

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

GRANT AID REQUESTS FROM PARISH AND 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. Grant aid applications

Two grant aid requests have been received from Brinsley Parish Council for consideration.

Firstly, Brinsley has requested a revenue grant of up to £1,000 towards the cost of the new festive lighting display. The request for funding towards festive activities is being considered retrospectively having been received too late for consideration prior to Christmas and following the cancellation of the December meeting due to the Parliamentary General election.

Secondly, Brinsley has also requested a revenue grant of up to £1,225 towards its VE Day celebrations in May 2020.

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

3. Financial position

A permanent annual 'cash' budget of £20,000 for grant aid to parish and town councils was approved by this Committee on 10 October 2019 to support parish and town councils in meeting the cost of activities and events. This includes events to commemorate the VE Day 2020 anniversary celebrations. Currently, around £7,000 remains uncommitted in this budget for 2019/20.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Revenue Grants1. Brinsley Parish Council – Christmas Programme

Members are asked to consider a retrospective award to Brinsley Parish Council towards the cost of its festive Christmas programme in 2019. This request was received too late to be considered by this Committee prior to Christmas following the cancellation of the December meeting due to the Parliamentary General election.

The programme included a 'festive celebration' at the Parish Hall on 29 November 2019, with the Christmas lights switch-on. The event included 30 stalls from local charitable organisations and residents selling a variety of gifts and produce. There was also a visit from Santa, with free gifts for the children, a children's choir and fireworks display. A marquee was set up, serving hot food, mince pies and mulled wine, whilst the local charity, Headstocks, providing further refreshments inside the hall.

The festive decorations and lights display was procured through a local supplier. This included a real Christmas tree, sited next to the recreation ground, and feature lights around the Parish Hall and fronting the car park. The cost of the new lights amounted to £1,050. It is anticipated that these lights, one retested, can be reused again in future years.

Brinsley also arranged a children's Christmas party on 30 November 2019, with another visit from Santa, gifts, party food, children's entertainer and disco.

Both events were arranged and managed by Brinsley Parish Council with operational support provided by officers, councillors and volunteers. Specialist contractors were used where appropriate. The cost of these events was around £1,500 and has been met from existing parish budgets.

Brinsley Parish Council had balances totalling £63,674 as at 31 March 2019. The annual precept amount for 2018/19 was £64,291.

Brinsley has requested a grant of up to £1,000 towards the cost of the new lighting display.

2. Brinsley Parish Council – VE Day Celebrations 2020

Brinsley Parish Council has organised events to commemorate the VE Day Celebrations 2020 and is seeking financial support from the Council. The events will be held on 9 May 2020 at the Parish Hall and the recreation ground. This is seen as a community gathering for the village to join together in celebration of the significance of the VE Day commemorations. These include a 1940's themed 'party-in-the park', children's rides, activities and fun events that will continue throughout the day. A special event is also planned for the evening in the Parish Hall, with a vintage singer providing the entertainment.

The total cost of the events is £1,225. This includes the artist (£375); party in the park activities (£700) and decoration of the premises and car park (£150). Refreshments will be provided by the Parish Council (although attendees will be invited to bring their own alcohol). The event is being managed and hosted by Parish Council officers.

Brinsley Parish Council has requested a grant of up to £1,225 towards the full cost of this event.

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.

Grant Aid to Parish/Town Councils

The table below lists the grants awarded under this scheme since 2014/15.

Date	Council	Amount	Purpose
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
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