

Abingdon and North-East Area Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Services

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To: Abingdon and North-East Area Committee

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New Homes Bonus Grants 2019/20

Recommendations

That the Abingdon and North-East Area Committee considers the seven 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

2. The New Homes Bonus grants scheme supports the councils Corporate Plan objective to create and maintain 'sustainable communities and well-being' and in turn strive 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

3. The council opened the NHB grant scheme for applications from 02 September 2019 to 28 October 2019.
4. The Abingdon and North-East area received seven eligible grant applications requesting a total of £65,594 against a committee budget of £16,974. Two applications didn't meet the eligibility criteria.
5. Officers have evaluated each application against the scoring criteria agreed in the policy and set out in pages 21-24 of this report. The suggested scores determine the level of funding, if any, to award each project. 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.

6. 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

7. In February 2019, the council set a 2019/20 NHB budget of £75,000. The Abingdon and North-East area committee was allocated 22.6 per cent of this (£16,974) to award in NHB grants in 2019/20. As per the agreed policy these grants can fund either revenue or capital projects.
8. Any budget remaining after this round of awards will be returned to the council's general reserves, as per the agreed policy.

Legal implications

9. 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.
10. In May 2018, full council delegated authority to three area committees to determine NHB grant applications within the parameters of the policy.

Risks

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

Conclusion

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

Background papers

13. The council's NHB grant policy.

Appendix one - Abingdon 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
VNHB19-20/71	Marcham Community Group	Furnishing Marcham Village Hall	£53,057	£9,701	18.28%	10	High priority	18.28% of the total cost, capped to £9,701
VNHB19-20/96	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	Village Hall Improvements	£7,620	£3,810	50.00%	9	High priority	50% of the total cost, capped to £3,810
VNHB19-20/77	Abingdon Carousel Family Centre	Installation of a sensory room to help families with a special needs child	£7,808	£3,904	50.00%	8	Medium priority	37.5% of the total cost, capped to £2,928
VNHB19-20/89	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club	Extention and Upgrade of Club Tennis Facilities Project	£123,294	£11,500	9.32%	7	Medium priority	0.43% of the total cost, capped to £535
VNHB19-20/108	Abingdon Rugby Club	Replacement of showers and refurbishment of changing rooms at Abingdon Rugby Club	£52,247	£10,000	19.14%	6	Medium priority	£0
VNHB19-20/51	Damascus PCC	New Build of Community/ Church Room, with facilities. Grant application for Furniture and Fittings please.	£15,444	£7,722	50.00%	6	Medium priority	£0
VNHB19-20/65	Kennington Playgroup	Outdoor Play area upgrade	£14,914	£7,457	50.00%	5	Medium priority	£0
			Total	£54,094			Total Suggested	£16,974
							Total Budget	£16,974
							Balance	£0

Marcham Community Group	Ref	VNHB19-20/71
Furnishing Marcham Village Hall		

Total project cost	£53,057		
Amount requested	£9,701	Percentage of total cost requested:	18.28%
Organisation's contribution	£27,000	Organisation's latest bank balance	£30,557
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£17,095	Other funding of which £0 is secured from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gannett Foundation - Local fund-raising - Heritage Lottery Fund
	(£3,000 unsecured)		

Previous grants

Nil

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project will provide the furniture for a substantial new facility, a new village hall. This will allow new activities to take place within the village hall, serving Marcham and surrounding communities.	Score	3/3
Community benefit New furniture for a new community centre for the village, benefiting multiple and varied groups, and opportunities to create new groups as a result of this facility. Benefits will be extended to neighbouring villages.	Score	3/3
Funding the project The organisation has secured over 50% of the project and has a maintenance plan in place paid for out of hire costs of the hall. The balance has been applied for through other funders. If they're successful with their other funding applications then they wouldn't need the full amount requested, however they won't hear from the majority of their requests until end February 2020.	Score	2/3
New Homes in parish(es) 30.37%	Score	2/3
<p>Consultation The organisation has carried out extensive consultation on the project over the years to ensure it meets local demand for this new facility. No concerns were raised from an equality and climate perspective.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe Anticipated project completion date of June 2020 as the majority of funding is already in place due to their own contribution.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans The organisation has fundraised and contributed a significant amount towards building the new hall. This is the final phase of their new village hall build.</p> <p>Previous funding No previous funding received.</p>		
<p>OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding the full grant as requested based on scoring the project as high priority. The award may be adjusted in their claim if they are successful with all their other funding requests.</p>	Total score	10/12
	Suggested grant	18.28% of the total cost, capped to £9,701

