residents of all ages to take part in activities; this may have a positive effect in terms of diverting people from anti-social activities.

6.2 Diversity and equality impact

6.2.1 Both applicants have an all-inclusive membership policy and nobody is excluded.

6.3 Sustainability impact

6.3.1 Not applicable.

6.4 Other impact

6.4.1 Nothing to report.

7. Consultation

7.1 In February 2011 the Hopton Community Swimming Committee circulated a questionnaire. 1,500 forms were hand-delivered to eight local villages that make up the ward of Barningham, which has a population of over 3,500. The Committee received a 21% return, of which 98% were very much in favour for the pool to re-open.

7.2 The St Edmund's Archers have presented to, and received full support from, Whepstead Parish Council. Following a survey of other facilities, the applicants have confirmed that their project will be the only dedicated facility within Suffolk and the only national governing body recognised target archery club within a 15 mile radius of Bury St Edmunds. The applicant cannot currently meet demand for beginner's courses and other youth/adult groups wishing to book taster sessions. Consultation has also taken place with a local disability group who have provided a letter of support for the project, as have the National Body for the sport, ArcheryGB.

8. Financial and resource implications

8.1 The current Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme budget available for 2012/2013 is £37,338.12. This consists of £13,890.44 for grants of £4,000 or less and £23,447.68 for grants of £4,000 or more.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment

9.1 Individual applicants for grant funding would be expected to assess the risks associated with the delivery of their individual project. Officers perform some standard checks in relation to applications, including whether planning permission has been sought and ownership or the length of lease of any land involved in delivering a project. St Edmundsbury is not at financial risk as funding is only drawn down when the applicant has secured full funding. If the applicant is not successful in securing the full funding needed they have to consult the Council before proceeding with a revised scheme.

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 Nothing to report.

11. Wards affected

11.1 Barningham and Chedburgh specifically, but beneficiaries of both projects may come from all wards in St Edmundsbury.

12. Background papers

12.1 Not applicable

13. Documents attached

13.1 A Grant Scoring Matrix for the Hopton Community Swimming Committee application (Appendix A) and a Grant Scoring Matrix the St Edmund's Archers application (Appendix B).

Grants Scoring Matrix

Applicant: Hopton Community Swimming Committee
Date: 11 December 2012
Summary of project: To refurbish their swimming pool and changing room facilities.
Amount requested: £10,000
Amount recommended: £10,000
Total project cost: £57,278.60 (inc. VAT)

Criteria	Available points	Score
Matched Funding Sources	1 point = up to 50% external funding 3 points = 50% external funding and over Plus out of the matched funding element the local contribution: 2 points = if over 10% but under 20% 3 points = over 20%	3+2 (out of 6)
Council's priorities	Priorities that apply from Corporate Plan - 1 point per priority	1 (out of 3)
Risk to the Council	Low (1 point), Medium (3 points) or High (5 points) -an example of a low priority is something that does not cause a loss of service to the Council.	1 (out of 5)
Risk to the Applicant	Low (1 point), Medium (2 points) or High (3 points) - an example of a high priority is the loss of a facility such as a village hall that is well used.	1 (out of 3)
Community Impact	Low (1 point), Medium (3 points) or High (5 points) -high priority will generate increased usage, increased social inclusion and benefit others.	5 (out of 5)
Number of beneficiaries	1 point = exclusive group 2 points = groups open to all 3 points = village groups and Parish Councils	3 (out of 3)

Total Score (maximum score = 25 points): 16

Grants Scoring Matrix

Applicant: St Edmunds Archers
Date: 11 December 2012
Summary of project: To build an indoor range with a clubhouse and associated amenities.
Amount requested: £10,000
Amount recommended: £8,000
Total project cost: £210,000 (inc. VAT)

Criteria	Available points	Score
Matched Funding Sources	1 point = up to 50% external funding 3 points = 50% external funding and over Plus out of the matched funding element the local contribution: 2 points = if over 10% but under 20% 3 points = over 20%	3+0 (out of 6)
Council's priorities	Priorities that apply from Corporate Plan - 1 point per priority	1 (out of 3)
Risk to the Council	Low (1 point), Medium (3 points) or High (5 points) -an example of a low priority is something that does not cause a loss of service to the Council.	1 (out of 5)
Risk to the Applicant	Low (1 point), Medium (2 points) or High (3 points) - an example of a high priority is the loss of a facility such as a village hall that is well used.	3 (out of 3)
Community Impact	Low (1 point), Medium (3 points) or High (5 points) -high priority will generate increased usage, increased social inclusion and benefit others.	3 (out of 5)
Number of beneficiaries	1 point = exclusive group 2 points = groups open to all 3 points = village groups and Parish Councils	3 (out of 3)

Total Score (maximum score = 25 points): 14

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