

Agenda



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Date: 19 December 2019
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A meeting of the

Wantage Area Committee

will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 6.30pm
Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, OX14 4SB

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Hayleigh Gascoigne (Chair)
Matthew Barber
Paul Barrow
Ron Batstone
Andy Cooke
Andrew Crawford

Amos Duveen
Jenny Hannaby
Sarah Medley
Ruth Molyneaux
Patrick O'Leary
Janet Shelley

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed", written in a cursive style.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 5)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Wantage Area Committee minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2019.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6. New Homes Bonus Grants 2019/20

(Pages 6 - 26)

To consider the head of corporate strategy's report.

Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None



Minutes

of a meeting of the

Wantage Area Committee

held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 6.30 pm

at the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, OX14 4SB

Open to the Public, including the Press

Present:

Members: Councillors St John Dickson (Chairman), Ben Mabbett (Vice-Chairman), Charlotte Dickson, Julia Reynolds, Janet Shelley and Reg Waite

Officers: Carole Cumming, Abbie Mulcairn, Cheryl Reeves, Shona Ware

Wa.7 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Barber, Yvonne Constance, Jenny Hannaby, Chris McCarthy and Mike Murray.

Wa.8 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman signs them as such.

Wa.9 Declarations of interest

Councillors Julia Reynolds and Charlotte Dickson declared that they had acted as council representatives for the Letcombe Brook Project but had had no involvement in its grant application and therefore would remain on the committee.

Wa.10 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

Wa.11 Public participation

A speaker representing one of the applications was present. They had the opportunity to respond to questions of clarification from the committee.

Wa.12 New Homes Bonus Grants 2018/19 - Round two

Be Free Young Carers

The officer introduced the application by Be Free Young Carers for a New Homes Bonus grant of £900 towards a Client Management Software replacement. The Officer explained that the applicant

had requested £900 from each area committee and thus the score for funding the project could not be awarded full marks as it was conditional upon the other area committees granting the funding.

There were no speakers present for the application. The committee debated the item.

RESOLVED: to

1. Increase the officers recommended score of 1 point for New facilities or activities to 2, in view of the fact that the new Client Management Software would provide a new facility for the group. This raised the overall score of the application from 8 points to 9, making it a high priority for funding.
2. Award Be Free Young Carers up to 15.75% (capped to £900) of the total cost of the project, the amount requested by the applicant.

Harwell Village CIO

The officer introduced the application by Harwell Village CIO for a New Homes Bonus grant of £3,300 towards the cost of a refurbishment of Cherry Hall Floor in Harwell Village Hall. The Officer explained the reasons behind the recommended scoring, and highlighted that the project only received a score of 1 for funding the project because the group had enough reserves to fund the project in full themselves.

There were no speakers present for the application. The committee debated the item. A councillor noted that the new flooring would allow for better disability access to the village hall, and recommended raising the score for new facilities or activities to 2.

RESOLVED: to

1. Increase the officers recommended score of 1 point for New facilities or activities to 2, in view of the fact that the new flooring would raise health and safety standards and allow better disability access to the hall. This raised the overall score of the application from 8 to 9, making it a high priority for funding.
2. Award Harwell Village CIO up to 49.64% (capped to £3,300) of the total cost of the project, the amount requested by the applicant.

Wantage Summer Arts Festival

The officer introduced the application by Wantage Summer Arts Festival for a New Homes Bonus grant of £1,045 towards the cost of promotional aspects for Wantage Summer Arts Festival 2019. The Officer explained that although the project had scored 8 points out of a possible 12, the Officer recommended that the project received £0 of funding. The Officer explained that although the current policy does not exclude applications for events/festivals. It looks to fund projects that support community initiatives and facilities that will benefit the community for at least five or ten years. The group had already put in an application to the council's festival grant scheme, which is a more appropriate scheme than the NHB one.

The Officer also noted that as the application was new and they had not previously been awarded a grant from the council, that they stood a good chance of being awarded a grant from the festival scheme. The officers therefore did not recommend awarding a grant, to avoid double funding the event.

There were no speakers present for this application. The committee debated the item.

RESOLVED: to approve the officers recommended grant of £0, in view of the fact that there were more appropriate funding schemes for the event, which the applicant has already applied for.

Betjeman Millennium Park

The Officer introduced the application by Betjeman Millennium Park for a New Homes Bonus grant of £1,470 towards the cost of additional new seating at Betjeman Millennium Park. The Officer explained that they had increased their recommended score for New facilities or activities from 1 to 2, in view of the fact that the additional seating would provide specific seating for a wider range of demographics, including seating with arms designed to suit the elderly. This increased the total score for the application from 8 to 9, making it a high priority for funding.

There were no speakers present for this application. The committee debated the item.

RESOLVED: to

1. Agree the officers recommended score of 9 points out of a possible 12.
2. Award Betjeman Millennium Park up to 50% (capped at £1,470) of the total cost of the project, the amount requested by the applicant.

Letcombe Brook Project

The Officer introduced the application by Letcombe Brook Project for a New Homes Bonus grant of £1,015 towards the cost of a new website for the project.

Mark Bradfield, the Project Manager of Letcombe Brook Project, spoke in support of the application and answered questions from the committee. He explained that the Letcombe Brook ran through many additional towns in the Vale Of White Horse and would the new website would benefit a wider area than just Wantage. He gave additional information about the services provided by the Letcombe Brook Project and the wide range of activities they hosted, including community action projects and educational outreach.

