

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

CAPITAL GRANT REQUEST – PHOENIX INHAM FOOTBALL CLUB1. Purpose of report

To consider a request for capital grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's grant aid policy.

2. Grant Aid Application

An application for capital funding has been received from the Phoenix Inham Football Club, which is based at the Inham Nook Recreation Ground in Chilwell.

This growing and ambitious club wants to provide a well-run inclusive service for the local community. It is working with the Council and is looking to secure a 10-year lease on the Council owned premises at Inham Nook. The club has requested grant aid towards the cost of developing its clubhouse and changing rooms into a community use facility (the Phoenix Inham Community Project). The total cost of the scheme is around £9,000, although the club would also like to install a new kitchen and this has been quoted at an additional £2,000. Further details of the application are included in the appendix.

Phoenix Inham Football Club has requested grant aid of up to £9,000 towards the cost of the renovation. Given the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 50% of the actual costs incurred (given that it relates to a Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.

3. Financial Position

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. If Members were minded to make an award, this could be funded from the 2020/21 Capital Contingencies of which £14,700 remains available.

Recommendation

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

Background papers – Nil

APPENDIX**PHOENIX INHAM FOOTBALL CLUB**

A request for capital funding has been received from the Phoenix Inham Football Club (PIFC) towards an ambitious scheme to transform the Inham Nook Pavilion into a community hub and safe space for all.

PIFC was formed in 2015 and is based at the Inham Nook Recreation Ground in Chilwell. In addition to the organisers, coaching staff and senior team, the club currently has over 100 members from Chilwell and the surrounding areas.

The principal aim of PIFC is to provide football for adults and children, delivered in a social and competitive environment. PIFC runs teams at several age ranges from under 8's to a newly established men's team. The club believes that, through football, it can help the community. So, another key aim of the club is to provide a community engagement element in a deprived area. Membership subscriptions are kept deliberately low to maximise inclusion across the estate. This inevitably leads to pressure on resources and, as a small family-run club, funding has always been the biggest hurdle in progression.

Football is at the heart of everything PIFC aims to achieve. The club believes playing football should not be exclusive, but it is becoming too expensive for a vast number of households locally. The club aims that by 2023 it will become one of the first free to play football clubs in the country. This can only be achieved by building a sustainable infrastructure with a constant flow of funds raised by the club and the local community.

The Phoenix Inham Community Project

PIFC is working with the Council and looking to secure a 10-year lease on the Council owned premises at Inham Nook.

The next stage will be to transform the building into a community hub and safe space for all ages and backgrounds. Some initiatives have already been lined up with the sole purpose of helping those in the local community, including:

- District Food and Clothing bank through the First There to Care team. This organisation is inundated with donations from all over the East Midlands but do not currently have a useable space to store and distribute items fairly.
- Monthly food kitchen, run by a local volunteer and qualified chef to guarantee a high level of health and hygiene as well as implementing best practises for all food preparation and service.
- Coffee mornings for the senior citizens and those socially isolated. This would be run by volunteers a couple of mornings a week as well as providing work experience to those that need it.
- Shoe Box Campaign, to help disadvantaged children all over the world.
- Activity evenings, including providing regular dance lessons for all ages and general health and fitness evenings once a week.

The concept will provide the club with a steady funding stream. During events such as weekend football matches, live sporting events and social evenings, the clubhouse will be able to provide food, drinks and entertainment. The club will focus on low risk options such as sandwiches, snacks and bottled/canned refreshments with a healthy profit margin whilst being affordable for all. Currently, annual events such as Christmas parties and presentation nights are a big expense. Going forward, PIFC would use its own facilities and also generate funds through food and refreshment sales, raffles and other fundraising initiatives. By designing the clubhouse as a versatile, functional space, PIFC would also look at hiring the room out for birthday parties, business meeting, health and fitness groups and other groups etc. Sponsorship is already a huge part of football at all levels and the club hopes to encourage local businesses to buy sponsorship packages.

The project will be overseen and organised by PIFC members with the long term goal of launching the Phoenix Inham Community Foundation – a small team of passionate hard-working volunteers with the collective goal of making the local community a better place for all.

PIFC has obtained a number of quotes relating to the cost of developing and refurbishing the pavilion into a community use facility. These include electrical works (£5,100); replacement windows and fascia (£2,700); and new suspended ceiling (£1,200). The total cost of this scheme is around £9,000, although the club would also like to install a new kitchen and this can be supplied for £2,000.

PIFC has provided its accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 for scrutiny. Total income amounted to £9,361 from subscriptions and fundraising. Expenditure for the year totalled £9,398 which mainly related to pitch hire, match and league fees, referees' expenses and other running costs. The surplus was added to cash and bank balances which totalled £338.

This is the second application that the Council has received from PIFC, the previous request being in 2018/19 when a grant of £1,000 was awarded towards the purchase of new kit, footballs and training equipment.

For 2020/21, Phoenix Inham Football Club has requested grant aid of up to £9,000 towards the cost of the renovation. Given the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be given on the basis of 50% of the actual costs incurred (given that it relates to a Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances.

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. If Members were minded to approve this request, then an allocation from the Council's capital contingencies would be required.