

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member [No]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned [Yes] *If yes indicate who and what below*

#### **SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** Legal and Community

##### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

The approval of funding awards to the following bodies:

- £1,500 to Offley Allotment Association towards the installation of running water on the allotment sites.
- £441 to Breachwood Green towards a litter picking project in the village and surrounding areas
- £500 to Pirton Sports & Social Club towards a new pump for the hot water system and new covers for the cold-water tanks in the roof space.

##### **2. DECISION TAKER**

The Executive Member for Community Engagement in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community

##### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

16 December 2021

##### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 The Southern Rural Committee meeting due to take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December was cancelled. This was due to some members being unable to attend as they were unwell, or they were waiting for results from PCR tests for Covid. Their absence would have meant that the meeting would be inquorate. It is therefore necessary to make the grant decisions via the delegated authority process, subject to the considerations noted at paragraph 7 below.

##### **5. CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Consultation on the grant applications for consideration has taken place with the Members of the Southern Rural Committee in terms of the Grants & Community Update report which they have been able to view on-line since 25<sup>th</sup> November. The Chair and Vice Chair of the committee have liaised with the Members of the Committee and have agreed that they would support all the officer's recommendations:

##### **6. APPLICATION DETAILS**

###### **6.1 Offley Allotment Association**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Offley Allotment Association (OAA)</b>
<b>Project</b>	Installation of running water on the allotment sites.
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£2,150</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£5,449
<b>Joint funding</b>	£1,100 Christmas Market £1,000 Offley PC £250 Cllr Barnard HCC Locality Budget £950 S106 via the PC

**NHDC Policy met**  
**Council Priorities**

YES  
Build thriving and resilient communities

This application has been deferred from the last Southern Rural Committee meeting held in October. For full details of the original application please refer to the agenda and minutes for the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

<https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=2666&Ver=4>

The group originally applied for the full amount of the project cost without additional funding from other sources. There were also concerns regarding the length of the lease agreement with the landowner Pilkington Farms of just 3 years.

Since October, officers and Members have been liaising with the HCC local councillor, Offley Parish Clerk and the OAA to seek additional funds.

In addition, the OAA have been looking to fund a secure gate at the entrance to the site.

In November, there was a fly-tipping incident at the entrance which was set alight destroying the wooden gate. The landowner has replaced the gate with a more secure metal gate meaning that the OAA no longer need to figure this into any future expenditure.

The group have met with the landowner to seek agreement that should the site be taken back and used for other purposes other than community allotments the landowner will refund the cost of the installation of mains water to the site.

**The group have amended their original application and have requested £2,150. Since they no longer need to also fund a secure entrance the officer recommendation is to provide £1,500.**

## 6.2 Breachwood Green

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Breachwood Green</b>
<b>Project</b>	Litter picking equipment.
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£441</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£916
<b>Joint funding</b>	£100 personal contribution £375 HCC Cllr Barnard Locality Budget

**NHDC Policy met** YES  
**Council Priorities** Build thriving and resilient communities

The Breachwood Green Group were set up last year to coordinate parish wide litter picking, environmental enhancement events and campaign against speeding in the village. The funding they are requesting is to be used for publicity and publications including maintaining their website to advertise for volunteers and advertise events and activities to the local community, Public Liability Insurance, litter picking equipment and health and safety equipment. The litter pick events will take place monthly and as well as improving the local environment also serve to bring local residents together with a common goal which improves community cohesion generally.

The events are advertised by leaflets door to door and via the Parish Council meetings and posters on notice boards in Breachwood Green, Ley Green, parish shop, local pubs and businesses and bus stops.

The group plan to plant 250 trees in spring next year. If they haven't already liaised with the Council's Green Space team to receive trees as part of the Queen's Jubilee year canopy project, the Community Engagement officer will put them in contact.

***£441 to Breachwood Green towards a litter picking project in the village and surrounding areas***

**6.3 Pirton Sports and Social Club**

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Pirton Sports and Social Club</b> A new pump for the hot water system and new covers for the cold-water tanks in the roof space.
<b>Sum requested</b>	£500
<b>Total project cost</b>	£820
<b>Match funding</b>	£320 from reserves
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objectives</b>	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

Pirton Sports and Social Club provides sporting and social activities and facilities for residents of Pirton and the surrounding areas and is the hub of sporting activity in the village.

During the pandemic the changing and shower facilities for sports clubs were unused for 15 months and as a result the hot water system now needs a new pump and new covers for the cold-water tanks in the roof space to retain their cleanliness. Currently the showers cannot be used due to the fault that developed in the pump.

All adult football and cricket teams using the clubhouse will benefit from the showers being available again. Almost all the players in the home sides (5 teams) are local to Pirton and Hitchin, whereas visiting teams can be from anywhere in Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire.

***£500 to Pirton Sports & Social Club towards a new pump for the hot water system and new covers for the cold-water tanks in the roof space.***

**7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Sections 9.8.1 (a) and 9.8.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Area Committees' Terms of Reference, notes the following: - To allocate discretionary budgets within the terms determined by the Council and to allocate devolved budgets and activities within the terms determined by the Council. This is outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020. Section 9.8.2 (h) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference notes that they may: - Establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities.
- 7.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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 14.6.8(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The current balance available in the budget to allocate is £5,440. The total amount of funding requested adds up to £2,441. The decision to agree this level of funding as outlined will leave an amount of **£2,999** to utilise at the last meeting of the financial year in March 2022.

**9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council’s performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

**10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 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.

10.2 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

**11. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

**12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

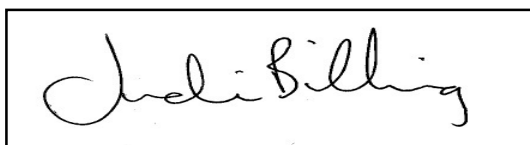
12.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

17 December



**Signature of Executive Member Decision taker .....**

**Date ...16.12.21.....**

**Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community**



**Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**