RESOLVED: to

1. Increase the officers recommended score for Community benefit from 1 to 3, and the score for New homes in parish(es) from 1 to 2, in view of additional information provided. This raised the total score for the project from 7 to 10, making it a high priority for funding.
2. Award Letcombe Brook Project 50.00% (capped at £1,015) of the total cost of the project, the amount requested by the applicant.

Wantage Girlguiding District

The Officer introduced the application by Wantage Girlguiding District for a New Homes Bonus grant of £2,295 towards the total cost of improvements to the guide hall. Officers explained that the group only scored 1 out of a possible 3 for New homes in parish(es) as the application came from the Wantage branch of the Girlguiding district, which had seen a 9.40% increase in additional homes, allowing them to receive one point.

There were no speakers present for this application. The committee debated the item.

RESOLVED: to

1. Agree the officers recommended score of 7 out of a possible 12 points.
2. Award Wantage Girlguiding District 37.49% (capped at 1,721) of the total cost of the project.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Wantage Area Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Services

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To: Wantage Area Committee

DATE: 14 January 2020

New Homes Bonus Grants 2019/20

Recommendations

That the Wantage area committee considers the six applications for New Homes Bonus (NHB) grants and makes awards in line with the approved policy (2017).

Purpose of report

1. To give the committee the information needed to consider awarding NHB grants for their area.

Strategic objectives

1. The New Homes Bonus grants scheme supports the councils Corporate Plan objective to create and maintain 'sustainable communities and well-being' and in turn strives for communities to help themselves. It also supports the equality objective to support communities to deliver better outcomes for disadvantaged groups and encourage community cohesion.

Background

2. The council opened the NHB grant scheme for applications from 02 September 2019 to 28 October 2019.
3. The Wantage area received six eligible grant applications requesting a total of £58,788 against a committee budget of £43,063. Three applications didn't meet the eligibility criteria.
4. Officers have evaluated each application against the agreed scoring criteria in the policy, which is set out on pages 17-21 of this report. The suggested scores determine the level of funding to award each project, if any. Appendix one outlines the officers' evaluations and suggested scores for each application and appendix two the percentage of new homes in each parish to determine the score for the level of new housing.

5. In line with the policy, the committee is asked to review the suggested scores, which will dictate whether to award a grant and if so the level of funding it can award the project.

Financial implications

6. In February 2019, the council set a 2019/20 NHB budget of £75,000. The Wantage area committee was allocated 57.42 per cent of this (£43,063) to award in NHB grants in 2019/20. As per the agreed policy these grants can fund either revenue or capital projects.
7. Any budget remaining after this round of awards will be returned to the council's general reserves, as per the agreed policy.

Legal implications

8. The council's legal powers to award these grants are set out in section one of the Localism Act 2011 that gives a general power of competence for local authorities.
9. In May 2018, full council delegated authority to three area committees to determine NHB grant applications within the parameters of the policy.

Risks

10. There are no overarching risks of awarding these grants. Officers have highlighted any risks to individual projects in their evaluation reports.

Conclusion

11. That the committee considers the six eligible applications to the NHB grant scheme and makes awards in line with the approved policy.

Background papers

12. The council's NHB grant policy.

Appendix one – Wantage Area 2019-20 NHB grants officer evaluation report

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Scheme cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Suggested score	Priority Level	Suggested award
VNHB19-20/31	Blewbury Parish Council	Blewbury Village Hall Refurbishment	£510,071	£20,000	3.92%	9	High	25% of the total cost, capped to £20,000
VNHB19-20/69	East Hanney Parish Council	East Hanney Community Speedwatch mobile speed indicating sign	£2,024	£1,012	50.00%	8	Medium	37.5% of the total cost, capped to £759
VNHB19-20/81	King Alfred District Scouts	Re Roofing of District Scout Headquarters	£64,188	£32,094	50.00%	7	Medium	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £18,935
VNHB19-20/94	Letcombe Brook Project	Volunteer Equipment for Letcombe Brook Project	£3,180	£1,590	50.00%	7	Medium	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £938
VNHB19-20/104	West Hendred Parish Council	Replacement of Unsafe Play Area Equipment	£4,444	£2,222	50.00%	7	Medium	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £1,311
VNHB19-20/70	Hanney Scout Group	purchasing of camping equipment	£3,740	£1,870	50.00%	5	Medium	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £1,103
			Total	£58,788			Total Suggested	£43,046
							Total Budget	£43,063
							Balance	£ 17

Blewbury Parish Council	Ref	VNHB19-20/31
Blewbury Village Hall Refurbishment		

Total project cost	£501,071		
Amount requested	£20,000	Percentage of total cost requested:	25%
Organisation's contribution	£151,178	Organisation's latest bank balance	£221,062
Other funding Including a parish/town council contribution of	£341,722	Of which £306,750 is secured in grants from: Garfield Weston Foundation, Doris Field Trust, Post Office, Pye Charitable Settlement, FCC Communities Foundation, Lottery, Sport England, Parish Council Loan	

Previous grants

VCap17-18/35 Blewbury Trim Trail £6,257

VC1R\82 Resurfacing Tickers Folly Field car park £1,000

ValeCG\31 Blewbury Village Hall Refurbishment Part 1 awarded £7,500 but funding returned when project was unable to go ahead.

