

Wantage Area Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: Wantage Area Committee

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New Homes Bonus and Capital Grants (round three) 2016/17

Recommendations

- (a) that the Wantage Area Committee considers the two applications for New Homes Bonus (NHB) grants and makes awards in line with the approved policy (2015).
- (b) that the Wantage Area Committee considers the application for a capital grant and makes an award in line with the approved policy (2015).

Purpose of report

1. To give the committee the information needed to award New Homes Bonus (NHB) and capital grants for their area.

Strategic objectives

2. Under the 'sustainable communities and well-being' corporate priority in our 2016-2020 corporate plan we commit to support community groups through our grants schemes.

Background

3. We opened both schemes between 5 September and 7 November 2016.
4. The Wantage area originally received three NHB applications requesting a total of £26,068 against a budget of £16,288 and no capital grant applications against its budget of £6,553.

5. After the grants officers completed their evaluations, they determined that one NHB application should transfer to the capital scheme to make best use of the available budgets.
6. As a result, the committee are now considering two NHB applications, requesting a total of £19,168 against a budget of £16,288 and one capital grant application requesting £6,900 against a budget of £6,553.
7. Officers have evaluated the applications using the scoring matrices in the agreed policies, approved in August 2015. See appendix one for the NHB evaluations, appendix two for a breakdown of the additional homes in the district broken down by each parish and appendix three for the capital grant evaluation.
8. In line with the policies, officers have suggested scores and awards for the committee to consider and amend as necessary. The final score for each project dictates the priority level when considering award decisions.

Financial implications

9. In February 2016 the council set a 2016/17 NHB budget of £100,000 and the Wantage Area Committee was allocated 39.83 per cent of this (£39,830) for the year. Their available NHB budget for this round of funding is £16,288. As per the agreed policy these grants can fund either revenue or capital projects.
10. At the same meeting, the council set a 2016/17 capital grants budget of £100,000 for capital grants. The total remaining budget for this scheme is currently £22,831. As per the policy, the Wantage Area Committee receives 28.70 per cent of the available budget during each round, giving it a budget of £6,553 for this round of funding.

Legal implications

11. The council's legal powers to award these grants are contained in section one of the Localism Act 2011 that gives a general power of competence for local authorities.
12. In May 2016 full council delegated authority to three area committees to determine NHB and capital grant applications within the parameters of each grant policy.
13. The application processes and eligibility requirements for the Capital and NHB schemes are the same so there is no reason why we cannot transfer a capital application from the NHB scheme to the capital scheme.

Risks

14. There are no overarching risks of awarding these grants. Officers have highlighted any risks to a particular project in their evaluation reports.

Conclusion

15. That the committee awards NHB and capital grants in line with the approved policies.

Background papers

Cabinet approval of the new homes bonus and capital grant policies (Aug 2015).

APPENDIX ONE Wantage Area NHB Grants 16/17 (round three) Officer Evaluations

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Officer score	Officer award amount
VN1R\11	Harwell Village Tennis Club	Replacement court fencing	£5,760	£2,880	50.00%	9	37.50% of the total cost capped to £2,160 (75% of request)
VN1R\39	Wantage Lawn Tennis Club	Install floodlights on the public tennis courts	£43,440	£16,288	37.50%	6	22.50% of the total cost capped to £9,773 (60% of request)
			TOTAL	£19,168			Total awarded £11,993
							Budget £16,288
							Unallocated budget in 2016/17 £4,295

Officer recommended award levels (budget permitting)

10-15 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50 per cent of total cost)
6-9 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75 per cent of requested amount
0-5 points	Low priority - no funding

Scoring and award matrices

Scoring matrix:

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
% of additional occupied homes in the parish where the project will take place?	None	1-10 per cent	11-50 per cent	51 per cent or more
New facilities or activities	The project offers very little if any new activities or facilities	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue	The project improves an existing facility or activity	The project will provide a new facility or will allow new activities to take place
Community benefit	The project offers little if any benefit to the community	A single sport or special interest group will benefit	More than two community groups or a minority group will benefit from the project	The whole community will benefit/the project will help to integrate new and existing communities
Funding the project	They haven't secured much if any of the other funding needed for the project	They've secured some of the other funding needed but still have some to find	They've secured most of their other funding and have a plan in place for raising the rest	They've secured all the other funding needed for the project
Organisation's contribution	They aren't contributing to the project	They're contributing less than 25% of the project cost	They're contributing between 25 and 50% of the project cost	They're contributing over 50% of the project cost

Award matrix:

10-15 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50 per cent of total cost)
5-9 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75 per cent of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Harwell Village Tennis Club	Ref	VN1R\11
Replacement court fencing		

Total project cost	£5,760	
Amount requested	£2,880	50 per cent of the total cost
Organisation's contribution	£1,880	Organisation's latest bank balance £8,483
Other funding	£1,000	Donated by the Harwell Feast fund.

