

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted *[if applicable]*

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 The provision of Community Grant funding from Southern Rural Committee budget of **£2,000** to **Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club** towards the provision of materials, personal protective equipment and extra outdoor seating required in order to operate under social distancing guidelines.
- 1.2 The provision of Community Grant funding from Southern Rural Committee budget of **£750** to **Lea Sports PSG Football Club** towards the purchase of new portable goalposts.
- 1.3 The provision of a Community Grant funding from Royston & District Committee budget of **£1,250** to **NESSIE (North Herts Emotional Support in Schools Service)** to assist with costs for running on-line and telephone counselling services to families in Royston.

2. DECISION TAKER

Executive Member - Community Engagement- Cllr Judi Billing, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal and Community (under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.9(b)(iii) 5 of the Constitution).

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

30 July 2020

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The grant applications contained within the report are time sensitive and the groups require the funds before the next meeting round in each case.
- 4.2 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Chairs, Vice Chairs Ward Members of Southern Rural and Royston Committee and Grant Panel members who have provided their agreement in writing via email.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

- 6.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Chairs, Vice Chairs and Ward Members of Southern Rural and Royston Committees who have provided their support via email
- 6.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regards to this funding proposal via Area Committee Grant Funds.

7. FORWARD PLAN

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Applicant Project	Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club The provision of materials, personal protective equipment and extra outdoor seating required in order to operate under social distancing guidelines.
Sum requested	£3,150
Total project cost	£9,150
Match funding	£2,934 (as of 27/07/20) from crowdsourcing fundraiser (running a marathon around the club) - £1000 from Ickleford PC and £2000 from Herts County Councillor Locality budget
Funds held	£335.88
Previous support	£50,000 Community Facility Capital Grant for improvements to roof and resurfacing the car park
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Yes

To ensure the ISRC can open as soon as possible in line with the COVID-19 guidance. Funds would be spent on materials / processes to ensure they can open to the public again safely and with sufficient finances to provide all the necessary safety equipment / materials / seating etc. This will be a phased approach to ensure that this is managed as effectively as possible. The first stage will require opening the 'outdoor' decking area and lawn, whilst adhering to the social distancing, seating arrangements and appropriate management of sanitary and cleanliness duties.

The club provides a thriving and well supported sports facility and there is an obligation to ensure it is opened, whilst adhering to the necessary guidelines in order to create a safe and clean environment for its users.

The opening of the ISRC is important for the community as it is the central hub of the village for many. Not only does it support the social scene, it is central for the hundreds of adults and children that use the facility for their sporting activities. Opening the facility safely and effectively will allow the club to open its doors, and ensure the public are protected. A sporting facility in the village of Ickleford remains a hugely important asset to the community and as a self-funding establishment, support in these difficult times financially is crucial.

Every week the club is shut, the club are committed to paying their outgoings but are not receiving any income. This is not sustainable and the sooner a phased opening strategy can be implemented, the quicker they can rebuild the progress they were making and continue to move forward.

Following consultation with the Chair of the Southern Rural Committee, the Ward Member, the Parish Council and the Hertfordshire County Councillor the Chair of Southern Rural recommended that she would be happy to support the grant by matching the funding provided from the HCC Locality budget.

The Chair was not willing to provide the full amount requested as it was felt it may not leave enough in the Committee Budgets for applications to be considered at the next three meetings this Civic year. **Therefore, the amount recommended for this application is £2,000**

8.2	Applicant	Lea Sports PSG Football Club
	Project	Contribution towards the cost of new portable goalposts
	Sum requested	£1,000
	Total project cost	£3,089.93
	Match funding	£2,089.93 from the club's reserves
	Funds held	£12,238.28
	Previous support	No funding support provided within the last 10 years
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Yes

The main activities of the club are to provide Football for residents of Pirton, Shillington & Gravenhurst ('PSG') and the surrounding areas. They are based on the Recreation Ground, Walnut Tree Road, Pirton.

The portable goal posts will be of benefit to the club members but also indirectly all users of Pirton Recreation Ground. The population of Pirton is around 1200 residents who are all potential users of the Recreation Ground.

Lea Sports PSG Football Club has been the village football club in Pirton since moving to the village in 1995. In the ensuing 25 years the nature of the Club has changed, with less emphasis being placed on adult football and much more on football activities for the youngsters of Pirton, Shillington & Gravenhurst (hence 'PSG') and the surrounding area.

Despite this change of emphasis, the Club still operated 4 adult teams (two on Saturdays and two on Sundays), as well as ten youth teams from ages Under Seven to Under Thirteen. This complement of 14 sides is very unusual for a small village of Pirton's size and is further strengthened by weekly training sessions for 5 & 6-year-olds and by award-winning training for local girls – the squad of 20 or so girls was rewarded by the Football Association in September 2018 for their enthusiasm and organisation with an all-expenses-paid trip to Wembley Stadium.

The Club has for many years enjoyed F.A. Charter Standard Development Club status, which means that all of its coaches, managers and volunteers are DBS-checked and have the appropriate safeguarding and first-aid qualifications.

Recently the Club was successful in obtaining grant funding from the Football Foundation for the repair and renovation of the grass pitches at Pirton Recreation Ground. This fund is a 10-year collaboration between the Football Foundation and clubs of Development or Community status with the aim of greatly improving the standard of grass pitches across the country. The grant allows the Club to employ professional contractors to aerate, weed, fertilise and re-seed pitches to overcome the adverse effects of the 2018 heatwave and the very wet Autumn and Winter of 2019.