Scoring

New facilities or activities The refurbishment of the village hall significantly improves the facility, which currently faces closure without these improvements. Insulation of the hall, along with the creation of new storage areas will allow new activities to take place, which has allowed the project to score maximum points in this area.	Score	3/3
Community benefit The hall is available for the whole community to use, and the application has provided details of multiple user groups accessing the facilities from childrens' dance classes to arts and exercise groups. In light of this the project is able to score the maximum three points for community benefit.	Score	3/3
Funding the project The organisation has secured most of the funding for the project through a variety of grants (offer letters have been submitted with their application to evidence this) but at the time of this application not all of the funding had been secured, which limited the score to two points.	Score	2/3
New Homes in parish(es) 4.09%	Score	1/3
Consultation They have carried out a number of condition surveys on the current hall which have identified the work which needs to be undertaken to the hall. They have also consulted with the community to find out what facilities are needed in a village hall, and have strong community support for the project. S106 colleagues are aware of the project and are expecting an application to be made for the available funds they hold. Equalities colleagues were supportive of the project.		
Project completion within timeframe This is a complex refurbishment project of a well used village hall, however there is nothing to suggest that the project would not be completed within the 36 month timeframe for this grant scheme.		
Financial and project management plans Funding for the project has been secured through various different grants, some of which have already been paid to the Parish Council. They have a detailed post project income and expenditure plan along with a project plan.		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding the full grant as requested based on scoring the project a high priority.	Total score	9/12
	Suggested grant	25% of the total cost, capped to £20,000

Applicant responses

<p>Details of the project</p>	<p>To refurbish Blewbury village hall to make it fit for the next generation, protecting all the current activities in the hall and providing opportunities for growth.</p> <p>The works will replace or upgrade all facilities and services, bringing them to modern standards, improve energy efficiency and create much needed additional storage. All entrances will be accessible, the kitchen made accessible to wheelchairs and the induction loop replaced.</p> <p>The refurbishment will avoid the need for people to travel to alternative venues outside the village, which some find impossible, and protect the wellbeing and vibrancy of the community.</p>
<p>Financial statement from the organisation</p>	<p>We will need to pay Ridge £7000 prior to beginning the building works to cover their support of the tender process. We have no other financial commitments prior to commencing the works, the cost of which is the subject of this application.</p>
<p>Statement about town/parish support</p>	<p>We are the Parish Council. We are working with the Hall Management Committee, who are also raising money for the project. The money from village fundraising events and from personal donations is being held in Management Committee accounts and will be transferred to the Parish Council as it is needed to pay for the work. This money has therefore been included in the 'own organisation' money above (£151178). PC and MC bank statements are included.</p>
<p>Community benefit</p>	
<p>Who will benefit from your project?</p>	<p>In addition to all those using the post office and surgery, who tend to be the older people in the village, the school and private parties, 35 organisations used the hall in 2018. They included the bridge, badminton and table tennis clubs, the art group and class, keep fit groups, Betty Bloom children's dance, the Women's Institute, the Blewbury Players, Blewbury Brass Band and BlewSing, the Parish Council, Mothers' Union, Autumn Leaves and wine appreciation.</p>
<p>How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?</p>	<p>We have carried out a number of condition surveys, the reports of which are attached. These have shown that: the hall is structurally sound and contains a small amount of asbestos; the flat roofs need to be replaced; and that there are opportunities for improvements in energy performance.</p> <p>We have consulted widely, issuing 5 questionnaires and holding a number of meetings and exhibitions. These have helped us determine the needs of hall users and design priorities. Key users also filled in data sheets to underpin the detailed design for each area. The results of the questionnaires are attached. There is strong support for the scheme within the village. A questionnaire delivered to all households in the village in September 2017 confirmed the village's support for the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99.5% strongly agree or agree that the hall is indispensable to the welfare of the community • 98% strongly agree or agree that the hall needs to be refurbished to make it fit for purpose • About half of respondees said they would expect to use the hall more if it was refurbished. <p>A village meeting was held on 28 April 2019, when the latest plans were presented. In an exit questionnaire everybody said they supported the plans.</p> <p>We have produced a promotional video - https://vimeo.com/341414109 - in which villagers describe why the hall is important to them and ask for support for the refurbishment. Some of the things they say are included in the attachments.</p>
<p>What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insulate the Main Hall loft space - Increase the insulation on the Main Hall sloping roofs - Replace and insulate all flat roofs - Install LED lighting throughout - Install new convector heating throughout, with programmable controls - Replace single-glazed windows in main WCs with double-glazed - Eliminate draughts with new external doors - Install movement sensitive light switches in WCs and cupboards - Retain provision to meter heating

	<p>- Install dual-flush toilets</p> <p>We expect these measures to deliver energy savings of 20%.</p> <p>The attached files show how these measures have been informed by the energy audit and how we have arrived at our energy savings estimate</p>
<p>New facilities/Activities</p>	
<p>What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?</p>	<p>This project replaces and upgrades the current hall, which, after 40 years, faces closure without a complete refurbishment. It will additionally provide additional storage for the Main Hall by relocating the Vale Room toilets to the Vale Room lobby, This will enable the current clutter of chairs, tables, staging and table tennis tables, which are stored in the Main Hall itself, to be tidily stored. Insulation will also be added to the Main Hall loft.</p>
<p>What new activities will take place because of this project?</p>	<p>The Blewbury Film Club will move to the hall when it is refurbished. A new table tennis club have recently made a significant investment in new tables in the expectation of refurbishment. The consulting room can be used for additional services such as physiotherapy. About half of the respondents to a 2017 survey expect to use the hall more after it is refurbished and we expect an increase in use for private parties.</p>

East Hanney Parish Council	Ref	VNHB19-20/69
East Hanney Community Speedwatch mobile speed indicating sign		

