

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:

- Letchworth Garden City Community Group £36,000 towards the replacement Heating system in Mrs Howard Memorial Hall.
- Letchworth Corner Sports Club £10,000 towards the Refurbishment of the changing and shower facilities to be compliant with Covid 19 safety precautions.
- Therfield, Royston & Kelshall Sports Association (TRAKSA) £50,000 towards the replacement of old pavilion with a more sustainable structure.

2. DECISION TAKER

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

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

15 October 2021

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 22nd September 2021 considered funding applications from the groups listed above and recorded the recommendations to the Executive Member for Community Engagement for the formal commitment of capital funds to each of the respective facilities listed above, via the delegated authority process, subject to the considerations noted at paragraph 7 below.

5. CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation including the effect on stakeholders, partners and the public are contained within the report published with the Community Facilities Capital and District Wide Grants Panel agenda for the meeting on 22 September 2021.

6. APPLICATION DETAILS

6.1 Mrs Elizabeth Howard Memorial Hall

Applicant	Letchworth Garden City Community Group
Project	Replacement of the Heating System.
Sum requested	£36,000
Total project cost	£40,000
Match funding	£4,000 From the group's reserve funds
Funds held	£183,665 as of July 2020
Previous support	None in the last 10 years

Users of the building have mentioned on many occasions how cold the building is when the heating system has broken down. The existing heating system has broken down every winter, at least 5 years out of the last 6. Although there have been a variety of repairs over the years, the two boilers are basically becoming obsolete to purchase parts and continue repairing.

In some instances, the repairs have taken up to 6 months to complete. Neither boiler meets current efficiency standards and as a small charity, any money that can be saved is always welcome. Currently the Hamworthy boiler in the main plant room is operating at 50% capacity and the floor standing boiler in the Main Hall has been condemned and repaired twice.

Users of the building will be consulted to see if the improvements have been noticeable. The new heating system is expected to result in a reduction in the heating bills and to improve the environmental impact of the building in line with the NHDC Climate change strategy.

The building is owned by NHDC, the group are currently negotiating a full repairing lease agreement with our Estates and Legal teams. The management committee will look more favourably on signing the lease agreement when the issues with the heating system are rectified.

Cllr Ian Mantle sits on the management committee of this group. He is not involved in any element of decision-making process of this application and does not stand to benefit personally from the award of funding to the group.

The Members of the Panel agreed to recommend the award of £36,000 from the NHDC Community Facility Capital Grants fund to replace the boilers.

Following consultation with the Senior Estates Surveyor and the Director of Legal & Community, and the concerns over the delay in respect of executing the lease, the Executive Member for Community Engagement decided that funding will be released on the condition that Letchworth Garden City Community Group have signed the full repairing lease with North Hertfordshire District Council for Mrs Howard Memorial Hall.

6.2 Letchworth Corner Sports Club

Applicant	Letchworth Corner Sports Club
Project	Refurbishment of the changing and shower facilities to be compliant with Covid 19 safety precautions.
Sum requested	£10,000
Total project cost	£23,000
Match funding	£13,000 from Member's contributions
Funds held	£205,272 as of March 2020
Previous support	None in the last 10 years

The Letchworth Corner Sports Club are a Community Amateur Sports Club that provides its members with facilities for Hockey, Cricket, Weight Lifting, Bowls, 5 aside football and Lacrosse.

The current condition and design of the men's changing room and shower provide inadequate ventilation and are unacceptable as they do not conform to the requirements to help prevent the spread of Covid 19. Currently users of the facility are unable to shower after their physical activity and are thus discouraged from staying on and using the social and bar facilities from which we generate income. Generating more income will help ensure that the facility remains a viable enterprise offering varied and extensive sporting activities to the community.

The Sports Club have recently renovated the bar and social areas of the building to encourage wider community use and to be available to hire for private functions, meetings and parties.

One cannot over emphasize the importance of sport continuing beyond school to children and young people who as a result of sport will be better prepared for entering adulthood. Sport influences important personal characteristics such as self-esteem, teamwork, leadership, discipline, competitiveness, cooperativeness, self confidence and

respect for authority. When children achieve goals in sport it teaches them how to achieve goals in life. It prepares children how to accept losing and disappointment. Exercise and sport relieve mental problems such as stress and anxiety. It also relieves boredom which outside school is a major factor in youth crime and unsocial behaviour. Sport fosters tight bonding and friendships which in turn provide community spirit. All these benefits impact on healthy and happy lifestyles and a safer and happier community.