To maximise the effectiveness of the proposed treatments to the pitches, the Club is trying to move away as much as possible from the use of fixed goalposts. When fixed posts are in use – as they have been at the Recreation Ground for the last 25 years – it is always the same areas of the ground (penalty areas, goalmouths and centre circles) which suffer the most wear and which, over time, degrade to such an extent that any adverse weather has a disproportionately detrimental effect on their condition.

The youth teams already use portable goals so, within the physical constraints of the Recreation Ground, the pitch locations can be moved slightly so that the wear is not concentrated in the same areas. Now the Club wishes to extend this principle to its adult teams: this means removing the permanent metal sleeves which are currently sunk into the ground to hold the goalposts in place through the playing season. Instead the Club will invest in portable goals which can be wheeled into place for matches.

The benefits of this are two-fold: firstly the actual location of the pitch can be moved slightly through the course of the season, as described above; and secondly it means that the goal areas are not in constant use by casual players from outside the Club who just turn up at the Recreation Ground for a kickabout. (These players will of course still be able to turn up and use the Rec, but they will probably use a different patch of grass each time). The wider benefit is to the local community which can enjoy a healthy area of public land throughout the year, without having to avoid the muddy patches which exist at present.

With the District Council's help the Club can continue to provide a great footballing venue for players from age 5 to veterans for years to come, as well as enhancing the facilities of the Recreation Ground as a whole.

The ward member's and Chair of the Southern Rural Committee agreed to support this application with funding of £750 as the club membership draws from other areas outside of the district and they were also mindful that there are a further three meetings and a limited budget (as outlined in 10.1)

8.3

Applicant	NESSIE (North Herts Emotional Support in Schools Service)
Project	Funding support to assist with costs for running on-line and telephone counselling services to families in Royston
Sum requested	£2,200
Total project cost	£4,200
Match funding	£2,000 Own Funds
Funds held	£6,968
Previous support	£5,000 From the NHDC Coronavirus Community Support Fund in June 2020, £900 in 2016 to assist with costs for running a series of self-harm workshops in Royston.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Build thriving and resilient communities

NESSIE (North Herts Emotional Support in Schools Service) is seeking financial support from the Royston & District Committee to assist with costs for running their on-line and telephone counselling service. Funding would cover the costs for counselling 10 families and providing support for 50.

These sessions aim to target specific families where they are going to struggle to get their children back to education, more specifically because of being 'hard to reach' having experienced trauma or that their child has neurodiversity. The other counselling organisations don't tend to work with this group. However, NESSIE specialise in providing support to these families. They work with children and families where there is no other pathway for support and the families are often at risk of breakdown or missing education. Schools have already identified families that they need this support.

NESSIE is a not for profit community interest company which was set up in 2015. It is made up of 2 Volunteer Committee Members, 9 full time paid staff and 11 part time paid staff.

It is necessary to process this funding application via Delegated Authority as NESSIE urgently need the funding to allow for the counselling service to run from September. NESSIE has had its funding from King James Academy terminated and to continue to offer the crucial support to families in Royston, funding is required before the next Royston & District Committee which is not until October 2020.

NESSIE have recently received £5000 from the Coronavirus Community Support fund for a district wide project. However, at the time they were not aware that the funding for the provision in Royston was to be cut.

Members of the Royston & District Committee have been consulted on this application and the Committee Chair, Councillor Tony Hunter has agreed to recommend the provision of **£1,250** for NESSIE

The Chair recommended that although they would like to be able to provide the full amount the budget for 2020/21 may not accommodate that level of funding, as they support free after 3pm parking initiative each year which is £1,500. They currently have £5,950 available. Take out the £1,500 and they are left with £4,450. If they awarded NESSIE with £2,200 it would have only left £2,250 for the next 3 meetings.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which include discretionary grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.

9.2. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything: -

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

9.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

9.4 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.8(b)(iii) 5 in relation to Community engagement, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Southern Rural Committee currently have carry-over from the 2019/2020 budget of £2,949 (which will be used in the first instance) and the current 2020/21 budget has £8,700 making a total of £11,649 available.

The two grants outlined within this report whose allocation would come from the Southern Rural Committee budget equate to £2,750 this will leave an amount of £8,899.

10.2 The Royston & District Committee currently have £5,950 available to allocate. The provision of £1,250 to NESSIE will leave £4,700 remaining to be utilised at the next three meetings in the Civic year.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Officers have identified the key risks relating to the scheme and have recorded these on the Council's risk register. These risks include the failure of applicants to obtain required joint funding for projects and failure of relevant facility management committees to manage approved works effectively. This could lead to funding not being released, funding not being used appropriately and subsequently, the standard

of facilities failing to improve. The agreed qualifying criteria and implementation process, including the release of any approved funding, aim to manage and control the risks. In addition, officers will work closely with the facilities approved for funding from the project definition stage through project implementation to completion.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this decision.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no pertinent Environmental Implications associated with any items within this report

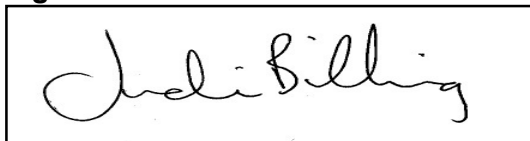
16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Officers have received and approved the grant application, mission statement and accounts.

NOTIFICATION DATE

31.07.2020

Signature of Executive Member Decision taker



Date30.7.2020.....

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

