

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

GRANT AID REQUESTS FROM PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant assistance in accordance with the protocol for the consideration of grant aid to parish and town councils.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to consider the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

Two requests for grant aid assistance from parish/town councils have been received:

- Eastwood Town Council has requested up to £820 towards the cost of two youth activity days.
- Awsworth Parish Council has requested £5,000 as a contribution towards the cost of a climbing wall, improvements to the 'Coopers Pond' area and safety improvements to a car park.

Details of the applications are included in appendix 1. The agreed protocol for assessing grant aid to parish and town councils is provided in appendix 2 with the grants previously awarded under this scheme listed in appendix 3.

4. Financial Implications

The comments of the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

If Members wished to support these requests, these awards could be made from the £20,000 provision for grants to parish councils included in the 2023/24 revenue budget, all of which currently remains available.

5. Legal Implications

The Council is empowered to make grants by virtue of Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line with the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils Protocol will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The Interim Head of Environmental Services has no comments regarding this report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX 1

Grant Application – Eastwood Town Council

Eastwood Town Council, in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, intends to provide youth activities on a pilot scheme for two days in Eastwood, at Eastwood Community Football Club. This venue is being provided at no cost to the authorities by courtesy of the football club, who have also offered some assistance towards running the event.

Eastwood is recognised as a socially deprived area, with special focus on St. Mary's Ward. All attendees to the scheme will enjoy a friendly, well supervised, caring atmosphere at no cost, including a free lunch to ensure all children are treated with respect and equality. The scheme will be prioritised to children living in Eastwood wards.

The event will be centred around free sports and arts and craft activities with a free lunch and soft drinks provided for the attending young people – focused on ages 8 to 16 years old. Full access for children who may experience access or difficulties will be made. The young people will be cared for under the supervision of the Town Council, football club and Police Officers present with a full registration check completed prior to the event taking place.

The scheme will be continued during school holiday periods subject to its success. Dates (to be approved by Eastwood Town Council) have been provisionally booked on 10 and 24 August 2023. Safeguarding and risk assessments, first aid cover, event planning, health and hygiene for food preparation, insurance and professional coaching teams will be covering the event.

Eastwood Town Council has requested grant support of up to £820 for the following costs:

- £600 - A buffet lunch provided for up to 100 children at £3 per head for 2 events
- £220 - Purchase of arts and crafts materials for 2 events

Such a request is in line with the Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils for the following key reasons:

- Though the award would be for a revenue grant (rather than for a specific capital project), events such as youth activity days complement the services provided by Broxtowe Borough Council.
- The provision of events such as youth activity days contributes towards community cohesion and helps to combat social exclusion and loneliness.

Financial Information

The closing balance of Eastwood Town Council funds as at 31 March 2023 was £93,901 (additional fixed assets and long term investments totalled £831,832). The

Eastwood Town Council annual precept for 2023/24 is £117,285 (2022/23 - £116,046).

Grant Application – Awsworth Parish Council

Awsworth Parish Council has submitted a request for assistance of £5,000 towards three capital projects totalling £9,900. Details of the three schemes are as follows:

Climbing Wall

Awsworth Parish Council, as part of an ongoing wish to continue to improve their facilities, would like to install a 5-meter double sided climbing wall. The Council states that such equipment would be a great asset to their facilities, can be used by children of all ages and adults alike, and is both fun and a form of exercise which encourages healthy living. The total cost of this is £3,750.

Coopers Pond Improvements

This area, at Shilo Recreation Ground, was installed in 1996 when the bypass (Shilo Way) was built. The pond was named after Ken Cooper, an Awsworth resident who dedicated his life to volunteering in the Parish as a Parish Councillor and in setting up the Awsworth Youth Club.

The pond area and fencing surrounding the pond, the steps leading to the pond and the safety fencing at the top of the steps are in need of repair before Awsworth Parish Council can install a plaque in commemoration of Mr Cooper who passed away in 2020. The total cost of this is £3,650.

Car Park Safety Improvements

In August 2020 the lower car park was fully resurfaced. Such has been greatly received by all users of the car park, including parents dropping their children at Awsworth Primary and Nursery School and visitors to the recreation ground, Awsworth Bowls Club, Awsworth Cricket Club, the ABC Youth Club, Awsworth Methodist Church and Awsworth Village Hall.

Awsworth Parish Council was not able to fully complete the project as originally planned, with concrete edging and a ramp awaiting installation (such would make the pathway safer for all users and all abilities). This is now needed as the existing wooden edging on the car park is deteriorating. The cost of this is £2,500.

Such a request is in line with the Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils for the following key reasons:

- The request is for support of specific projects and not a general grant towards the services provided by the Parish Council.
- The provision of such facilities as detailed above contributes towards community cohesion, health and helps to combat social exclusion and loneliness.

Financial Information

The closing balance of Awsworth Parish Council funds as at 31 March 2023 was £37,181 (additional fixed assets and long term investments totalled £466,005). The Awsworth Parish Council annual precept for 2023/24 is £77,718 (2022/23 - £81,641). The reduction in the precept is a direct result of boundary changes between Awsworth and the neighbouring parish of Cossall – the underlying change in the annual precept is £nil (0%).

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 grants will normally only be awarded for one year 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.

APPENDIX 3

Grant Aid Awards to Parish and Town Councils

The table below lists the grants awarded under this scheme since 2018/19.

Date	Council	Amount	Purpose
15/08/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,070	Summer play day
10/10/19	Awsorth Parish Council	£1,250	Kitchen Refurbishment – Pavilion
10/10/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,300	Tree planting – commemoration
10/10/19	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,855	Remembrance parade
10/10/19	Stapleford Town Council	£2,010	Remembrance event
10/10/19	Trowell Parish Council	£3,500	Car park refurbishment
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,000	Festive lighting display
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,225	VE Day celebrations 2020
07/01/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
30/03/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
07/10/21	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,905	Remembrance parade
09/12/21	Awsorth Parish Council	£7,000	Play area improvements (Capital)
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
06/01/22	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	Remembrance Sunday Event
19/07/22	Awsorth Parish Council	£500	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
19/07/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,590	New defibrillators
19/07/22	Kimberley Town Council	£6,300	Christmas lights switch-on 2021
04/10/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,330	Remembrance Parade
04/10/22	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,100	Cemetery Maintenance
04/10/22	Stapleford Town Council	£2,194	Remembrance Event
01/11/22	Stapleford Town Council	£6,450	Contribution to refurbishment
01/11/22	Kimberley Town Council	£1,958	Remembrance Event