

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
16 February 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 £4,000 from the Community Improvement Fund to Staindrop Parish Council towards the installation and purchase of parking bollards to the village green.

2.1.3 approve a contribution of £3,814 from the Community Improvement Fund to Ingleton Parish Council for replacement cutlery and the purchase of a projector and screen for the village hall. The funding will also include the purchase of 4 small electric heaters and an electric cooker for the newly refurbished sports pavilion.

2.1.4 consider a contribution of £2,220.00 from the Community Improvement Fund to High Lands Cricket Club for the installation of a hard standing area required for the club's new security container, subject to agreement of the local ward members.

2.1.5 approve a contribution request which has been submitted by Cllr Hedley and Cllr Reed of £4,000 from the Community Improvement Fund for Scarth Memorial Hall, Staindrop Carnival Committee, Staindrop Christmas Lights Committee and Raby Castle Cricket Club.

2.1.6 approve a contribution of £450 from the Community Improvement Fund for Middleton in Teesdale Cricket Club for the purchase of a new sitescreen. (This has been agreed with the local ward members).

2.1.7 approve a contribution of £300 from the Community Improvement Fund to enable Staindrop & Wear Valley Gymnastic Club to support a promising young gymnast.

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)
- Greta Bridge (22/01/09)

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.

- 4.11 Executive Committee, 19 January 2009, considered the seventh application to the Community Fund and agreed:
- £150 to Staindrop for improvement works to defective surfacing in the play park
 - Evenwood could use the remaining £2860.66 from the £4000 awarded previously for the purchase and installation of parking bollards on the green
 - £800 to Eggleston for the installation of a street light and £500 for the refurbishment of the war memorial village clock

5.0 Applications for Funding

- 5.1 A request for funding has been received from Staindrop Parish Council of **£4,000** for the installation of parking bollards around the village green. Details below:

Staindrop Village Green

An application has been received from Staindrop Parish Council for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative for the procurement, renewal and installation of the remaining parking bollards to the village green.

As with most parishes, the responsibility for maintaining and protecting the village greens falls to the Parish Council. In previous years Staindrop Parish Council have paid for the installation of such bollards from their precept however this has resulted in the process being very slow as funds are limited. With this, the problem of encroachment onto the green by various vehicles has just been moved from one area of the green to another. Both the Parish Council and residents are passionate about keeping the condition and appearance of their village green to a high standard as it is regularly used by residents and visitors in general and during village events etc. The Parish council are keen to complete the works as soon as possible before the problem of encroachment increases.

The replacement of the old wooden bollards are of most urgency due to health and safety issues as they are in a dilapidated state and pose a potential tripping hazard.

Quotes from contractors have been obtained for both the purchase and installation totalling £10,415.36.

- 5.2 An application has been received from Ingleton Parish Council and Ingleton & District Community Association for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative of **£3,814** for replacement cutlery and the purchase of a projector and screen for the village hall. The funding will

also include the purchase of 4 small electric heaters and an electric cooker for the newly refurbished sports pavilion. Details below:

Cutlery

The new village hall was built in 2000 but due to tight finances much of the old equipment, including cutlery, was transferred from the old hall. The old cutlery is now in a very poor condition and is in need of replacement as is used on a regular basis for many events which are held in the hall. The village hall generates income through hire charges for these events however the majority of funds raised are used on the running costs of the hall itself. The total cost of replacing the cutlery is **£1,217**.

Projector & Screen

Many of the events held in the hall include visual presentations and increasingly need the use of a projector. In addition, the Community Association would like to start running a cinema club to generate more income. The purchase of a projector and screen will enable the association to do this and will assist with the continuing use and success of the hall. The total cost of purchasing the projector and screen is **£1,563**.

Heaters

The sports pavilion located in the recreation field in Ingleton has been recently refurbished and is being increasingly used by young people's groups on a weekend as well as by other players such as football and cricket teams. At present there is no heating in the pavilion and it is hoped that the installation of heaters will encourage the use of the hall which in turn will increase revenue as well as providing a satisfactory environment for users, particularly children. The total cost of the heaters is **£837**.

Cooker

With the increased use of the pavilion since its refurbishment, the requirement for cooking facilities has also increased. The sports pavilion would like to purchase a small electric cooker in order that users can provide light snacks and drinks for the groups. The total cost of the cooker is **£197**.

- 5.3 An application has been received from High Lands Cricket Club for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative of **£2,220.00** for the installation of a hard standing area required for the club's new security container. Details below:

Historically, High Lands Cricket Club has struggled to find a secure place for their equipment to be stored when not in use. The club is run and supported by a small group of volunteers but is used widely within the community. The club has difficulty generating income due to its

small size, however, many fundraising events are organised to raise funds and a small membership fee is charged to members. However, all of the money raised is used to pay for the general upkeep, maintenance and repair works to the club and its facilities. The total cost of installing a security container at the club amounts to £4,070 and with the help of Teesdale Listens this project will be achievable and will help to ensure that the club continues to be used and enjoyed by all members of the community.

- 5.4 An application has been received from Cllrs O Hedley and D Reed for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative of **£4,000.00** for the various community projects as detailed below:

Raby Castle Cricket Club

The cricket club is currently trying to establish a junior cricket team following the successful establishment of junior practice nights last year which now has up to 20 members who have since taken part in local leagues. In order to encourage local children to continue using the club they are in desperate need of replacement equipment. The tractor and roller is over 50 years old and requires continuous maintenance and repairs. The club is self funding and gets a lot of support from local fundraising events. The total cost of works amounts to £5,000 and a donation of **£1,000** would be gratefully appreciated.

Staindrop Christmas Lights Committee

The committee now has several large invoices to pay as a consequence of having to comply with health and safety policy. Funding contributions are required to help pay for safety testing to the lighting poles prior to decorations being fixed. The total of these works is £1000 plus £300 per poll for the testing of decorations. A contribution of **£1000** would be gratefully received.

Scarth Memorial Village Hall

The village hall has requested a contribution of **£1000** towards the redecoration works to the kitchen, meeting rooms and toilets. The main hall was recently repainted and this contribution would allow the entire hall to be completed.

The Carnival Committee

The committee has made a loss of £600 per year for the last 2 years due to increasing costs such as insurance and road closure orders. The committee has requested a contribution of **£1000** towards these running costs which will enable the carnival to continue.

- 5.5 An application has been received from the Middleton-in-Teesdale Cricket Club for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative of **£450** towards the replacement of the club's sightscreens. It is essential that

the sightscreens are replaced to ensure the safety of players, particularly in junior matches. The total cost of these works is £845.

- 5.6 An application has been received from the Staindrop & Wear Valley Gymnastics Club for funding from the Teesdale Listens Initiative of **£300** to enable a gifted young gymnast to continue with her training detailed below:

A young gymnast has been identified as having great potential in the sport. She already has the support of her school and the gym club however a change in domestic circumstances means her parents are unable to continue to pay her fees. The £300 contribution would enable her to continue with her hobby and represent the club locally and nationally.

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: Funding Tracker - Appendix 1

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