Previous grants

None

Scoring

% of additional occupied homes in the parish where the project will take place?		
Harwell parish saw 22.60 per cent of the total growth in the area therefore their score is limited to two points	Score	2/3
New facilities or activities		
The project will replace the existing fencing on three sides of the tennis club site, so their score is limited to one point.	Score	1/3
Community benefit		
The benefit is to tennis club members – a single sport group, which limits their score to one point. If the courts are used by other sport groups (e.g. hockey, netball or similar) this score could increase.	Score	1/3
Funding the project		
The organisation has secured all their other funding, including their own contribution so receive full marks in this area.	Score	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
The organisation is contributing 32.64 per cent to this project, which entitles them to two points.	Score	2/3
They are limiting their contribution as the main purpose of their savings is to fund court resurfacing in due course, but might be able to cover a small shortfall in funding if necessary.		
Consultation		
They've not completed any formal consultation, but members have requested the fencing be improved to provide a more enjoyable environment when playing.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their start and end dates work well with those for our scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
The club will maintain the fences once installed. They anticipate they will need minimal funds to maintain the fence and will pay for this from the club's reserves as required.		
OFFICER CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Their score entitles them to receive up to 75 per cent of the requested amount, which is £2,160 (37.50 per cent of the total cost).	Total score	9/15
	Recommended Grant	37.50% of the total cost capped to £2,160

Applicant responses

Details of the project	<p>Harwell Village Tennis club is a small but popular village tennis club. It offers tennis coaching for juniors, regular club nights and match tennis for more experience players. The club is used actively by a growing membership from the village and surrounding wider community.</p> <p>The court fencing on 3 sides of the courts is extremely old with many holes appearing caused by rust and they require replacing. This application is to help fund new fencing.</p>
Financial statement from the organisation	<p>The club is a community sports club run on behalf of the residents of Harwell. We keep the membership fees as low as possible to encourage wide involvement. The main purpose of membership fees is to save for the replacement of the playing surfaces which will be required in approximately 10 years time at an estimated cost of £20,000. Paying the full cost of the fence now would risk this strategy.</p>
Statement about town/parish support	<p>Yes. All funds are committed elsewhere eg ongoing refurbishment of village hall in Harwell.</p>
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	<p>The tennis courts are enjoyed by a wide variety of people of all ages in the village. The club runs very popular coaching for children on Sundays throughout the year and during the summer adult coaching is available to. Membership is growing and with significant numbers of new houses under development and planned in the village it is expected that more people will wish to use the facility.</p>
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>Club members have complained about the poor state of repair of the fencing. The members voted unanimously at the last AGM that in to provide an enjoyable playing experience and encourage wider participation as well as growing the membership we should endeavor to replace the fence this year.</p>
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	<p>We will endeavour to understand from the chosen supplier whether the existing fence can be recycled.</p>
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	<p>The fence is evidently in need of replacement as rust holes are appearing regularly and supporting wires are broken. The fence has been temporarily repaired my members for many years but had no reached the point where this is no longer practical. There is no need for professional consultation to determine this.</p>
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	<p>The existing fence is extremely old and holes are continually appearing due to the wire rusting. This degrades the enjoyment of playing as balls go through the fence and are lost. Although replacing like for like the new fence will enable the club to provide a more enjoyable playing experience and this is likely to attract new members and encourage wider participation from the village community.</p>
What new activities will take place because of this project?	<p>As described above it is anticipated that the fence will encourage more members to join the club as playing conditions will be enhanced.</p>

Wantage Lawn Tennis Club	Ref	VN1R\39
Install floodlights on the public tennis courts		

Total project cost	£43,440	
Amount requested	£16,288	37.50 per cent of the total cost.
Organisation's contribution	£50	Organisation's latest bank balance £51,368
Other funding	£27,152	All currently unsecured