Applicant responses

Details of the project	A new Village Hall is being built in Marcham to serve the local community in Marcham and nearby villages including Frilford and Garford. The Hall will be owned by Marcham Parish Council, but will be operated under a 99 year lease to Marcham Community Group (MCG), a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The new hall is being built to a tight budget which is for build only. MCG is in the process of raising funds for furniture and fittings.
Financial statement from the organisation	MCG is expecting to contribute £27,000 from its cash reserves. While the bank balance is above this figure (and some further funds, in the region of £2000 will have arrived in late October), the full balance is not freely available to allocate to furniture and fittings, as MCG must retain sufficient reserves, estimated as at least £5,000, to cover working capital requirements when it starts operation of the new facilities in May 2020.
Statement about town/parish support	Marcham Parish Council has already provided major funds towards the building construction. However, we intend to approach them for a grant towards furniture and fittings when it is clearer what the outcome is of the various funding applications, and our own direct fund-raising efforts.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	Youth groups, Cubs, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows; First Aid cadets; mother and toddlers; regular meal for elderly and vulnerable locals; fitness classes; chair aerobics for the frail; coffee bar to reduce social isolation; local history society; WI; Parish Council; Sports clubs (adult and youth teams): cricket, football, tennis; indoor bowls; local choir, breakfast and after school club; young children and elderly club; church groups. Facilities in Marcham will also benefit people from Frilford and Garford.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	MCG worked with Marcham Parish Council to produce a Community Led Plan for Marcham, published in 2013, achieving an 87% response rate to a questionnaire to every household in the parish. Data gathered at the time of this survey identified over 1000 people who expressed an interest in participating in community activities which are not currently practicable within the village and which can be delivered through this project. There has been a series of public consultations in Marcham over the past 3-4 years on the scope of new village hall facilities during development of the facility construction plans. A Community Facilities Steering Group was set up to bring a range of stakeholders together to plan the new facilities to meet as many as practicable of the needs identified in the consultations. MCG played a central role in this steering group.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The new village hall buildings will be handed over with a high level of thermal insulation for energy efficiency, and good practice in water management designed in. MCG plans to operate the facilities in an environmentally responsible manner. We plan to use crockery and cutlery to avoid single-use plastics, disposable plates and cups as far as possible. We will seek to use suppliers with environmental policies in place. By offering as wide a range of social, entertainment and cultural activities as we can in the new facilities in Marcham, we hope to reduce the need for so much car travel to adjacent centres, such as Abingdon and Didcot.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	This project will provide essential equipment for a new village hall, so that its facilities can be operated fully to meet a wide range of established and new community user group needs.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	We will offer facilities for new activities such as: a social meeting place for young children and the elderly, a coffee-based meeting point for mums and toddlers and the socially disadvantaged, facilities for a local choir, a new drama group and a film club. We will also increase capacity for existing groups who struggle to find suitable meeting spaces in Marcham, such as youth groups and regular meal events for the elderly.

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	Ref	VNHB19-20/96
Village Hall Improvements		

Total project cost	£7,620		
Amount requested	£3,810	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£543	Organisation's latest bank balance	£73,653
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£3,267 (£0)	Other funding of which £3,267 is secured from:	Sutton Courtenay National Power Trust

Previous grants

Nil

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project improves an existing facility by installing insulation, CCTV and new fire doors. The installation of a new projector and screen will allow new small scale activities to take place.	Score	2/3
Community benefit Multiple different user groups access the hall from youth groups to the WI, this has allowed the project to score maximum points for community benefit.	Score	3/3
Funding the project They have secured the remaining 50% of the funding for the project, mostly from a grant from Sutton Courtenay National Power Trust and will contribute the remaining funding themselves. The organisation does appear to have large cash reserves, but have stated that these are needed for a future larger improvement project to the hall.	Score	3/3
New Homes in parish(es) Sutton Courtenay has seen 2.96% increase in homes in the area, allowing them to score 1 point in this area.	Score	1/3
<p>Consultation No concerns were raised from a climate perspective. Infrastructure commented that the organisation is planning to carry out a major refurbishment to the village hall in due course. Equalities raised a concern that the fire doors need to be accessible for wheelchair users.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe The project is relatively straight forward, and should have no problem starting and completing within the scheme parameters.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans The organisation appears to have large financial reserves so could possibly provide more funding to the project, however they have provided details of why these reserves have been built-up (major refurbishment of the building to include roof work as well as possible asbestos removal should it be needed) meaning that they could not contribute further to this project.</p>		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding the full grant as requested based on scoring the project as high priority. Condition of grant - fire doors to be accessible for wheelchair users.	Total score	9/12
	Suggested grant	50% of the total cost, capped to £3,810