Total project cost	£2,024		
Amount requested	£1,012	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£1,012	Organisation's latest bank balance	£49,819
Other funding	£ 0		
Including a parish/town council contribution of			

Previous grants

Vale Capital 16/17 : VC1R\57 Install new, accessible swing in play area £3,250

Scoring

New facilities or activities The organisation already has a mobile speed camera that volunteers can use, however this project will allow them to position one that does not require volunteers to be present during its use. This project is therefore an improvement and expansion of an existing activity, allowing the project to score two points in this area.	Score	2/3
Community benefit The project benefits the whole community as it will potentially create safer roads therefore allowing it to score maximum points.	Score	3/3
Funding the project The organisation will fund 50% of the project and have an ongoing maintenance plan in place to cover ongoing costs, allowing it to score three points.	Score	3/3
New Homes in parish(es) 0.44%	Score	0/3
Consultation The organisation has consulted with Oxfordshire County Council to confirm that the equipment and its placement meet the requirements for temporary signs. They have also consulted with a local speed-watch group and residents.		
Project completion within timeframe There should be no issues with the project meeting the timeframe for the grant scheme.		
Financial and project management plans The organisation does not appear to be able to contribute much more towards the project, however they have chosen equipment with a two-year parts and labour guarantee which should limit future financial commitments for the project.		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 75% of the requested amount as it is the highest scoring medium priority project for this area.	Total score	8/12
	Suggested grant	37.5% of the total cost, capped to £759

Applicant responses

Details of the project	To purchase a vehicle activated speed indicating sign for use at selected locations in East Hanney. The sign will be owned by the parish council and maintained by our village community speedwatch team. It will enhance our ability to monitor and change behavior of motorists that exceed the 30mph limit in the village.
Financial statement from the organisation	As a parish council we have a series of legal obligations to budget for as well as established grants to village groups and local advisory bodies, our budgeting for 2019-2020 amounts to £45,209.02. Our annual income from the village precept plus grants and land rentals amounts to £38,710.07 we also have a carry over from reserve of £6,500. This gives a difference in income /outgoings of £1.05
Statement about town/parish support	We are the Parish council and will provide 50% funding
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The benefit will be to all road users whether they are pedestrians, who have a better knowledge of an approaching vehicles speed before crossing the road, or to cyclists and other road users that are less likely to be involved in an excess speed related collision or to the speeding drivers themselves who through reminding of their speed will adjust their behaviour and reduce the risk of them being fined or prosecuted by the police.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>The need for this project came about through both the work of the community speedwatch group and from residents that after the neighbouring village installed similar signs saw the benefit to their community.</p> <p>The community speedwatch group made use of a weeks free trial speed sign around the village, the results of which (attached) showed that many of the village roads have an unacceptable level of excessive speed from drivers that is impacting on the safety of other road users especially pedestrians. The problem we have is relying on having enough volunteers to staff a roadside vehicle speed check and only allowed to operate during daylight hours, this equipment will allow for roadside monitoring 24 hours a day, 365 days a year producing a clearer set of results allowing better use of our existing resources.</p> <p>The community also contacted the parish council after the neighbouring village installed a speedsign on their approach road to the shared village school, parents asked why East Hanney could not install a similar device on our road approaching the school as the existing device has had a noticeable effect on drivers seeing the sign and slowing down for the school crossing.</p> <p>This equipment is also supported by the local police as an excellent method of driver education rather than enforcement.</p>
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The unit will be solely powered by solar energy through it's intergrated 80W solar panel, which charges the internal batteries meaning the sign requires no other external power source reducing costs to the parish and not increasing our carbon footprint
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This Project will provide a much needed piece of equipment in the village's education of drivers campaign. By displaying on roads that have a known excess speed issue it has a proven affect on drivers behavior, making the roads safer for all members of the community.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	It will increase capacity for our existing speedwatch group to gather more data on times and locations where more visual education techniques will be required it will also allow us to affect the behavior of more drivers by running 24 hours a day, in all weathers, that our existing roadside volunteers can not do.

King Alfred District Scouts	Ref VNHB19-20/81
Re Roofing of District Scout Headquarters	

Total project cost	£64,188		
Amount requested	£32,094	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£32,094	Organisation's latest bank balance	£44,319
Other funding	£ 0		
Including a parish/town council contribution of			

Previous grants

No previous funding

Scoring

New facilities or activities This project will replace the existing roof and making other general building improvements allowing existing activities to continue, this means the project can only score one point in this are.	Score	1/3
Community benefit The facilities are used by a number of different user groups as well as their local scouting groups, this has allowed the project to score maximum points.	Score	3/3
Funding the project The organisation is providing 50% of the funding for the project, however they would not be able to complete the project without grant funding. No evidence appears to have been provided on how they will meet ongoing maintenance costs. Their score is therefore limited to two points in this area.	Score	2/3
New Homes in parish(es) 10.36%	Score	1/3
<p>Consultation A professional survey has been carried out to identify the works that need to be undertaken. Section 106 and equalities colleagues are generally supportive of the project, however have questioned if the overall lifespan of the building has been considered. They have also questioned the buildings capacity to meet a potential increase in membership due the new housing development in the area. The corporate energy officer is also supportive of the project, and has suggested that the organisation may wish to speak to Low Carbon Hub (01865 246099) for support and guidance on community renewable energy projects, and in particular if they would be interested in a community share issue to fund any renewable energy works.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe Costs for this project have been identified through a Quantity Survey, and at the moment no quotes for the work have been obtained. This could impact on the project timeline, however they should still be able to meet the requirements of the scheme.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans The organisation has a 10 year plan to make the building self financing, however at the moment they are supported by the King Alfred District scouts.</p>		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 59% of the requested amount as it is a medium priority project. The full 75% funding is not possible due to the other medium priorities and the budget available.	Total score	7/12
	Suggested grant	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £18,935

