

Report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive

GRANT AID REQUEST FROM TROWELL PARISH COUNCIL1. Purpose of report

To consider a request for grant assistance from Trowell Parish Council.

2. Grant aid application

A request for capital grant funding has been received from Trowell Parish Council towards the cost of necessary refurbishment works to the car park at the Parish Hall on Stapleford Road in Trowell. The Parish Council has asked the Council to contribute up to £3,500 towards the quoted cost of £12,368 (net). Details of the application is included in appendix 1.

The agreed protocol for assessing grant aid to parish and town councils is provided for information in appendix 2. Also provided for information is a list of grants awarded under this scheme.

3. Financial position

No budgetary provision exists for grants to parish councils. If Members were minded to approve a grant, then an allocation from capital contingencies would be required for which £56,200 remains uncommitted in 2018/19 (subject to any further reports being considered by other Committees during this cycle).

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the request and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Capital Grants**Trowell Parish Council – Refurbishment of Car Park at Trowell Parish Hall**

A grant request has been received from Trowell Parish Council for consideration.

The parish hall on Stapleford Road in Trowell is a well-utilised facility in the village. Historically, Trowell was the 1951 Festival Village as part of the Festival of Britain Celebrations. In addition to being the offices for Trowell Parish Council and hosting parish meetings and events, the parish hall is regularly used by sports clubs for all ages, luncheon club for the elderly, dance classes, social dances, the local Women's Institute, slimming group sessions, a painting group as well as private hires for birthday celebrations and weddings receptions. The adjacent grounds and children's play park are also used by the local community.

The car park sited to the front of the building is also well used by visitors. It has 30 marked spaces, including two disabled parking bays, and provides the main pedestrian access route to the parish hall and the play park. The local school is permitted to use the car park in term-time as a drop-off/pick-up point to alleviate parking problems that would otherwise result on residential roads surrounding the school. It is also used with prior arrangement for other local events e.g. firework displays, school summer fair. Council contractors use the car park as a base when carrying out works in the village such as grass cutting and highway repairs.

Whilst the car park has been routinely repaired over the years, the surface has deteriorated and is coming to the end of its life. A full resurfacing is required to improve safety for visitors. The works would also improve the drainage, which has been a problem in recent years with large areas of standing water during periods of heavy rain.

Trowell has sought quotes for the works from a number of contractors. Its preferred contractor is Breedon Southern Limited who quoted £12,368 (net) to carry out the necessary works.

Trowell has requested grant aid of £3,500 to assist in the necessary refurbishment of the car park. Trowell has allocated £2,000 in its own draft budget for 2019/20 towards the works and is awaiting the outcome of an application to the Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme (£7,000). If the bid is unsuccessful, Trowell would look at other funding streams that may be available. The Parish Council had balances totalling £98,692 as at 31 March 2018, with a net precept of £61,165 in 2017/18.

Works would commence at the earliest opportunity, likely Summer 2019. The outcome will benefit the whole community for many years to come. Trowell would be responsible for the continued maintenance of the site. The parish hall is also undergoing extensive internal refurbishment during 2019, so a well-maintained car park is crucial to achieving the overall outcome that the Parish Council wishes to achieve for its residents and other users of the venue.

APPENDIX 2

Protocol for consideration of grant aid to parish and town councils

The protocol for the consideration of grant aid requests from parish and town councils was agreed by Cabinet on 8 June 2010. The key provisions are:

1. Grant aid will only be given in support of specific projects or services and not as a general grant towards the services provided by a parish/town council.
2. Revenue grant aid will only be considered towards services which act as a replacement for services which otherwise Broxtowe Borough Council would have to provide or which supplement services which the borough council provides so as to reduce the costs that Broxtowe would otherwise incur.
3. In applying for grant assistance the parish/town council will need to demonstrate how the service or project in question contributes to Broxtowe's aims and objectives as laid out in the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
4. In applying for grant aid assistance the parish/town council will need to provide evidence as to why they do not have the financial resources to provide the services or project in question and what the consequences would be for local residents and businesses if the service was withdrawn or the project not completed. This will include a requirement for the parish/ town council to detail what other funding sources they have secured (or otherwise) and to provide a statement as to any reserves held and their planned use.
5. Preference will be given to support for the provision of mandatory services as compared with discretionary services.
6. Where grant aid is to cover the cost of a specified service, the parish/town council will be responsible at its own cost for providing an audited statement within six months of the end of the financial year concerned to confirm the amount of expenditure incurred and income received against which grant aid may be payable. Any grant payable would then be adjusted retrospectively if necessary following receipt of such an audited statement.
7. Grant aid will only be in respect of additional costs directly incurred by the parish/town council and will not cover the cost of any general overheads which the parish/town council would otherwise incur anyway as a result of their operations.
8. Grant aid will be cash limited in each year and the responsibility for costs increasing beyond the cash limit will normally rest with the parish/town council. Where such cost increases are considered to be unavoidable and beyond the parish/town council's control, then Broxtowe may be approached to seek a further grant award.
9. Where the parish/town council wishes to vary the service provided for which grant aid has been awarded, this should only take place after full consultation and with the agreement of Broxtowe.

10. Preference will be given towards one off capital projects rather than as a regular annual contribution towards the ongoing costs of providing services.
11. The parish/town council shall be required to provide such information as Broxtowe may reasonably request as to the actual outputs and outcomes arising from any service or project where Broxtowe makes a contribution.
12. Any grant contribution that may be awarded by Broxtowe need not be at the rate of 100% of net expenditure incurred but may be at a lesser rate to reflect such as its own corporate priorities, budgetary constraints or the availability of similar services or projects elsewhere.
13. Revenue grant aid will normally only be awarded for one year at a time although an indicative amount for the following year may be given at Broxtowe's discretion. Capital grant aid will be towards the cost of a specific one-off project.
14. Requests for grant aid in respect of a particular financial year should normally be submitted by the end of October of the preceding year at the latest to assist with forward budget planning for both Broxtowe and the parish/town council. Broxtowe will endeavour to make a decision on such requests by the end of December in the year preceding that for which grant aid is requested.

Grant Aid to Parish/Town Councils

The table below lists the grants awarded under this scheme since 2010/11.

Date	Council	Amount	Purpose
07/09/10	Nuthall Parish Council	£4,650	Cemetery maintenance
08/03/11	Stapleford Town Council	£2,500	Allotment access (Capital)
29/11/11	Nuthall Parish Council	£3,900	Cemetery maintenance
29/11/11	Kimberley Town Council	£600	Play equipment insurance
19/02/13	Greasley Parish Council	£1,000	Community event
15/10/13	Kimberley Town Council	£7,000	War memorial renovation (Capital)
01/04/14	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,000	War memorial construction (Capital)
16/10/14	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,500	Cemetery maintenance
02/06/15	Cossall Parish Council	£350	Memorial plaque
19/04/16	Eastwood Town Council	£5,000	Building refurbishment works (Capital)
04/07/16	Greasley Parish Council	£4,000	Upgraded heating system (Capital)
19/09/16	Awsorth Parish Council	£5,000	Heating system replacement (Capital)
09/01/17	Brinsley Parish Council	£4,000	Play facility repairs/replace (Capital)
03/10/17	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,820	Remembrance parade
12/10/17	Greasley Parish Council	£1,000	Christmas lights event
12/10/17	Nuthall Parish Council	£3,395	Cemetery maintenance
26/04/18	Nuthall Parish Council	£12,000	Cemetery roadway surface (Capital)
26/04/18	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,000	Summer Youth Club
11/10/18	Greasley Parish Council	£647	WW1 commemoration sculpture