Applicant responses

Details of the project	<p>Originally built in 1965, trustees undertook a major refurbishment of the hall in 2004. The village has now grown significantly and we are defining another major upgrade. However, as there is limited s106 allocated for improvements to the hall it will take time to raise needed funds. Meanwhile, some essential works need to be done to improve amenities, the insulation and the security of the building. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of single glazed wooden Fire Exit double doors Purchase and installation of a Projector Screen Upgrade of Burglar Alarm system Installation of CCTV at entrance to the building
Financial statement from the organisation	<p>Our annual income is about £14000 and expenditure £12000. There is no scope within the in-year profit to deal with major emergencies. The trustees hold an emergency major repairs reserve of £65K for roof replacement, replacement of the storage heaters without which the building would shutdown in the winter and removal of asbestos should intrusive repair work be required in the asbestos-containing areas. A reserve is also being built for the next major refurbishment project.</p>
Statement about town/parish support	<p>The Parish Council provides supports the Village Hall through its annual precept. We are also separately requesting the Parish Council to consider building a reserve for the more major refurbishment project that will be required in a few years' time. The Councillors are also trustees of the Sutton Courtenay National Power Trust although it is a charity independent of the parish council.</p>
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	<p>Vulnerable groups - elderly using the hall for sedentary activities. Children's parties, Youth Groups attending project workshops, Keep Fit classes, WI, Table Tennis, Local History Society Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p> <p>The addition of a projector screen will benefit all user groups and individuals. For current users it will mean they do not have to bring in cumbersome screens which take up a lot of space and reduce the available floor area.</p>
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>In a recent house-to-house survey conducted for the village's emerging Neighbourhood Plan, over 44% of the respondents felt that s106/CIL funds should be prioritised on improving and modernising the Village Hall. This priority ranked second only to the improvement of footpaths and cycleways (50%). We receive regular feedback from users who have expressed a need for a screen. Users often complain about the draft near the fire exit doors in the main hall and the difficulty of closing the fire doors in the committee room. The latter get opened in the summer when the room gets very stuffy and hot. Residents neighbouring the village hall have complained when they get woken up at 2am by the intruder alarm going off because of its fault.</p>
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include?	<p>The Fire Doors are being replaced due to both their age and loss in reliability as well as the extra insulation the more modern doors will provide.</p>
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	<p>The installation of a projector screen will open up the opportunity for new activities. The improvements will ensure that the hall is warmer for the users and that it has up to date modern security measures as some users have large expensive items (e.g. professional Table Tennis tables) stored. The projector screen will also meet a need already identified by current users. Without the improvements the hall would become unusable if the fire doors fail.</p>
What new activities will take place because of this project?	<p>The installation of the projector screen will open up the possibility of film nights organised by the community. It will enable the youth group that uses the hall to show educational DVDs during their workshops. Those who come to present to the parish council will have the facility to project their presentation on to a screen that is visible to all as several members of the public also attend these meetings.</p>

Abingdon Carousel Family Centre	Ref	VNHB19-20/77
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Installation of a sensory room to help families with a special needs child

Total project cost	£7,808		
Amount requested	£3,904	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£456	Organisation's latest bank balance	£47,000
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£6,000 (£0)	Other funding of which £0 is secured from:	Christ's Hospital Abingdon and other funders

Previous grants

Nil

Scoring

New facilities or activities Officers believe this would be a substantial new facility to the Abingdon community, supporting families with special needs children with a new sensory room open to the public located at Abingdon Carousel.	Score	3/3
Community benefit The project will have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of children with special needs and their families from South Abingdon and across Vale of White Horse district providing specialist equipment with the support offered at the centre by specialist staff.	Score	2/3
Funding the project The organisation has identified appropriate funding sources to try and raise the remaining funds, but have yet to secure additional grants. The organisation has stated that they are unable to commit any further funds from their own resources as they are saving for when Oxfordshire County Councils transition funding comes to an end. If they're successful with other funding applications, officers believe it is likely that they would still need the full grant awarded, as they're also seeking revenue funding to support salary costs for specialist support staff to work with special needs families. These are ineligible under the NHB scheme.	Score	1/3
New Homes in parish(es) 30%	Score	2/3
Consultation The organisation has consulted with healthcare professionals and networks to ensure families with special needs children from Vale of White Horse are reached. No concerns were raised from an equalities perspective, other than to recommend wheelchair users should have access to this space.		
Project completion within timeframe The order, delivery and installation of sensory room equipment is estimated to take 2 months.		
Financial and project management plans The organisation is building up reserves to prepare for when Oxfordshire County Council withdraws funding, but relies on an ongoing commitment from trustees to fund specialist staffing offering additional value for families with special needs children, partly through hire of the new facility.		
Previous funding Abingdon Carousel has not previously received grant funding from the district council, and they were only established as a charity in Feb 2018, prior to that a children's centre. They have received funding from Oxfordshire County Council transition fund and Abingdon Town Council.		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers recommend funding 75% of requested grant based on scoring the project as medium priority. Condition of grant – sensory room to be accessible for wheelchair users.	Total score	8/12
	Suggested grant	37.5% of the total cost, capped to £2,928