Applicant responses

Details of the project	We are raising funds to reroof a section of our Headquarters on Springfield Road in Wantage, the building is approximately 114 years old and we have been advised as part of wider building survey that it is currently covered with asbestos slates. The slates are believed to be the original and we are looking to re slate this section of the building. We are also looking to increase the thermal efficiency of the roof to minimise our energy use.
Financial statement from the organisation	The aim is that DHQ becomes self-financing over the next ten years without needing to rely on additional income from King Alfred District. The ten-year financial plan to achieve this is nearing completion and will be made available. The plan is workable provided that half of the project cost is met through grants. King Alfred District has £35k in reserve which will underpin the cashflow required to implement the ten-year financial plan for DHQ.
Statement about town/parish support	We are in touch with one of our Town Councillors who is aware of our plans and requirements. Whilst we are in a position to fund 50% of this project, we will be seeking a contribution from Wantage Town Council at the next available opportunity. The Town Council is very supportive of DHQ and has provided several grants to us in the past to assist with repairs and equipment.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The building has a wide user base, which includes two Scout Groups (6-18), a scout young leaders section, a parent and child group, a messy play group, two pensioner badminton groups, a judo group, the local bee keepers and it has recently been used by Fitzwarren School for their P.E. sessions. This wide user base comprises the breadth of the community each week, as part of the project we want to broaden its use.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	The new District Executive Committee identified that DHQ needed to be put on a sustainable financial footing. The first phase was to establish a ten-year cost plan. The on-going operational costs were identified based on current and planned usage. The costs of bringing the building back to a good state of repair however required a professional survey. Ridge & Partners were commissioned to prepare a ten-year, fully costed, comprehensive Maintenance and Repair Programme which will be refreshed every five years. With the cost side complete, we are now finalising the income side. Rents have not been reviewed for a long time. A phased approach will be used to bring rents in line with requirements whilst properly reflecting use and being sensitive to the ability to pay. The intention is that DHQ breaks even over ten years and is sustainable thereafter, not that it makes a profit. The roof of the multi-storey part of the building is original and over 100 years old. Ridge & Partners identified that it will need replacing in the next ten years and this is by far the largest item in the whole ten-year plan accounting for over a quarter of the cost. A roofing expert was engaged three weeks ago to give a more accurate view on when the roof replacement would be needed and the guidance was that it needs replacing now; if it is not replaced in the next two years, the repair costs will escalate.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The project lends itself to improving the energy efficiency of this section of the building whilst undertaking the roof replacement. It will be part of the agreed specification which will be developed by the consultant undertaking the management role. As part of the specification will be carrying out a feasibility on installing one or more renewable sources whilst the works are being carried out.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This project will allow us to improve this area of the building without concern of any internal improvements being made within this section being harmed by water ingress. If the work is not carried out in a timely manner it will impact on the facility and may render sections unusable. This would impact on our ability to use the building to its full potential.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	The re roofing project is part of a wider overall scheme to broaden the use of the building, we also want to use the building more efficiently. Undertaking the roof replacement will allow us to make internal improvements and as a result let us make better use of the space we have.

Letcombe Brook Project	Ref	VNHB19-20/94
Volunteer Equipment for Letcombe Brook Project		

Total project cost	£3,180		
Amount requested	£1,590	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£0	Organisation's latest bank balance	£14,977
Other funding	£1,590	Of which £1,590 is secured in grants from:	
Including a parish/town council contribution of		The Environment Agency	

Previous grants

VNHB18-19\19 New website for the Letcombe Brook Project £1,015

Scoring

New facilities or activities The new equipment will allow existing activities to expand enabling them to score two points in this area.	Score	2/3
Community benefit The equipment will be used by a single interest group limiting their score to one point.	Score	1/3
Funding the project They have secured the grant funding for the remaining 50% of the project and have a plan for ongoing maintenance costs allowing it to score maximum points in this area.	Score	3/3
New Homes in parish(es) 10.36%	Score	1/3
Consultation Some consultation work appears to have been carried out with volunteers, Sustainable Wantage and local flood groups. Project completion within timeframe The project relates to the purchase of equipment, so should be completed within the scheme time frame. Financial and project management plans They have a basic project management plan for the project. They are not contributing to the project directly, but have a plan for on-going maintenance costs.		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 59% of the requested amount as it is a medium priority project. The full 75% funding is not possible due to the other medium priorities and the budget available.	Total score	7/12
	Suggested grant	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £938

