

PARISH PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to Members' attention a bid now received from Foulness Parish Council under the above initiative.

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 A number of bids were reported into the October meeting of this Committee (Min. 370/2001). At that time the Chief Executive reported orally that further information was awaited in connection with a bid submission from Foulness Parish Council. That information has now been received and is detailed below.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In 1995 Foulness Parish Council received grant aid of £1,200 from this Authority which was used to provide new seats on the old swings, to repair the seesaw and to install rubber mats under the swings. These works needed to be carried out for health and safety reasons.

- 3.2 The Parish Council now plan to further regenerate the play area into an attractive community space. The Council proposes to incorporate plants and flowers, provide a picnic table and new play equipment. The total cost of the works now planned is £7,086. Of this, the Parish advise that it can fund £2,705. The Parish is seeking to meet the shortfall through making applications for grant aid under both the District Council's Parish Partnership Scheme and the National People's Places Awards Scheme. Under the Parish Partnership Initiative, the grant from the District Council, at 50% of the total cost, would be £3,543.
- 3.3 At the October meeting, Members agreed to provide funding support to the Parish Councils of Barling, Ashingdon and Hullbridge, although the latter is to be funded via the Communities Against Drugs Initiative. The application now detailed from Foulness is similar to that received from Barling and, given Members' wishes to support the smaller Parish Councils in initiatives they present, it is recommended for approval, subject to similar conditions to those laid down for the earlier bid submissions which have been approved.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Through upgrading facilities for the young and providing a communal area, this project offers a positive contribution towards providing facilities in the Parish.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The project offers the opportunity to environmentally upgrade the area.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Against the budget provision of £20,000, some £12,117 has been committed given the decisions to date. If Members are minded to approve the application from Foulness, that will increase the total committee to £15,660, leaving a residual of £4,340.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

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

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 1) That the grant application from Foulness Parish Council for a 50% grant contribution of £3,543 towards the upgrade of the Parish play area be approved.
- 2) That this project should recognise the support given by the District Council in any literature/signage/publicity produced as a result.
- 3) That the design of any equipment provided through such grant be agreed by this Authority.
- 4) That any equipment provided through such grant aid should not be removed without the prior approval of the District Council.
- 5) That Foulness Parish Council be made aware that the District Council accepts no responsibility for any further capital or revenue costs associated with the project.
- 6) That any insurance associated with the project be the responsibility of the Foulness Parish Council. (CE)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None

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