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## PARISH PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE – BID SUBMISSIONS

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to Members' attention those bid submissions received under the above initiative for decision.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In April, Members agreed to the establishment of a Parish Partnership fund of £20,000 for 2001/2002, to which the Parishes/Town Council could make bids for projects within their respective areas.
- 2.2 The basis for agreeing to such a fund was that its success should be reviewed at the end of the year.
- 2.3 All Parish and Town Councils were eligible to apply, although Members agreed that preference should be given to applications from smaller Parish Councils that had not already received substantial funding from the District Council. This was outlined in the letter sent to the Parishes and the Town Council in April.
- 2.4 It was also agreed that bid submissions should be examined in terms of addressing specific crime and disorder issues, such as youth nuisance, vandalism, etc. and whether the proposals met the aims of the agreed Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the District. The maximum level of District Council funding was fixed at 50%.
- 2.5 Parishes were requested to submit a description of their proposals, together with costs. Information was also requested in terms of the details/problems to be addressed, together with details on any consultation carried out, and other funding sources sought (see [Appendix A](#)).

### 3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Details of the bids which have now been received are outlined below. The figure in brackets represents the number of properties within the Parish/Town Council area.
- 3.2 **Barling Magna Parish Council (properties – 652)**
- 3.2 The Parish Council is seeking match funding to refurbish the village playspace for the benefit of local children. The cost, including fencing, is estimated at £10,000, and the Parish is seeking a contribution of £5,000. The provision of fencing will also help address issues of dumping and vandalism in the area. The Parish is currently

- undertaking a consultation exercise through the village newsheet on its proposals.
- 3.3 The Parish advise that the play equipment in the District Council's play area in Little Wakering (The Parry) is in good condition and is well used, but is too far away for Barling children to use. The equipment in the Parish's playspace in Barling has recently been made redundant, due to old age and wear and the need to meet current safety regulations.
- 3.4 The Parish feel that the provision of a modern designed, newly equipped playspace will help keep local children off the streets, challenging their imaginations and helping to keep to a minimum the potential for vandalism and crime and disorder.
- 3.5 **Hullbridge Parish Council (properties – 2844)**
- 3.6 The Parish Council is seeking a contribution towards new CCTV provision in the Pooles Lane car park. The Parish's bid follows meetings between Members of the Parish Council and the local Police Inspector, the local Crime Reduction Officer and the CCTV contractor responsible for the existing provision in the car park. In making its proposal, the Parish is cognisant of the quality of the existing CCTV equipment, the type of incidents occurring in the car park and the guidance now produced by the Home Office in relation to operational standards. It has also taken into account Rochford District Council's own CCTV Code of Practice produced in relation to the CCTV coverage now provided at Local Shopping Parades.
- 3.7 The Parish's proposal is to mount four new cameras on the two central lamp columns in the car park, two to be focused at the public conveniences and the recycling area/main entrance, the remaining two to be focused at various 'hot spots' in the car park to address known problems. The project will involve trenching and backfilling for cables across the car park and around the perimeter and across the driveway of the Hullbridge Community Centre. The existing two cameras will be moved to a new location within the Parish. With the current associated equipment, it will be possible to add five further cameras in the future if desired.
- 3.8 The cost of this proposal is estimated at approximately £5815, of which the Parish Council has pledged 50%. The Parish Council will also be bearing the cost of tapes, notices, running and maintenance costs of the equipment. The bid submission to the District Council is therefore for £2,907.50.

**3.9 Rayleigh Town Council (properties – 12,646)**

- 3.10 The Town Council's bid submission is for a District Council contribution of £5,080 towards the provision of a skateboard facility in King George's Playing Field. The Town Council has committed a maximum of £15,000 towards the project and is also seeking grant aid of £5,000 through the Lottery Grants "Awards for All" scheme. It appears that the Town Council has already received and accepted a quotation from a contractor to provide a skateboarding facility costing £20,080.
- 3.11 The Town Council is proposing to locate the facility in King George's towards the Eastwood Road end, the siting being determined following advice from skateboard contractors who have visited the site, the Police and debate amongst the Town Council (see Plan).
- 3.12 The Town Council advise that Rochford District Sports Council support the proposed facility. The Town Council also advise that it has undertaken consultation with young people in the Town who regularly utilise various locations within Rayleigh to skateboard.
- 3.13 Consultation with residents adjacent to the park at King George's Court, King George's Close and Stile Lane has been carried out. The total number of responses received has been 31 to date and the results are:

Support a skateboard facility: 26

Object to Skateboard facility: 4

Neutral comment: 1

**3.14 Ashingdon Parish Council (properties – 1207)**

- 3.15 The Parish Council has made a bid submission to provide a skateboard ramp for youngsters in the Ashingdon Parish area. They have obtained a quotation to provide a ramp facility at a cost of £14,234. The location proposed is at the bottom of Ashingdon Playing Fields, which is owned by the District Council.
- 3.16 The Parish Council advise that it has been approached by a section of youngsters within the Parish who requested that the Parish Council examine the possibility of providing such a facility. The youths were asked to provide some proof of the need. To that end, a petition of seventy-two signatures together with letters of support were supplied to the Parish Council, having been collected by the organising youngsters.
- 3.17 The Parish Council consider that there is a need to increase facilities for the youngsters in the older age group, which at present, are non-

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existent. One of the needs is the provision of a skateboard ramp which would alleviate the problems being experienced throughout the District of indiscriminate skateboarding along pavements and roads, a practice detrimental to the safety of pedestrians, road users and the skateboarders themselves and an annoyance to residents.