Previous grants

None

Scoring

% of additional occupied homes in the parish where the project will take place?		
Wantage saw 23.84 per cent of the total growth in this area, entitling them to two points.	Score	2/3
New facilities or activities		
This project will improve the public tennis courts by installing floodlights, allowing people to use the courts in the dark. This entitles them to a maximum of two points.	Score	2/3
Community benefit		
This project will allow anyone looking to play tennis at night to access the public courts (for a small fee). As the benefit is to a single sport their score is limited to one point however, if other sports (like hockey, netball or similar) will use the floodlight courts this could increase.	Score	1/3
Funding the project		
The club hopes to secure the remaining money needed for this project from Sport England and/or the Lawn Tennis Association, but will not know if these requests are successful until August 2017. As only their nominal contribution is secure, we are not able to award any points in this area. If they have secured a reasonable amount of their other funding when the committee meet this score could increase.	Score	0/3
Organisation's contribution		
The organisation is contributing 0.11 per cent of the cost (£50) to this project. Therefore we can award one point in this section.	Score	1/3
Consultation		
The council's leisure strategy supports additional tennis facilities in the district. Council's property team: The applicant is leasing the site from us, however their lease will not become active until they have delivered all parts of our agreement to lease and build, which includes installing floodlights on the public courts. An LTA lighting adviser suggested the low energy lighting they are installing.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their start date in August 2017 works with the time limits for our scheme, but is dependent on them securing their other funding.		
Financial and project management plans		
They will charge to use the public courts to help fund the maintenance and eventual resurfacing of the courts. Officers suggest our grant includes a condition that the club will ringfence income from the public courts to fund their maintenance going forward.		
OFFICER CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Their score entitles them to receive between 50 to 75 per cent of the requested amount. As their score is at the lower end of this officers recommend a grant of 60 per cent of the requested amount which is £9,773 (22.5 per cent of the total cost).	Total score	6/15
	Recommended Grant	22.5% of the total cost capped to £9,773

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Wantage Tennis Club operate and maintain the public courts at Manor Rd. We would like to enhance the facility by installing LED floodlights
Financial statement from the organisation	£57883 required to complete payments for work on Club Facility
Statement about town/parish support	The club has been encouraged to apply for this grant by Katie Buckingham - Wantage Deputy Town Clerk
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The facility will be available to all of the public in Wantage and the surrounding area
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	Council recommendation
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The latest low energy LED lighting technology
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	Lee West - LTA lighting consultant
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The LED floodlighting will enable the public courts to be used in the evening.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	The project will increase the capacity of the existing facility

APPENDIX TWO - Breakdown of Additional Homes in Area by Parish

The Wantage area saw 39.83 per cent of the overall additional homes occupied in the district during the relevant 12 month period.

Minus figures mean there has been a reduction in occupied homes in that parish during the relevant 12 month period. The recent parish boundary changes may account for a number of these reductions.

Area committee	Parish/town	2014 total occupied homes	2015 total occupied homes	Total parish increase	Percentage of area's total increase
Wantage	Ardington And Lockinge	219	220	1	0.31%
Wantage	Blewbury	769	779	10	3.10%
Wantage	Childrey	223	224	1	0.31%
Wantage	Chilton	592	643	51	15.79%
Wantage	Denchworth	79	79	0	0.00%
Wantage	East Challow	323	377	54	16.72%
Wantage	East Hanney	356	363	7	2.17%
Wantage	East Hendred	494	501	7	2.17%
Wantage	Grove	3,009	3,010	1	0.31%
Wantage	Harwell	1,030	1,103	73	22.60%
Wantage	Kingston Lisle	105	104	-1	-0.31%
Wantage	Letcombe Bassett	73	75	2	0.62%
Wantage	Letcombe Regis	370	379	9	2.79%
Wantage	Milton	468	469	1	0.31%
Wantage	Sparsholt	136	137	1	0.31%
Wantage	Steventon	658	684	26	8.05%
Wantage	Upton	179	178	-1	-0.31%
Wantage	Wantage	5,093	5,170	77	23.84%
Wantage	West Challow	84	87	3	0.93%
Wantage	West Hanney	224	225	1	0.31%
Wantage	West Hendred	148	148	0	0.00%
	Area committee total	14,632	14,955	323	
	District Total	52,543	53,354	811	

APPENDIX THREE Wantage Area Capital Grants 16/17 (round two)

Officer Evaluations

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Suggested score	Suggested award
VN1R\33	Wantage Gymnastics Centre	Install a sprung floor	£13,800	£6,900	50.00%	8	37.50% of total cost, capped to £5,175 (75% of requested amount)
			TOTAL	£6,900		Total	£5,175
						Budget	£6,553
						Unallocated budget in 2016/17	£1,378

Officer recommended award levels (budget permitting)

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Scoring and award matrices

Scoring matrix:

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
New facilities or activities	The project offers very little if any new activities or facilities	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue	The project improves an existing facility or activity	The project will provide a new facility or will allow new activities to take place
Community benefit	The project offers little if any benefit to the community	A single sport or special interest group will benefit	More than two community groups or a minority group will benefit from the project	The whole community will benefit/the project will help to integrate new and existing communities
Funding the project	They haven't secured much if any of the other funding needed for the project	They've secured some of the other funding needed but still have some to find	They've secured most of their other funding and have a plan in place for raising the rest	They've secured all the other funding needed for the project
Organisation's contribution	They aren't contributing to the project	They're contributing less than 25% of the project cost	They're contributing between 25 and 50% of the project cost	They're contributing over 50% of the project cost

Award matrix:

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Wantage Gymnastics Centre	Ref	VN1R\33
Install a sprung floor		

Total project cost	£13,800	
Amount requested	£6,900	50 per cent of the total cost
Organisation's contribution	£6,900	Organisation's latest bank balance £7,604

Previous grants

None

We have transferred this application from the NHB scheme to make best use of the available budgets for both schemes.