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Funding is sought to purchase extra equipment for volunteers that will enable us to carry out Habitat management and Flood Alleviation work on Letcombe Brook, Wantage and on other sections of the brook in the parishes of Letcombe, Grove and Hanney. The Wantage stretch of the brook is a heavily used and focal green space within Wantage and is also in a flooding hot spot (last bad flood in 2007). The area suffers from over shading, silt deposition plus accumulations of litter and debris which exacerbate the flood risk and detract from its appearance and appeal.
Financial statement from the organisation	We are not anticipating contributing anything to this specific project.
Statement about town/parish support	Wantage Town Council already fund the LBP - they pay a grant that helps cover core costs
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	All members of the public using community green space alongside the brook will benefit. Riparian owners living alongside the brook will benefit. Work parties are open to all members of the public including students, retired persons etc Letcombe, Grove and Hanney Parishes will also benefit as equipment will also be used on their sections of the brook.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	We have consulted with our own volunteers, Sustainable Wantage and local Flood Groups and riparian owners. The need for extra equipment has arisen due to the increase in volunteers attending our work parties - we do not now have enough equipment for them to work safely and effectively. We have had feedback from members of the public whilst out on work parties that they appreciate the work we are doing (eg Willow Walk). Evidence of feedback is contained in our Business Plan provided to VWHDC in Dec 2018.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	Managing the brook so that it can better deal with more variable flow rates due to climate emergency is one of our objectives. Its important the brook can deal with both low and high flows and the work carried out by the Project Officer and volunteers will be an efficient and effective way of helping towards this. Most work is carried out with hand tools and "person power" which is as clean and green as it gets!
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This project will provide a new secure storage unit for our equipment. At the moment we have little equipment so borrow some space in a farm lock up that has limited space and is less than ideally located out of town. We have very limited equipment at present. Extra equipment will allow us to expand the size of the volunteer work parties and run them more effectively and efficiently.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	LBP will be able to carry out regular litter picking activities along letcombe Brook and associated green space - we have not been able to offer this other than as a one of activity as part of someone elses event. We will be able to carry out high level pollarding and canopy lifting of bankside trees which we were not previously able and more volunteers will be able to work in-river.

West Hendred Parish Council	Ref	VNHB19-20/104
Replacement of Unsafe Play Area Equipment		

Total project cost	£4,444		
Amount requested	£2,222	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£2,222	Organisation's latest bank balance	£36,319
Other funding	£ 0		
Including a parish/town council contribution of			

Previous grants

Capital 2015/16 : ValeCG\19 Toddler Swings £1,784 (Toddler swings not included on this project)

Scoring

New facilities or activities This is an improvement to an existing facility that will make it more accessible for all children, this has allowed them to score two points.	Score	2/3
Community benefit The play park is used by the local youth group, a toddler group and a local scout group as well as being open to all children from the area. This demonstrates a wider community use of the area allowing them to score two points.	Score	2/3
Funding the project The organisation is contributing the remaining 50% of the project and has a maintenance plan in place to cover ongoing costs.	Score	3/3
New Homes in parish(es) 0%	Score	0/3
Consultation Improvements to the playground were identified in the Community Lead Plan as a priority for the village. A ROSPA inspection has identified that some of the equipment is now unsafe and needs replacing. Section 106 and Equalities colleagues are supportive of the project. Project completion within timeframe The project should have no problems completing within the scheme time frame. Financial and project management plans They have a basic project management plan		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 59% of the requested amount as it is a medium priority project. The full 75% funding is not possible due to the other medium priorities and the budge available.	Total score	7/12
	Suggested grant	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £1,311

Applicant responses

<p>Details of the project</p>	<p>The Playpark equipment was installed in 2001 as a result of a whole village fundraising effort with additional help from external funders.</p> <p>Equipment is now at the end of its safe life and West Hendred Parish Council (WHPC) are looking to replace items in stages.</p> <p>WHPC funded the replacement of swings for older children in 2014 from precept funds and, in 2016, WHPC replaced the toddler swings, with matched funding help from VoWHDC Community Capital Grant Fund.</p> <p>We are now looking to replace the Balancing Trail, which was deemed High Risk by the latest ROSPA inspection, with a Basket Swing.</p>
<p>Financial statement from the organisation</p>	<p>Please note that the total sum in Parish Council of £36,319 is misleading in that circa 25K of those funds (depending on the surface chosen) are earmarked reserves to pay for the replacement fort. We have placed an order with Sovereign but not yet paid through any of the funds.</p>
<p>Statement about town/parish support</p>	<p>We are the Parish Council and in seeking matched funding from the New Homes Bonus Scheme, we are approaching our District Council.</p>
<p>Community benefit</p>	
<p>Who will benefit from your project?</p>	<p>The monthly village Youth Club is a primary user of the playpark and its equipment.</p> <p>The Toddler Group which meets weekly on Monday mornings regularly uses the Playpark.</p> <p>The local Scouts Group use the Playpark.</p> <p>The Playpark is open to all children from the neighbouring villages as well as our village children.</p>
<p>How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?</p>	<p>ROSPA have identified items of play equipment in our Playpark as unsound.</p> <p>Recreation/playgrounds are among the most important environments for children outside the home. The Parish's CLP, published in 2016, identified an overwhelming community wish for the continued viability of the Playpark as one of the few village amenities available for everybody to use and enjoy in West Hendred, whether using the play equipment, playing football between the nets or simply picnicking with family on a nice summer's day.</p> <p>It is a valued part of village life and plays a role in community activities like the annual West Hendred Not Just A Beer Festival and the Village Dog Show (dispensation granted to dogs in the recreation ground by WHPC for the day, for this popular event!), as well as being a firm favourite with the Youth Club and Toddler Group.</p>
<p>What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>New facilities/Activities</p>	
<p>What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?</p>	<p>WHPC is replacing a low balancing trail with a Basket Swing which will appeal to older children as well as to the younger ones.</p> <p>This is part of an ongoing project over the last 5 years to enhance the Playpark experience for village children; WHPC have just completed fundraising for a new Play Fort with add-ons and the Basket Swing will complete the refurbishment of the playpark for the current generation of village children.</p>
<p>What new activities will take place because of this project?</p>	<p>The replacement of the play equipment will overall offer enhanced and additional play activities for a greater age range of children.</p>