- 3.18 The Parish Council consider that, the most suitable site for the facility would be at the bottom of the Ashingdon Playing Fields beyond the last football pitch. This site is bordered on three sides by fields and open farmland and the fourth side is the playing fields. This site by its very nature eliminates any annoyance to residents together with a minimal noise nuisance.
- 3.19 The Parish Council has already conducted a consultation exercise among residents in the immediate area and approaches to the proposed facility site. From the responses received, twenty-six households replied in favour of the facility and ten were against. Given the total cost of £14,234, if a grant were to be provided, 50% equates to £7,117.
- 3.20 Details relating to all four bid submissions have been placed in the Members' Room for information.
- 3.21 Rawreth Parish Council (properties – 394) has advised that it has no appropriate projects for submission at this time. Hockley Parish Council (properties – 3855) has expressed an interest in securing funding to help with the management and operation of Laburnum Grove Play Area (although its transfer from the District to the Parish is not yet complete) and also to help address the issue of youths developing a bike jumping track at Plumberow Mount. However, no further details or costings have been forthcoming on these projects.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 All four bid submissions received offer the potential to make an impact in their area. However, only one represents a bid from a smaller Parish, the type that Members particularly had in mind when the initiative was first drawn up. Those related to Barling, Rayleigh and Ashingdon seek to make a positive statement in terms of providing additional provision for the young in their area, whilst that relating to Hullbridge seeks to improve surveillance and consequently enforcement in a car park where incidences related to Crime and Disorder have occurred. In total, the grant funding requested equates to £20,104.50, just over the £20,000 allocated.
- 4.2 In making recommendations in relation to each of the bids, it is suggested that the bid from Barling, being from a smaller Parish and securing a positive local benefit, should be supported in full. In connection with the Hullbridge proposal, given the sum involved and

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the issues this proposal seeks to address, it is recommended that this bid submission also be agreed in full. However, depending upon further discussions with the Police and subject to Partnership agreement, it is suggested that this be funded as part of the capital allocation from the 'Communities Against Drugs' initiative rather than via the Parish Partnership fund.

- 4.3 With regard to the Rayleigh Town Council proposal, it is noted that a maximum of £15,000 has already been committed towards the project by the Town Council and that a lottery funding grant of £5,000 is being sought, against a project with a total cost of £20,080. Hence, the need for additional grant funding support from the District Council is questionable. It is therefore recommended that in this instance, the Council should agree to pick up any funding shortfall, to a maximum of £5,080, should the lottery funding grant application not be approved, but should otherwise not support the project. If the project can be funded without the need for District Council support, then it should do so. In this way, the Council can retain an element of funding to support any further initiatives which may come forward across the District specifically involving Parishes/the Town Council and Crime and Disorder matters over the remainder of the year. Also, it is considered that this offer should be subject to obtaining any necessary permissions, e.g. NPFA, planning, etc.
- 4.4 With regard to the Ashingdon Parish Council bid submission, this would appear to address a need in the area and would represent a positive response to issues such as youth nuisance. Again, however, if this is to be supported, it should be subject to obtaining any necessary permissions, e.g. NPFA, planning, and further detailed discussions over the siting, access and maintenance of the facility given its proposed location in the Playing Field.
- 4.5 It is recommended that as a condition of any grant given, recognition should be given in any literature/signage/publicity, etc. to the District Council's support.

## **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The projects outlined in this report offer the potential to make a positive contribution in this area.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The refurbishment of the play area at Barling in particular offers the opportunity to environmentally upgrade this area.

## **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The schemes outlined above represent a total commitment of £20,104.50 against a budget provision of £20,000. However, if the Hullbridge project is successful in securing its financing via the 'Communities Against Drugs' funding initiative and the Town Council is successful in securing lottery funding, then the financial commitment to the Council will only be £12,117, allowing some £7,883 to remain for other schemes.

## **8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 This initiative could be interpreted as falling within the new well-being power provided by Central Government under the Local Government Act 2000.

## **9 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 All Parish/Town Councils have had the opportunity to apply for funding under this initiative since late April.

## **10 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To approve the grant application from Barling Parish Council for match funding of £5,000 towards the refurbishment of the Parish's play area.
- (2) To approve the grant application from Hullbridge Parish Council for £2,907.50 towards the provision of new CCTV equipment at Pooles Lane car park, Hullbridge, subject to Officers investigating in the first instance the possibility of providing this level of grant support via the 'Communities Against Drugs' initiative rather than via the Parish Partnership fund.
- (3) To approve the underwriting of any shortfall in respect of the provision of a skateboard facility by Rayleigh Town Council, subject to the total cost of that shortfall not exceeding £5,080 and the total cost of the project not exceeding £20,080, and on the understanding that the shortfall is in respect of the bid submission made for lottery funds. This approval is subject to any necessary permissions being obtained.
- (4) To approve the grant application from Ashingdon Parish Council for £7,117 towards the provision of a new skateboarding facility at Ashingdon Playing Field, subject to any necessary permissions being obtained and further detailed discussions as to its siting, maintenance, access, etc. given its proposed location within the Playing Field.
- (5) That all projects funded through such grant aid should recognise the support given by the District Council in any literature/signage/publicity produced as a result.

Paul Warren  
Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:**

Correspondence from Barling Parish Council dated 21<sup>st</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

Correspondence from Hullbridge Parish Council dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

Correspondence from Rayleigh Town Council dated 7<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

Correspondence from Hockley Parish Council dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

E-Mail from Rawreth Parish Council dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

Correspondence from Ashingdon Parish Council dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2001.

For further information please contact Paul Warren on:-

Tel:- 01702 318199

E-Mail:- paul.warren@rochford.gov.uk