The Wantage committee was oversubscribed for NHB, but didn't receive any applications for capital grants. After reviewing the applications this project seemed the most logical to transfer to the capital scheme. Its score makes it a medium priority and the recommended award most closely matches the available budget.

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will improve the facilities at the existing gymnastics centre by installing a sprung floor, therefore their score is limited to two points.	Score	2/3
Community benefit		
The project will benefit local gymnasts using the centre, which as a single sport group limits their score to one point. If the organisation can confirm other groups will use the sprung floor for non-gymnastic purposes their score could increase.	Score	1/3
Funding the project		
The organisation is going to fund the rest of the costs themselves and they had enough in the bank to cover this when they applied.	Score	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
The organisation is contributing 50 per cent of the cost, which will use up most of their current reserves.	Score	2/3
Consultation		
No formal consultation - the coaches at the club have agreed they would like to see a sprung floor to improve their facilities.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their intended purchase/installation dates work with the time limits for our scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
They anticipate the floor lasting ten years, and could move it to alternative sites if they were to move. They will maintain the floor as part of their ongoing work programme and will fund this using their membership fees.		
OFFICER CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	Total score	8/15
<p>Their score entitles them to receive up to 75 per cent of the requested amount, which is £5,175 (37.50 per cent of the total cost).</p> <p>If their score increases to make them a funding priority the maximum we can award them from this scheme is £6,553 as this is the committee's remaining budget, we cannot top it up from any NHB underspend.</p>	Recommended Grant	37.50% of total cost, capped to £5,175 (75% of requested amount)

Applicant responses

Details of the project	<p>Wantage Gymnastics Centre has been open for almost a year, we were previously known as Wantage Gymnasts and trained at the local leisure centre. We have grown from 20 children to over 300 children, providing professional gymnastics classes to gymnasts as young as 18 months to adult gymnasts.</p> <p>In order to help us grow further we need a sprung floor, this would be beneficial to all of our gymnasts from beginners to our elite squad.</p>
Financial statement from the organisation	<p>We have commitments to rent and wages which restrict how much we can afford to spend on equipment. The cost of our building is around £30,000 per year, we also have 14 coaches working here which costs around £50,000 per year. We run annual club championships, Christmas displays, coffee mornings and badge week to help raise money for new equipment.</p>
Statement about town/parish support	<p>Yes, I have spoken to the local mayor but no funds are available to help with this project.</p>
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	<p>We provide the local community with classes for all ages and abilities and everyone will benefit from the new floor. We run classes for pre school, beginners, advanced, elite and adults, we also provide gymnastics for children with SEN. As well as this, three of the local schools use the facility for the PE classes and we are looking at expanding this.</p>
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>The gymnastics club was founded in 1977 and had been running at the local leisure centre. I took over the head coach role in January 2015, after helping a club in Newbury move from a school into their own facility - It's membership increased from 150 children to over 1000 children in a few years. The waiting list to join WGC was huge and therefore we decided to move into our own facility.</p>
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	<p>The sprung floor will last for a long time and won't need replacing for at least 10 years and probably more. If we decided to move into a bigger facility in the next few years then the floor would be easy to dismantle and put back together.</p>
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	<p>I have worked at a few different gymnastics clubs in the country and consulted a few other head coaches to identify the next area to invest in the club. We have all accumulated over 40 years all the other pieces of equipment we need to be a gymnastics club but we are missing a sprung floor.</p>
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	<p>We don't currently have a sprung floor in our gymnastics centre, we currently have foam strips for the floor area. This doesn't provide sufficient bounce that a professional sprung floor gives, our squad gymnasts are at a huge disadvantage when participating in competitions. A sprung floor will also be great for our 300 recreational and pre school gymnasts, providing them with a much safer area to practise their floor skills.</p>
What new activities will take place because of this project?	<p>A new floor would allow the squad gymnasts to perform harder tumblers much more safely, and would allow them to go to competitions with much more confidence. The floor would provide us with a much larger area, allowing us to increase our class capacity for recreational classes from 25 to 30 (250 - 300 per week).</p>