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Carousel already works with Down's Syndrome Oxford, running sessions at the Centre. These parents know the lack of services for families who discover they have a child with special educational needs or disability. New parents have combined grief, shock and readjustment after the trauma of diagnosis, at birth or after birth for other disabilities, or autism diagnosed around 3. We aim to reach c 30 families with one-to-one support from an experienced member of staff, establishing routes for further help, play group sessions with a specialist sensory room in our family centre, not separate from other family facilities.
Financial statement from the organisation	This project in very limited form, using existing staff and limited hours to set up services, would be not enable much to be achieved. We do not have resources to commit to more than that from our current budget. This may seem high but we need to achieve some sustainability when the OCC grant runs out and to ensure we have some reserves built up to sustain normal services.
Statement about town/parish support	Abingdon Town Council is already a major funder and supporter of the Carousel Family Centre as core funding £30,000 from the start of the charity, recognising the value of a Family and Children's Centre in South Abingdon. We also receive "transition funding" from OCC. This is a new specific additional project to reach a new target group to support families with disabled children with special needs. We actively seek several different grants.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	Identifying parents with newly diagnosed special needs children who may be in a state of combined grief, shock and readjustment. Target group will be from Abingdon and beyond as there are limited facilities and services for this group so often these families have to travel to get support so the project serves a wider geographical area of Vale of White Horse. The equipment also enable us to provide new sessions with other children using Centre .
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	We already work as partners with the organisation Down's Syndrome Oxford, who have been running sessions at the Centre on Wednesday mornings for the past year. These parents know the lack of services for families who discover they have a child who has special educational needs. We established from ad hoc discussions that parents are in a state of combined grief, shock and readjustment after the trauma of finding out that they have a child with special needs. This may be at birth (for example in the Case of Down's Syndrome) or several months after birth (in the case of deafness) and often as late as three years old (autism is usually diagnosed around 3 years). Many parents retreat from play groups and any contact with "normal" families through a combination of factors that range from behavioural difficulties to being unable to cope with tactless comments. The impact on the whole family can be devastating and the effects continue for many years, affecting marriages, siblings, ability to work, relationships with wider family, neighbours and friends. Abingdon Carousel wishes to start to address these issues for this target group. From data analysis we estimate we could be targeting around 30 families during the year. See Appendix 1 on main project proposal.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include?	This project is not a major expenditure of energy.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	Sensory Room a specially designed space aimed to stimulate the senses, encouraging engagement as sensory experiences can be hugely beneficial to children for promoting developmental skills, colour recognition, hand-eye co-ordination, fine/gross motor skills. Extremely useful for autism, sensory processing disorders, profound and multiple learning disabilities, developmental delay with significant physical and sensory needs. Equipment to target specific needs such as colour changing mood lighting but ALL children of this age group can enjoy the room.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	Specialist play sessions for children with special needs, and potentially the new sensory room may also enable them to play with other youngsters without barriers and discrimination.

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club	Ref	VNHB19-20/89
Extention and Upgrade of Club Tennis Facilities Project		

Total project cost	£123,294		
Amount requested	£11,500	Percentage of total cost requested:	9.32%
Organisation's contribution	£42,402	Organisation's latest bank balance	£46,927
Other funding applied for	£57,892	Other funding of which £40,844 is secured from:	S106
(Including a parish/town council contribution of)	(Unknown - unsecured)		

Previous grants

Nil

Scoring

New facilities or activities The tennis club will be extending a community facility by building two new tennis courts as well as adding new gates and floodlights.	Score	2/3
Community benefit Even though there will also be a 'pay and play' option available to the community, it will still only benefit a single sports group.	Score	1/3
Funding the project From a total of £123,294, the organisation has secured over 50% of the project costs but still faces a shortfall of £11,500 which is being sought from the Faringdon NHB panel. The tennis club is committing £42,402 and have secured over £40,000 of S106 money.	Score	2/3
New Homes in parish(es) 26.47% of areas total increase, the second largest in the Faringdon area. The project is being considered by both the Faringdon and Abingdon NHB panels due to evidence of current use by Abingdon ward residents.	Score	2/3
Consultation The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), on behalf of the organisation has carried out extensive consultation to ensure it meets local demand for this extended facility. No concerns were raised from an equality perspective and the Active Communities team are supportive of this application.		
Project completion within timeframe A detailed project timeline submitted. The planned completion in September 2020 so even if late, they will have time to finish project within 36 months.		
Financial and project management plans They have been working with the LTA on the project planning. Detailed financial forecasts and quotes have been provided. A financial pack has been provided giving a 15 year cash flow forecast.		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers have scored this as a medium priority for funding, however budget currently only permits a maximum grant of £535. This project is also being considered by the Faringdon NHB panel.	Total score	7/12
	Suggested grant	0.43% of the total cost, capped to £535

