

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**EMERGENCY COVID GRANTS TO PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS**1. Purpose of report

To update the Committee as to how Parish and Town Councils have utilised the various Covid-19 grant funding received in 2020/21 for use in the local area.

2. Emergency Covid-19 Grants

Members will be aware of the range of pandemic-related financial support schemes that has been made available to local businesses and the voluntary and community sector to help mitigate against the impact of Covid-19.

Local Parish and Town Councils have applied to and received grant funding from these schemes, both linked to their respective business rates accounts on premises and through the discretionary schemes set up to help fund voluntary groups working to support people in the local community.

Whilst the conditions surrounding the business rates grants did not include any specific commitment as to how the grant money would be spent, the parish and town councils have been invited to provide an update as to how the grants were applied in the local area. The responses are provided in the appendix.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

**COVID-19 RELATED GRANTS TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

The quoted amounts of Covid-19 related emergency grants received by the respective local parish and town councils is correct as at 22 February 2021.

Awsworth Parish Council (£0)

Awsworth Parish Council has not received any Covid-19 related funding directly from the Council. Awsworth are custodian trustees of the Awsworth Village Hall, which has received £22,842 in business grants. Awsworth Village Hall is a registered charity ran totally by its own Management Committee.

Brinsley Parish Council (£22,842)

Brinsley Parish Council employees have continued to work throughout the pandemic with the exception of two 'furloughed' caretakers. The parish hall has remained operational for the majority of the year.

Over 1,500 doorstep lunches were delivered through the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) funding during the first lockdown. This activity was made possible with the support of employees and parish councillors and with the premises remaining operational. Local residents registered for the LIS funding scheme continue to be supported with hampers.

A charitable organisation (TuVida, formerly Carers Trust) continue to hire the pavilion to provide essential care staff training. During the summer, the building was isolated and used as a hub for carers and staff caring for end of life/Covid-19 patients.

Brinsley Parish Council is also keen to support the voluntary Brinsley Foodbank scheme which has gradually developed over the course of the pandemic and is now providing essential and welcome weekly supplies for local families; their needs obviously heightened by the effects of the pandemic. The Parish Council is looking to utilise some of the grant money (around £5,000) in upgrading a former garage on the Brinsley Recreation Ground for use by the food bank service. The garage is basic and requires substantial works to bring the building into an acceptable standard of use.

The Council is also considering awarding a small grant to Brinsley School towards the purchase of playground equipment to support the children returning to school.

Cossall Parish Council (£0)

Cossall has not received any Covid-19 related funding directly from the Council.

**Eastwood Town Council (£19,688)**

Eastwood Town Council has providing skips for allotments as a benefit to allotment holders and residents. All fires were cancelled throughout the year due to people being at home and the recognised impact of smoke on Covid-19 sufferers.

The considerable benefits of allotment activity to local residents' mental health was also a key consideration for this scheme (total cost £1,554).

A grant of £2,000 was awarded to the British Legion. The charity was unable to carry out its normal fund-raising activities during 2020 so the Town Council agreed to provide a grant for their continued efforts and good work.

Additional Section 137 Grants totalling £3,000 were handed out in 2020/21, with further S137 grants being considered at the Town Council meeting on 8 March 2021.

The grant was also used to undertaken a consultation on the 10-point plan for Eastwood to inform a 'levelling-up agenda' bid as part of post-Covid strategy (estimated to cost around £4,500). As part of the consultation exercise, residents were asked for their comments and suggestions. Eastwood Town Council will evaluate these responses and look to allocate the remainder of the grant money to projects which help with the post-Covid recovery.

**Greasley Parish Council (£32,860)**

The grants have been used to support the continued operation of the Greasley Sports and Community Centre.

**Kimberley Town Council (£20,000)**

The grant has been used to offset the loss of income resulting from the closure of the parish hall. This has affected a number of regular events and group meetings that used to take place in the hall. During the year, the hall has only been used by a local group (in a Covid secure way) handing out food parcels to those needing support in the local community.

**Nuthall Parish Council (£36,476)**

The grants have been invested in capital schemes to make buildings and equipment 'Covid secure', including the purchase of equipment, consumables, signage and security for The Temple Centre, Nottingham Road; The Horsendale Room, Assarts Road; and The Workshop, football pavilion and bowls pavilion at Basil Russell Playing Fields. These buildings have been maintained in good order ready for re-opening as soon as possible.

Nuthall has also provided services free at source to those isolating continually since the first lockdown including shopping, collecting medical supplies and providing in excess of 3,500 meals. Nuthall also supported local groups to continue to provide services that would otherwise be unviable due to Covid restrictions by offering rent-free access to its properties.

Stapleford Town Council (£10,000)

The small business rates relief grant was for the purpose of relieving property related costs and loss of income. Stapleford Town Council was able to provide a £5,000 grant to The Helpful Bureau as a result of receiving this money which assisted them to continue providing meals and other services to vulnerable residents in Stapleford.

Trowell Parish Council (£22,842)

Trowell Parish Council closed its parish hall in March 2020 (and it has not been fully open to the public since then) and lost its additional revenue stream. In Spring 2020 the adjoining car park suffered extensive flooding in the storms and as a result requires major drainage improvements. The car park is well-used by the community, including by the parents at Trowell School during term time to ease congestion on local side roads. Some of the grants received will be used towards these works.

The parish hall also suffered a major pipe burst in June 2020. The reinstatement works have only just been completed and, although the majority of the works were covered on insurance, some improvements have been added ready for when the hall is able to re-open to the public, including improvements to the external access walkway and to the play park grounds.

Parish councillors took part in the socially distanced Remembrance Service at Trowell Church and laid a wreath on behalf of local parishioners. Funds have been set aside to host a community event going forward in lieu of the cancelled VE and VJ Day commemorations.

Due to the restrictions, the Council lit the parish hall and grounds for Christmas and provided prizes for the Village Angel Trail enjoyed by local families. The Parish Council also provided both students and teachers at Trowell School with a small gift each for Christmas.

Over the winter, Trowell ensured that its eight grit-bins around the village were kept stocked up for residents to access. Trowell also offered the parish hall as a flood evacuation centre for affected residents on the Trowell Park development and has offered the hall as a potential Covid-19 vaccination centre if required.

Trowell Parish Council is grateful for the grants received and, whilst using some of the funds to facilitate the above, some have been conserved to help ensure the future of the Parish Hall for the local community.