

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
19 January 2009**

**From: Leader of the Council
Councillor Richard Betton**

Ward Member: ALL

Subject: Teesdale Listens

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To provide members with a summary of Teesdale Listens visits to date and funding allocated and consider further applications for funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

2.1.1 note the progress of Teesdale Listens.

2.1.2 approve a contribution of £150 from the Community Improvement Fund to Staindrop Parish Council towards improving the safety matting in the play park

2.1.3 approval for Evenwood Parish Council to use the remaining monies awarded to them in November 2007 towards the purchase and installation of parking bollards to the village green at Evenwood.

2.1.4 approve a contribution of £800 to Eggleston Parish Council for the installation of a street light at Prospect Place and £500 to Eggleston Village Hall for the clock on the building to be fully restored.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE OBJECTIVES/KEY PRIORITIES

3.1 **Priority:** Achieving Excellence Together

3.2 **Ambition:** To be an Excellent Council

3.3 **Outcome:** Delivering high quality services which meet the needs of the community

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Executive Committee, 6 August 2007, recommended setting up a Community Improvement Fund of £60,000.00 to be administered by the executive Committee. This was approved by Full Council on 22 August 2007.
- 4.2 To date visits, by Ward Member invitation, have occurred in:
- Evenwood (11/07/07 & 30/10/07)
 - Middleton (31/10/07)
 - Etherley (28/11/07)
 - Ingleton (12/12/07)
 - Gainford/Winston (13/02/08)
 - Stainton & Streatlam (12/03/08)
 - Eggleston (17/09/08)
 - Staindrop (30/10/08 & 05/11/08)
- 4.3 At present, no future visits have been requested by Ward Members.
- 4.4 Executive Committee, 26 November 2007, considered the first application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- A contribution of up to £4,000 be made to Evenwood Parish Council to assist with the purchase of two dog bins and with the financing of works to level potholes on unadopted roads within the village
 - A contribution of £2,820 be made to the Middleton-in-Teesdale Christmas Lights Group to assist with the financing of the 2007 Christmas Lights
- 4.5 Executive Committee, 22 January 2008, considered the second application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £2000 towards the Community Association for their new floor and minor works within the hall at Etherley
 - £2000 contribution towards the Quarry Head field project, to establish a wildlife garden, landscaping, paths, disabled access and children's trim trail/play equipment at Etherley
 - £2000 towards the costs of St Cuthbert Church's new widened path to enable a safer route up to the church and for those residents in wheelchairs or mobility scooter proper and safe access at Etherley.
 - £1500 contribution to a 'target hardening' multi-agency project at Winston.
- 4.6 Executive Committee, 10 March 2008, considered the third application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £5000 contribution to Lynesack and Softley Parish Council towards the cost of providing a playing field at Butterknowle

- 4.7 Executive Committee, 7 April 2008, considered the fourth application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £550 contribution to a 'target hardening' multi-agency project at Stainton Grove
- 4.8 Executive Committee, 19 May 2008, considered the fifth application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £1300 to Stainton & Streatlam Parish Council for the erection of a Bus Shelter at Stainton Grove
 - £1660.10 to Whorlton Parish Council for the development of a Community Garden
 - £80 to Ingleton Parish Council for the supply of cold planings to improve the road surface at Ingleton Village Hall
- 4.9 Executive Committee, 6 October 2008, considered the sixth application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £300 to Stainton & Streatlam for the installation of a safety rail across the front of the previously agreed bus shelter.
 - £4679.09 to Cockfield to commission Durham County Council to undertake the preliminary work required at Mostyn Terrace to begin to rectify the flooding issue.
 - £5000 to Barnard Castle towards renewing, installing and running the Christmas lights.
- 4.10 Executive Committee, 1 December 2008, considered the seventh application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £1500 to Winston for the demolition of South Cleatlam Hut.
 - £2000 to Cockfield towards the costs of renewing, installing and running the Christmas lights.
 - £9000 to Cockfield for flooding prevention works to be carried out at Mostyn Terrace.

5.0 Application for Funding

- 5.1 A request for funding has been received from Staindrop Parish Council for **£150** for improvement works to be carried out to the defective surfacing in the play park. Details below:

Staindrop Play Park

Following an engineering inspection by Zurich for insurance purposes, it was highlighted that the safety surfacing under some of the play equipment was defective and required replacing. The management of the play park has recently been passed back to the Parish Council as Staindrop Improving Community Play (SCIP) no longer has sufficient resources to continue. The Parish Council has therefore asked if we

would consider awarding this amount (£150) so that the works can be carried out.

- 5.2 A request has been received from Evenwood Parish Council to use this remaining **£2860.66** from their previously awarded £4000 towards the purchase and installation of parking bollards around the village green to prevent encroachment and preserve the green. Details below:

Evenwood Village Green

In November 2007 Evenwood & Barony were awarded £4000 to assist with the purchase of dog bins for the area and the financing of works to level potholes on unadopted roads within the Evenwood. The total cost of these works amounted to £1,139.34 leaving £2860.66 unclaimed. The Parish Council has requested permission to use this remaining money to purchase and install 18 parking bollards around the village green to prevent encroachment and preserve the green. Further bollards will be required and the Parish Council are actively raising/sourcing additional funding for this.

- 5.3 A request for funding has been received for **£800** from Eggleston Parish Council towards the installation of a street light at Prospect Place. A request for funding has also been received for **£500** from Eggleston Village Hall to contribute towards the restoration of the village hall clock. Details below:

Prospect Place, Eggleston

The proposed installation of the street light is to the area which links Prospect Place with the main village. There is a health and safety issue here as there is no lighting to the historic steps leading up from the terrace to the village. This is a well used route by all ages including the elderly but the lack of illumination in the area is a serious hazard which could result in an injury. The Parish Council would like to install a street light to the area which will hang over the wall illuminating the steps. A buffer will be placed over the light to direct the light onto the steps and minimise light pollution to the surrounding properties. £1000 has been allocated for the works within the Parish Council's budget and they have asked that we consider contributing £800 to make up the shortfall in order that the works can go ahead.

Eggleston Village Hall

The clock is situated on the village hall and is a World War II memorial. The clock was paid for by subscriptions from residents and was erected in 1948. For the last few years the clock has been in a poor state of repair and it was agreed by the Village Hall Committee that it required restoring. The work was contracted and carried out at a total cost of £1,536.80. A £500 contribution has been received from the Village Hall

Consortium and the Village Hall Committee has asked that we consider a match contribution of **£500**.

6.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS:

6.1 Financial Implications: £60k has been approved for Community Improvement Fund. To date £45,339 has been granted as set out in paragraph 4.4 and 4.6.

6.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications

6.3 Equality and Diversity: None.

6.4 Human Resources: None

6.5 Community Safety: None

6.6 Legal Issues: None

Background papers: none

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