Applicant responses

Details of the project	<p>Two tennis court extension to the existing two court facility, taking the total courts to four, of which three of the courts will be floodlit.</p> <p>The works specification includes: a new entrance gate with digital access control, which interfaces with our Club website and software application to allow 'pay and play', and online floodlight control; refurbishment of existing court surface (all 4 courts will be at the same level, surface and colour); and relocating the entrance to improve access for people with disabilities, as ramps/handrails will replace the existing steps to the courts and club house.</p>
Financial statement from the organisation	<p>We have a detailed financial pack that can be shared with you, which includes a 15-year cashflow forecast and 50-year sinking fund calculation.</p> <p>In year 1 of the cashflow, 2019/20 (30th June 2020), the forecast cash balance is £7,381, following delivery of the project.</p> <p>If the project did not go ahead in 2019/20, the forecast cash balance would be £49,783.</p> <p>We require a minimum working capital balance of £5,000 throughout this project.</p>
Statement about town/parish support	<p>We have made an initial approach to Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Clerk in the last two weeks to ask the Council to consider a contribution to our project. The Clerk is taking the request to the next Council meeting.</p> <p>We also have a separate project to upgrade the Club House, which we need to fund raise for.</p>
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	<p>Our focus is affordable community participation.</p> <p>Offer seniors, lady's and men's open sessions, 'mums and tots', mini and junior sessions.</p> <p>The age range is 5 years of age, to well into the 70s.</p> <p>We will be offering free tennis off-peak to the public for at least 4-hours a week.</p> <p>We will open the courts up to the public on a 'pay and play' basis.</p> <p>Within a 10 minute drive, Botley, Stanford, Stanton Harcourt and Grove.</p>
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	<p>We developed our first Strategic Development Plan (SDP) in 2016 with our members feedback over 18 months. The plan was further revised in 2018, taking into account LTA and Sport England research.</p> <p>However, the need to provide additional courts was very clear, as we were trying to accommodate 240 active members on two courts, 50% higher than British Tennis recommend. Our retention rate has been poor over the last two years.</p> <p>We are not meeting members or the publics demand for casual play, as the existing 2-courts are in use for coaching and matches at peak times.</p> <p>Members complain about sitting out in 'open' sessions, because too many members turn-up to play.</p> <p>In 2019, we attended the Village Showcase and used a questionnaire to obtain views of the public to test our 'offering' in the SDP to non-members.</p> <p>In 2018, British Tennis published research on changing attitudes to joining tennis clubs and we have used this output to consider new 'offerings' ie pay and play and more flexible membership packages.</p> <p>In 2019, British Tennis have published series of exemplar club profiles, which we have used to test our exist Club 'offering'.</p> <p>In October 2019, British Tennis provided further data on membership profiles and potential markets, which will allow us to further market and target further growth in participation.</p> <p>Our Management Committee have agreed to refresh our SDP for the February 2020 AGM.</p> <p>This project provides additional capacity and unlocks our strategic plan.</p>
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	<p>We don't have any energy saving measures or renewable energy technologies built into this project. Our planning consent is for materials and fittings that match the existing infrastructure but we are keen to discuss with the planners a change to LED lighting in the final specification, if we can secure the funding required for the project.</p>
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	<p>Constructing two new tennis courts, one with floodlights.</p> <p>Removing and relocating some of the existing floodlight poles and taking down part of the existing perimeter fencing.</p> <p>Refurbish existing courts to make all the 4 courts the same playing surface, level</p>

	<p>and colour. This means the top surface will be removed. Relocate main entrance gate to enable better access (remove steps), fit with digital control to enable public use, 'pay and play'.</p>
What new activities will take place because of this project?	<p>Additional capacity - Grow membership by 44% and demand for social tennis at peak times can be met. Additional teams and team practice sessions. Increase participation - Enable an extension of the coaching programme and a range of new tennis activities. We will be able to host internal tournaments. Allows for wider public use - Offer 'Pay and Play' and free off peak day use. Allows for school use.</p>

Abingdon Rugby Club	Ref	VNHB19-20/108
Replacement of showers and refurbishment of changing rooms at Abingdon Rugby Club		

Total project cost	£52,247		
Amount requested	£10,000	Percentage of total cost requested:	19.14%
Organisation's contribution	£10,000	Organisation's latest bank balance	£36,672
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£44,000 £0	Other potential funding that has been identified (not applied to):	- S106 - RFU Loan - Local fundraising

Previous grants

NHB 2013/14 VNHB\1216 Redevelopment of training pitch £8,000

Vale Capital pre 2014/15 VCCG\1294 Replacement patio doors and shutters £3,800

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project significantly improves existing shower facilities with better equipment which will be more efficient, and creates a new facility on a small scale with separate female changing areas, aiming to support more women playing.	Score	2/3
Community benefit The project improves the showers and changing areas for a single sport at the Rugby Club.	Score	1/3
Funding the project Abingdon Rugby Club have identified funding opportunities, including a meeting with S106/Leisure colleagues but not yet applied for funding and will also look at a loan as well as their own fundraising activities. They haven't provided evidence of ongoing maintenance, assuming however that this will be funded by hire costs as previous repairs have been paid for from Club income.	Score	1/3
New Homes in parish(es) 30%	Score	2/3
<p>Consultation S106/Infrastructure and Active Communities have made a site visit, confirming the need for improvement and they support this application. Infrastructure has identified S106 funds available but not yet applied for. Equalities have commented that consideration needs to be made to consider the needs of LGBTQ and different genders by providing a cubicle in the changing/shower facility.</p> <p>Climate comments: "This project is looking at replacing the Club's showers and heating system therefore energy use is a core element of the project. The changing room refurbishment will include LED lighting and movement sensors which are welcomed. The up-front capital costs are obviously a very important factor and on the surface the air source heat pumps are a more expensive option than the standard immersion cylinder. However the Rugby Club are encouraged to model the ongoing costs and income streams from both options to make an informed assessment of which technology would be a better choice in the medium term.</p> <p>The heat pump would be expected to operate at a coefficient of performance of at least 2.5 which would imply that the electricity costs for heating the showers would be only around 40% of those using the immersion heater. The heat pumps could be a much more attractive proposition in the medium term and may make it worthwhile borrowing the additional funding if necessary. Electricity price inflation should also be considered in the calculations.</p> <p>It is very likely that the air source heat pumps would attract Renewable Heat Incentive payments of over 2p/kWh over 20 years which would be an additional income stream, unfortunately we would not</p>		

be eligible to offer a grant if the RHI was being claimed on this project. The applicants have provided two quotations however these quotes are not for like for like projects. The Rugby Club is therefore encouraged to seek an additional quote for Air Source Heat Pumps to be sure that the costs they have received are competitive."