The funds held in the accounts include the AstroTurf replacement fund as this needs to be replaced every 15 years. The club very sensibly keep a sinking fund so that they have the funds to replace the astroTurf pitches as required. They also keep a capital Investment fund for any addition maintenance as well as a capital emergency fund to cover any unexpected maintenance problems associated with maintaining a building of this age and type

The Members of the Panel agreed to recommend the award of £10,000 from the NHC Community Facility Capital Grants fund.

6.3 Therfield Pavillion

Applicant	Therfield, Royston & Kelshall Sports Association (TRAKSA)
Project	Replacement of old pavilion with a more sustainable structure
Sum requested	£50,000
Total project cost	£75,000
Match funding	£4,000 From Club Funds, £10,000 pending from 'buy a brick' fundraising and £10,000 pending from England Cricket Board (ECB) £1,000 from other fund raising activities.
Funds held	£1752.77
Previous support	None in the last 10 year although the previous body named Therfield & Kelshall Sports and Social Club was awarded £2585.00 in 2014 to assist with Legal fees, project drawings & costings and new cylinder mower.

Therfield, Royston & Kelshall Sports Association (TRAKSA) were originally awarded in principle £50k for this project by the Community Facilities Capital Projects Panel back in March 2019. There were several conditions on the award which included the group securing a lease and securing the £100k external funding for the project.

Whilst the lease is now in place and runs until 2049 (30-year lease), this process took longer than expected and was not secured until December 2019. Following the signing of the lease the group turned its attention to securing the necessary external funding for the project but both fundraising efforts and external funding opportunities were dramatically reduced by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As a result of this, it was not possible to commence the project within the 12-month window from when the funding was agreed, meaning the group was tasked with re-applying for the funding and submitting all your paperwork. As part of this new application process the group has re-assessed what is needed from the project and are now seeking £50k against an overall project cost of £75k for a new pavilion. The original application in 2019 was a project totalling £156k.

TRAKSA is a club that is made up of 6 Volunteer Committee Members and 20 Volunteers. This group has been working for many years to bring a new Pavilion to the village of Therfield for the benefit of a number of clubs including cricket and football as well as Royston Runners, Parkfit and several other outdoor activity classes. The pavilion is also used by Therfield First School.

The venue is currently used by around 1200 people, but a new pavilion would see the facility used by a wider range of users with up to an additional 2000 users a year.

The current Pavilion is now 70 years old and is in a poor state of repair and needs replacing.

The project is to demolish the old pavilion and replace it with a more sustainable structure which will be highly insulated and use the most energy efficient heating and lighting technology. The project will see the total replacement of the interior of the building with all new changing facilities, toilet and shower facilities and separate areas for match officials.

The group do not yet have planning permission in place for this project as they need to ensure they have funding agreed before they can go on to this next step. If the funding is recommended by the Panel Members it should be conditional on having evidence that the necessary planning permission and the match funding is agreed.

The Members of the Panel agreed to recommend the award of £50,000 from the NHDC Community Facility Capital Grants fund to TRAKSA with the caveat that match funding is in place and planning application is approved before funds are released

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Terms of Reference state that the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel is to: -

- Act as an advisory panel to the Executive Member for Community Engagement, in consultation with Service Director: Legal and Community as the relevant delegated officer for the Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme.
- To comment on grant applications in accordance with the criteria for the Community Facilities Grant Funding Scheme.

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

The current balances in the Capital budget are as follows:

Expenditure	
2020/21	257,640
2021/22	4,000
Total Expenditure to date	944,755
Project Allocation Remaining	261,245

- 8.1 The above table expresses the carry over amounts from the Capital budget from 2020/21 and the amount available for this financial year 2021/22
From the Project Allocation Remaining amount of £261,245.
£102,500 is ringfenced for previous grants agreed. £50k to Holwell Pavilion project and £50k to the Trinity Life Church and £2,500 to be paid as the final instalment on completion of the project undertaken by the Ravidassia Centre.
- 8.2 The amount available for allocation at this meeting equates to **£158,745**
- 8.3 The total of grant funding recommended in this report equates to **£96,000** - this will leave **£62,745** available in the Community Facility Capital Grant budget.

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

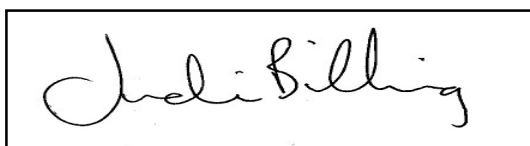
- 12.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

NOTIFICATION DATE

15 Oct 2021



Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

Date ...15.10.21.....

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. L. H. W. S.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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