Hanney Scout Group	Ref	VNHB19-20/70
purchasing of camping equipment		

Total project cost	£3,740		
Amount requested	£1,870	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£1,870	Organisation's latest bank balance	£1,256
Other funding	£2,000	Please see comment on funding for project.	
Including a parish/town council contribution of			

Previous grants

None

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project will enable new small scale activities to take place as the group currently can't camp. This has allowed the project to score two points in this area.	Score	2/3
Community benefit The project will benefit a single user group (the Hanney Scout Group) which has limited their score to one point in this area. They have mentioned the possibility of the equipment being used by other groups and if these were outside of the scouting community the score could be increases.	Score	1/3
Funding the project The organisation is funding the remaining 50% of the project, which would allow them to score maximum points in this area. However according to the bank balance provided it has insufficient funds to cover this, and they would appear to be reliant on funds from a Christmas Market which had not taken place at the time of the application. This has limited the score in this area to one point, as they have currently secured less than 50% of the funding towards the project.	Score	1/3
New Homes in parish(es) East Hanney has seen 3.07% of the new homes built in the area, which allows the project to score 1 point in this area.	Score	1/3
<p>Consultation The organisation has carried out local consultation around resurrecting?the scout group in Hanney and have a detailed feasibility study for the project as a whole.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe The project relates to the purchasing of equipment, and therefore should be completed well within the 12 month timeframe for the the grant scheme.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans As a new organisation they have limited financial reserves to undertake major purchases such as the camping equipment for this project, however they have carried out a detailed feasibility study prior to setting up the group and have provided detailed budget predictions through to 2021 showing all expected income and expenditure.</p> <p>Previous funding No previous funding for this organisation</p>		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 59% of the requested amount as it is a medium priority project. The full 75% funding is not possible due to the other medium priorities and the budge available.	Total score	5/12
	Suggested grant	29.5% of the total cost, capped to £1,103

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Scouting has returned to Hanney after a 15-year break. Launched on 26th February 2019 with a beavers group, in June we opened a cub group and now have over 20 children involved. But as we are newly formed, we have no equipment. We want to be able to take our scouts camping next year but need to buy the kit. Camping serve as a positive, often life-changing event for the children. Developing social skills, improving mental well-being and getting them to enjoy being outside. But we need help to be able to provide this vital activity to our children.																																	
Financial statement from the organisation	<p>Expenditure - annually</p> <table> <tr> <td>rent - British Legion</td> <td>£341.25</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>rent - St James school</td> <td>£292.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>uniform</td> <td>£300.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>badges/neckers/woggles</td> <td>£400.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>first aid kits</td> <td>£30.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>beaver sessions expenses</td> <td></td> <td>£80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cub sessions expenses</td> <td></td> <td>£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>stationary</td> <td>£110.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>advertising</td> <td>£55.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>OSM membership</td> <td>£38.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts census - £50/child</td> <td></td> <td>£1,250.00</td> </tr> </table>	rent - British Legion	£341.25		rent - St James school	£292.50		uniform	£300.00		badges/neckers/woggles	£400.00		first aid kits	£30.00		beaver sessions expenses		£80.00	cub sessions expenses		£60.00	stationary	£110.00		advertising	£55.00		OSM membership	£38.00		Scouts census - £50/child		£1,250.00
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Statement about town/parish support	West Hanney parish Council gave us some money to help set up the group. we have not asked the councils for support for this project. One of our committee members has agreed to supply the money we need by arranging a Christmas market and giving the profit to Hanney Scouts. Last year she raised just over £2000. there are other things will can approach the councils for help with.																																	
Community benefit																																		
Who will benefit from your project?	the equipment will be used by the children of Hanney scout group. we are also open to lending the equipment to other scouting/school groups if needed.																																	
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>The group was opened in January 2019 and in 10 months we now have two scout sessions running, both beavers and cubs, with over 20 children involved. We have been greatly supported by the local community and wish for the group to get bigger and stronger. To keep the children we have and to attract new members we need to offer a full and exciting program of events. To be able to do this but keep the cost of scouting down for our families, we need help with grant/fund raising to buy the vital equipment needed to provide a full timetable of event for the children. Some of the main principles of scouting is to</p> <p>enjoy what they are doing and have fun; take part in activities indoors and outdoors; learn by doing;</p> <p>Camping we consider is an essential part of scouts. It underpins the scout's principles and empowering the children to develop to make a positive contribution to their community and to society.</p>																																	
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	this is not applicable to this application																																	
New facilities/Activities																																		
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This project will supply new equipment that will be used by the scouts of the Hanney area. Without the grant we will not be able to provide the vital camping experience that is part of scouting.																																	
What new activities will take place because of this project?	this project will allow us to offer new activities to the young people of our group. the grant will allow us to buy camping equipment that will allow us to take the scouts camping from next year. without this grant it will probably take until 2021 to have enough money to buy the necessary equipment to take the scouts camping. we feel this is too long a time to wait.																																	