Project completion within timeframe

The project is likely to start within 18 months and complete within the same month the work begins as identified in the project plan. Estimated start date of 1 March 2020 if funding in place.

Financial and project management plans

They are contributing £10k, and current charity account has £25k balance, including £9.5k restricted funds. Their trading account has £10k, with £4.5k restricted funds. Their project management plans are high level.

Previous funding

NHB 2013/14 VNHB\1216 Redevelopment of training pitch £8,000 Vale Capital pre 2014/15
VCCG\1294 Replacement patio doors and shutters £3,800

<p>OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS</p> <p>Officers have scored this project as a medium priority for funding, however the budget does not permit funding for all medium priority projects. The project would have scored higher if they had already applied for, and secured, S106 funds, and officers acknowledge that the Club is also active as a community venue for different clubs and societies. Funding recommended if budget permits.</p>	<p>Total score</p>	<p>6/12</p>
	<p>Suggested grant</p>	<p>0% of the total cost, capped to £0</p>

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Remove and renew existing showers and associated heating system (from plant room). Refurbish changing rooms and create segregated changing facilities. Re-tile and re-decorate all associated areas.
Financial statement from the organisation	There are two funds which we run the club with Trading - day to day running of the club - maintenance, staff wages, pitch maintenance, insurances, legislative audits, repairs etc. The current fund has £4.5K of restrictive funds, which is an amount that we have to pay out to two charities after a successful fund-raising event Charity - Supporting the development activities of the club. The current fund has £9.5K of restrictive funds currently
Statement about town/parish support	The grant applications have now started and we will be approaching the Town Council and Parish Council during the next few weeks.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	We are central to the local community with many organisations using our facilities - the Army and other local clubs use our facilities and this would enable us to host more events than we have been able to in the past. We are based in South Abingdon and we have many vulnerable people participate in the sport and other activities in the club and this would be improved with improved facilities.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	The main project is to replace old and non working equipment (we currently are down 33% on our capacity of the shower plant room due to breakdowns and non availability of parts for ancient equipment). The evidence indicates that improved facilities will increase participation in sport, and while at the club, people will be aware of other clubs and activities that take place at the venue. A large number of local clubs use our facilities, including, Tumbletons, Rock Choir, Marina Residents Association, Abingdon Allotment Society, Abingdon Basketball Club, Abingdon Youth Football Club, Radley Football Club. We also host external charity events such as the Annual Oddballs Rally, where we have 2500 campers on site using the facilities which we provide free of charge. We are at the heart of the community and wish to continue to do so.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	We are looking at a very much more efficient system to replace the current one. We have looked at Ground Source Heat Pumps and External Air Heat Source Pumps however, this technology is extremely expensive and also the location of the club (a former waste tip) discounts some potential new technologies
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The majority of the project is to replace a current old heating/shower system with a new modern more efficient system. We are creating separate changing rooms as we need to have changing facilities for girls/women which are segregated from the rest. This would be a fantastic benefit for our club and would allow us to recruit more girls/women players. The creation of the separate changing facilities also supports our child safety agenda.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	It would improve and enhance our facilities which will attract more players from the local area to take up or return to the sport. There is a direct relationship between the better the facilities the greater the participation and retention of players of all ages. The creation of the facilities would allow us to retain all our girl/women players rather than losing them to other clubs in the county or to the sport overall.

Damascus PCC	Ref	VNHB19-20/51
New Build of Community/ Church Room, with facilities. Grant application for Furniture and Fittings please.		

Total project cost	£15,444		
Amount requested	£7,722	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£0	Organisation's latest bank balance	£292,680
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£8,500 (£500 - Unconfirmed)	Other funding of which £0 is secured from grant applications to:	Oxfordshire Communities Fund and other funders

Previous grants

V Cap 2018-19 VCap18-19\9 The River Room at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay £22,500. Damascus PCC was awarded this grant, however the money has yet to be paid due to the legal agreement not being finalised.

