

Report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive

GRANT AID REQUESTS FROM NUTHALL PARISH COUNCIL1. 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. Grant aid applications

Two grant funding requests have been received from Nuthall Parish Council for 2018/19. Details of both of these applications are included in appendix 1.

Firstly, the Parish Council has requested financial support for the upkeep of the New Farm Lane cemetery, in particular towards a project to replace the roadway and pathway surfaces. The anticipated cost is £24,000 and Nuthall has asked the Council to provide 50% capital funding towards this work.

Nuthall has also requested revenue grant funding towards the cost of running a summer youth club on the Basil Russell Playing Field. The Parish Council has set aside £2,000 for this scheme and is looking for the Council to provide some match funding.

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 the grants, an allocation from capital and revenue contingencies would be required for which £55,000 and £25,000 respectively 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 requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Capital Grant**Nuthall Parish Council – Cemetery Maintenance – Roadway Surface**

Nuthall Parish Council has requested financial support in 2018/19 for the upkeep of the New Farm Lane cemetery in Nuthall.

Established during the 1930's, the cemetery has over 1,100 full graves, an increasing number of ashes plots and a garden of remembrance. Nuthall is the only parish council in the area to administer and maintain its own cemetery and if Nuthall was to cease operating the cemetery, Broxtowe would be obliged to take it over. Nuthall would prefer to manage the administration and maintenance of the site itself, so as to maintain the supportive link to local residents when they are at their most vulnerable. With long-serving staff and close community links, Nuthall consider themselves to be best place to offer a more personal service.

Nuthall has occasionally sought funding from the Council to assist in keeping the cemetery open and continuing its service to the local community. It has consulted with the Borough Council in the past to explore other funding options available. Previously, Broxtowe has provided revenue grant assistance to Nuthall in respect of the running costs of the cemetery (usually at 50%), although the latest award by this Committee on 12 October 2017 was for £3,395 being the full net running cost of the facility.

This latest request is in respect of the replacement of the roadway and footpaths around the site. The cemetery is well visited and kept in good order, part of which is the maintenance of the roadways and pathways around the central burial ground. Over recent years the increase in visitor numbers and vehicles has caused the condition of the packed stone ground to deteriorate.

As such, Nuthall has obtained quotations from local contractors to scrape off the top surface and to relay hard-core, tarmac surface and edging to three sides of the roadway and pathway at a cost of around £24,000. The Parish Council has requested grant aid of at least 50% of this cost.

Members will be aware that the Council currently has a provisional scheme for footpath and roadway improvements relating to its own cemeteries on the capital programme reserve list. With only limited capital resources available presently, Members may be minded to delay making any decision on this particular scheme until such time that further capital resources become available.

Revenue Grants**Nuthall Parish Council – Summer Youth Club**

Nuthall Parish Council has requested £2,000 funding towards the cost of running a summer youth club on the Basil Russell Playing Field in 2018.

Nuthall has been working alongside Kimberley Youth Centre and Nottinghamshire County Council to host a youth facility for 11 to 18 year olds during the summer holidays. Whilst the Youth Centre provides an important role in the lives of young people during term time, it is unable to operate during the school holidays. With a large number of attendees (up to 70) this a void period when the facility is needed more than ever.

A local Parish Councillor, supported by Nuthall, did provide one-day events in 2016 and 2017 that were well received. The participants suggested that shorter events, over an extended period during the summer holidays, would be preferable.

The Parish Council would like to arrange two, three-hour sessions on Thursdays and Fridays. At the moment this would be a one-off event, but could be extended into future years if successful. The costs incurred would be for two qualified officers from Kimberley Youth Centre to attend supported by Parish Council employees, marketing, consumables and refreshments and specialist activities. Nuthall has some basic activities planned but further investment is required to provide more bespoke activities such as providing graffiti art for the pavilion and community areas.

Nuthall has set aside £2,000 towards the cost of the programme. It is looking for partners to provide match funding.

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 normally 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	Awsworth 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