SCORING AND AWARD MATRICES

OVERALL SCORE	PRIORITY LEVEL	AWARDS all awards are subject to the available budget. High priorities are awarded before considering the medium priority projects.
9-12 points	High priority	Award as requested, up to 50 per cent of the total cost (budget permitting) unless there are other reasons identified to limit the grant
5-8 points	Medium priority	Only award if there is budget available after the high priorities have been decided. Medium priorities can only receive up to 75% of the requested amount.
0-4 points	Low priority	No funding awarded

Scoring for New facilities/activities

Points	Criteria to score	Examples
0	The project doesn't allow any activities to take place or provide a facility for the community's use.	A decorative village sign doesn't allow any community activities to take place or give the community a facility to use.
1	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue or The project moderately improves a minor community facility or activity.	It replaces furniture in the village hall with like-for-like replacements. Replacing existing park benches with longer-lasting ones.
2	The project moderately improves or extends a substantial community facility or activity or The project significantly improves or extends a minor community facility or activity or The project provides a new minor facility or activity for the community.	Replacing the chairs in the village hall with more comfortable ones or improve a play area to cater for more ages. Buying replacement boats for a small canoeing club. Installing three new noticeboards in the village.
3	The project will provide substantial new facilities or activities to the community or The project significantly improves a substantial community facility.	Creating a brand-new play area where there wasn't one already. Adding a large extension to a village hall.

Deductions	Deduct one point if the project reduces the activities/facilities on offer.	Like a project to overhaul and landscape a car park that reduces the number of parking spaces.
	Deduct two points if the project removes a community facility or stops activities taking place without replacing them.	Demolishing an old skatepark without replacing it with anything.

Scoring for Community Benefit

Points	Criteria to score	Example
0	The project offers little or no direct benefit to the community.	A decorative sign or boundary wall with no other purpose
1	A single sport or special interest group, like an art group, will benefit. However, if a sport club wanted to upgrade their pavilion and other groups frequently use it as well, it can score more.	A project to buy cricket pitch covers, IT equipment for a photography club or landscaping a nursery's garden is only benefiting their members/users.
2	Two or more specific groups will benefit. The project will have a significant impact on the health or wellbeing of one group	A football club is upgrading its changing room, which a hockey club also use Specialist equipment for a centre working with severely disabled people.
3	The project will provide a facility that's open/available to anyone to access, (not just members) Limit the maximum score for projects on sites owned by religious organisations to two points, as they can limit who can access them under special rules in the Equalities Act.	Play areas, community building or recreation ground. (e.g. a church hall or Islamic centre)
Deductions	Deduct at least one point if the project will reduce (two points if it totally removes) an existing benefit to the community without replacing it.	Replacing a recreation ground with tennis courts for a member's club (open community benefit is reduced as only tennis members will benefit going forward).
	Remove one point if there are concerns over the ownership/lease of the property.	Like the term of their lease is too short or their ownership evidence is unreliable.

Scoring for Funding the project

Points	Financial overview
0	<p>They don't have a plan of how they'll fund the rest of the project and haven't secured any other funding yet.</p> <p>They haven't given details of how they'll fund the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacements.</p>
1	<p>They've got a funding plan, but haven't applied for all of it yet or They've applied for all the other funding needed but have secured less than 50 per cent so far.</p> <p>They've budgeted for the ongoing maintenance but don't say how they'll fund eventual replacements in the future (if applicable).</p>
2	<p>They've applied for all the funding needed and have already secured over 50 per cent of the balance.</p> <p>They've budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a general idea how they'll fund replacements eventually (if applicable)</p>
3	<p>They've secured all the other funding needed for the project already (including if they're funding the rest themselves) or The organisations has requested 100 per cent of the cost and have provided evidence that they've lost a funder, can't raise money themselves (e.g. via precept) and can't apply for other grants/funding.</p> <p>They've budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a fund/account/pot saving for the replacements in due course.</p>
Deductions	Remove one point if the organisation's finances suggest they could contribute towards the cost but aren't, remove two points if they can afford the whole project without any funding.

Other potential deductions/considerations:

- Their chosen supplier doesn't appear to offer value for money (their other quote was significantly cheaper for the same work).
- They have only provided one quote stating there is no alternative, but officers have found otherwise.
- Their start dates are too soon to work with our decision-making timeline for the scheme, unless we gave them permission to make an exceptional application before submitting their application.
- They are doing lots of small, similar projects instead of doing all the work in one go, which would be more cost effective.
- The community don't support the project or would prefer a different solution

Scoring for New homes in parish

Points	Percentage of area's total new homes in the parish the project takes place in
0	Less than 1 % of growth
1	1-10 % of growth
2	11-50 % of growth
3	51 or more % of growth

Appendix two - Percentage of the area's total new homes by parish and Area Committee

Wantage Area

Parish/town	2017 total occupied homes	2018 total occupied homes	Total parish increase in year	Percentage of area's total increase
Ardington and Lockinge	220	220	0	0.00%
Blewbury	781	809	28	4.09%
Childrey	223	225	2	0.29%
Chilton	647	648	1	0.15%
Dentchworth	80	80	0	0.00%
East Challow	399	399	0	0.00%
East Hanney	417	438	21	3.07%
East Hendred	536	558	22	3.21%
Grove	3236	3,371	135	19.71%
Harwell	1523	1,805	282	41.17%
Kingston Lisle	111	111	0	0.00%
Letcombe Basset	77	79	2	0.29%
Letcombe Regis	382	383	1	0.15%
Milton	498	502	4	0.58%
Sparsholt	138	138	0	0.00%
Steventon	790	900	110	16.06%
Upton	175	175	0	0.00%
Wantage	5236	5,307	71	10.36%
West Challow	88	91	3	0.44%
West Hanney	246	249	3	0.44%
West Hendred	149	149	0	0.00%
Total	15,952	16,637	685	100%