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project moderately improves a minor community facility, allowing existing activities to expand through new furniture and fittings within community room in the church.	Score	2/3
Community benefit Church owned community space is open to the whole community to benefit, but limiting the score to two in accordance with the criteria.	Score	2/3
Funding the project Major concerns about the organisation securing the funding required as they are still fundraising for the build of the river room. They have applied for other funding to cover the furniture and fittings, none have yet been secured and they have not provided details for all of the applications made. Ongoing costs will be paid for by room hire. There is a significant financial risk to this project as the organisation has large financial commitments to complete the build and therefore has no reserves to fund a shortfall.	Score	1/3
New Homes in parish(es) 2.96%	Score	1/3
<p>Consultation The organisation has carried out consultation on the River Room refurbishment project, of which the furniture will support. No concerns were raised from the Infrastructure team.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe They state that the project will be completed in 2020, but not all funding has been confirmed for the main build, nor for the fixtures & fittings, there is a concern the project may not be completed within timeframe.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans No money is being contributed by the organisation itself, and they do admit not having secured all their funding for the river room build. The applicant says they are confident in securing this to permit the project to complete in 2020, but still have a further £15,000 for furniture and fittings to find, requested under this current application.</p>		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers have scored this project as a medium priority for funding, however the budget does not permit funding for all medium priority projects. There are also major concerns about the completion of the River Room project and potential impact on timescales and finding the funding for the furniture and fittings.	Total score	6/12
	Suggested grant	0% of the total cost, capped to £0

Applicant responses

<p>Details of the project</p>	<p>The project is to build a new meeting room onto the north side of the church, along with a kitchen, three toilets including one which is accessible, an office and a foyer. There will be entrances from outside and from the church, so that it will support church events whether religious or cultural, and will be available for people in the village for clubs, hobby groups, small parties, meetings.</p> <p>This application is for the Furniture and Fittings, which are not included in the building budget. These comprise kitchen white goods, audio visual equipment, tables and chairs for the meeting room.</p>
<p>Financial statement from the organisation</p>	<p>Five churches combined to create Damascus Parish in June 2017. The five accounts were also combined. Much of the money is in restricted accounts, specific for each church. The annual parish share has to be paid to the Diocese, mostly raised by direct giving scheme. Reserve funds are for ongoing expenses and repairs to these five ancient buildings.</p> <p>All Saints' Church has already given £45,000 to the building fund of the River Room project.</p>
<p>Statement about town/parish support</p>	<p>Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has provided a letter of support. They have given us two grants of £500 each, and we are applying again for their 2019 budget, very shortly. The money already given has been for the building, and not for the fixtures and fittings specifically. If they give a grant this year, it will go towards the fixtures and fittings.</p>
<p>Community benefit</p>	
<p>Who will benefit from your project?</p>	<p>VILLAGE. Clubs and hobby groups, meetings, parties, gatherings after funerals and baptisms, music and drama rehearsals, mum and baby groups, messy play, coffee and lunches for the elderly, support for children sleepovers in church, children's holiday club, bellringers to relax in the warm. The WI, History society, Family Mediation have expressed an interest in coming.</p> <p>Vulnerable groups from further afield will be encouraged, e.g. dementia choir, Al Anon, Sat Dads, Age concern advice.(relatively private venue.)</p>
<p>How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?</p>	<p>The work towards the project started five years ago. People have been asking for toilets, a kitchen and a meeting room for many years. An attempt to build, failed in the 90's.</p> <p>Members of the River Room working party visited nine other church room projects to gather ideas and gain knowledge of what might be beneficial for Sutton Courtenay, AND to get advice about fund raising. A survey of village opinion was done. Two large meetings were held in the church to explain the project, and to encourage debate. A questionnaire form for the proposed neighbourhood plan, which went to every household, showed that many people are requesting a new community space. A launch meeting with Sir Roy Strong as speaker was held in the church. He explained that churches should diversify and become more welcoming to all, for all sorts of activities.</p> <p>Architect and glass artist, were chosen from shortlists of three.</p> <p>We have many support letters from local organisations, clubs and politicians, and from national organisations who come here. e.g. the English Music festival. the Orwell Society. The Sutton Courtenay neighbourhood plan is not yet in place.</p> <p>For the purposes of this grant, members of the working party have, over time, been taking note of good furniture in other churches and meeting rooms, and have visited a special church furniture exhibition, to see good furniture and equipment "in the flesh". They have visited 12 church kitchens to help with decisions about the white goods, equipment, and kitchen design.</p>

<p>What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?</p>	<p>Written by Robert Montgomery, architect.</p> <p>"The building has been designed to provide high insulation values for walls, floor and roof. This, combined with triple glazed windows and doors will result in an energy saving structure and will lead to lower energy bills. The building will be heated by a separate condensing boiler supplying underfloor heating which will retain the heat within the structure, requiring less energy to maintain the warmth."</p>
<p>New facilities/Activities</p>	
<p>What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?</p>	<p>The new building will provide a community / church room, seating for 60 or 40 at tables. There will be entrances from outside and from the church. so it will stand alone as a community space. The River Room, three toilets including one accessible toilet, the kitchen, and small office, are all NEW facilities.</p> <p>This grant application is for the kitchen white goods, tables and chairs for the River Room, and the important AV equipment.</p>
<p>What new activities will take place because of this project?</p>	<p>The River Room is a NEW space for the community, with two entrances from outside, and one from the church.</p> <p>It will be used for clubs, hobby groups, parties, meetings, talks. for village groups. It will support church events whether religious or secular and cultural.</p> <p>We shall seek outside groups who may be vulnerable or need a relatively private place e.g. Dementia choir, adoption parent meetings, AlAnon, family mediation.</p> <p>Furniture and fittings will be needed.</p>

Kennington Playgroup	Ref	VNHB19-20/65
Outdoor Play area upgrade		

Total project cost	£14,914		
Amount requested	£7,457	Percentage of total cost requested:	50%
Organisation's contribution	£1,000	Organisation's latest bank balance	£43,000
Other funding applied for (Including a parish/town council contribution of)	£7,332	Other funding of which £1,582 is secured from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kennington Parish Council - Rags to Riches - Waitrose Community matters
	(£1,000 Confirmed)		

Previous grants

Vale Capital pre 2014/15 VCCG\1186 Playgroup windows project £3,221

Scoring

New facilities or activities The project significantly improves a minor community facility, replacing old or broken equipment in the playgroup with better and installing a new wet weather surface to allow children to play all year round outside - currently not possible.	Score	2/3
Community benefit Single group of playgroup users to benefit. Not open to wider community. Playgroup supports children with special educational needs, and children from the traveller community.	Score	1/3
Funding the project They know where they intend asking for funding and have secured less than 50% of the project costs from previously submitted applications. Ongoing costs will be funded from fees.	Score	1/3
New Homes in parish(es) 1.48%	Score	1/3
<p>Consultation No concerns from the equalities officer, however they have recommended a risk assessment of the play area and equipment as part of the design specification.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe The project will complete within the timeframe.</p> <p>Financial and project management plans Concerns around how they might fund the project without the NHB grant. Their project management plans seem fine, working with single supplier. Possibly could contribute more to the project but not the whole amount. The Playgroup is based on a School site but are independent and land belongs to the Diocese.</p>		
OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS Officers have scored this project as a low/medium priority for funding, and the budget does not permit funding for all medium priority projects, particularly those which will benefit only one group in the community. This facility is not open to the whole village.	Total score	5/12
	Suggested grant	0% of the total cost, capped to £0

Applicant responses

Details of the project	Our outdoor play areas require much needed refurbishment. We are looking to make the back area accessible to the children all year round with a wet-pour surface, so the children can enjoy this area throughout the year (currently we are only able to use the area during the dry months). It is important that the children are able to enjoy outdoor play throughout the year experiencing all the seasons and enhancing their fitness and well being through playing outdoors. In addition the climbing frame in our front play area is tired and worn and needs urgent attention.
Financial statement from the organisation	Kennington Playgroup has no loans. All income is paid towards staff and running costs.
Statement about town/parish support	Kennington Parish Council have awarded us £1000, August 2019.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	Kennington Playgroup takes children age 2-5 - currently these children are from Kenington, Radley, Abingdon and Oxford. The playgroup supports the following vulnerable groups: Children with SEN 2 year old funded children Children on EYPP Children from the Traveller Community
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	N/A
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The proposed suppliers of new equipment are a Forest Stewardship Council certified company.
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?	New all season wet-pour surface (to replace grass area) New colourful painted floor graphics Replace old sandpit Replace old broken scramble netting to climbing frame
What new activities will take place because of this project?	Currently the children are limited in their play during the winter months. These changes will allow them to explore the outside all year round. The new sand-pit area will give children opportunity to investigate through play, enjoying sociable activities and new sensory experiences. These changes will empower the children's creativity and increase their physical activity to support healthy living.

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. Deduct two points if the project removes a community facility or stops activities taking place without replacing them.	Like a project to overhaul and landscape a car park that reduces the number of parking spaces. 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. Remove one point if there are concerns over the ownership/lease of the property.	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). Like the term of their lease is too short or their ownership evidence is unreliable.

Scoring for Funding the project

Points	Financial overview
0	They don't have a plan of how they'll fund the rest of the project and haven't secured any other funding yet. They haven't given details of how they'll fund the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacements.
1	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. They've budgeted for the ongoing maintenance but don't say how they'll fund eventual replacements in the future (if applicable).
2	They've applied for all the funding needed and have already secured over 50 per cent of the balance. They've budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a general idea how they'll fund replacements eventually (if applicable)
3	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. They've budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a fund/account/pot saving for the replacements in due course.
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 – breakdown of area’s total increase in homes by parish

Abingdon Area

Parish/town	2017 total occupied homes	2018 total occupied homes	Total parish increase in year	Percentage of area's total increase
Abingdon	14749	14830	81	30.00%
Appleford	140	144	4	1.48%
Cumnor	2728	2741	13	4.81%
Drayton	1017	1077	60	22.22%
Kennington	1765	1769	4	1.48%
Marcham	803	885	82	30.37%
North Hinksey	2236	2253	17	6.30%
Radley	1012	1012	0	0.00%
South Hinksey	175	175	0	0.00%
St Helen Without	846	845	-1	-0.37%
Sunningwell	378	380	2	0.74%
Sutton Courtenay	1176	1184	8	2.96%
Wootton	1188	1188	0	0.00%
Wytham	70	70	0	0.00%
Total	28,283	28,553	270	100.00%