



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
Epsom and Ewell**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
EPSOM & EWELL
MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS
17 DECEMBER 2009**

KEY ISSUE

To consider new proposals for expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget 2009/10.

SUMMARY

This report sets out new schemes suggested by Members for funding from the Members' Allocations budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked:

To approve the proposed expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each Member of the County Council has been allocated a budget of **£8,250** in 2009/10 to be spent in accordance with his/her wishes on schemes and projects, which promote social, environmental or economic well-being. Each Member's proposal will require the approval of the Local Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee has also been allocated a capital grant of **£35,000**. This funding may only be used for capital projects and schemes. It will be allocated equally on a Division basis of £7,000 each, subject to agreement by the whole of the Local Committee.

2. MEMBERS' REVENUE ALLOCATION – NEW FUNDING BIDS

2.1 BRIGITTE TRUST – PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Brigitte Trust provides emotional and practical support to individuals and their families living with life-threatening illness. The application requests funding to purchase promotional banners and materials to help with fund-raising and other events. The organisation has recently re-branded and now has a new logo which confirms their role in the community and makes them more visible to those who might wish to use their services.

Members	CF £250, EK £250, JM £221, CT £250
Project Cost	£ 1,745
Amount Requested	£ 971

2.2 SOUTHFIELD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL – LIFE BUS

The Life Bus is a drugs awareness/prevention initiative, which comes to the school and provides sessions appropriate to the pupils' age and needs. Funding is requested to provide a 2 day workshop road-show in March 2010, comprising 8 classes over 2 days at a total cost of £690. The sessions are designed to improve the pupils' knowledge and skills, and give them the confidence to make informed health choices about drugs.

Member	Colin Taylor £690
Project Cost	£ 690
Amount Requested	£ 690

2.3 KITES SOCIAL CLUB – SUNNYBANK TRUST

The Sunnybank Trust runs a support network for adults with learning disabilities. Kites Social Club provides its members with the opportunity for social inclusion and the building of self-esteem and new skills. Funding is requested to purchase musical instruments and related software, as well as arts/craft materials. The costs include 'getting started' software (£480), instruments (£340) and art/craft equipment (£500). There is no other identified source of funding, the only alternative being to raise the money over time through normal fund-raising activities of the Sunnybank Trust.

Members	Chris Frost £750, Colin Taylor £570
Project Cost	£ 1,320

Amount Requested **£ 1,320**

2.4 **ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

Advocacy in Action is in urgent need of a new supply of information leaflets on the services they can provide (advocacy and financial administration) to vulnerable adults in Surrey. The group is based in Dorking but its services extend to surrounding parts of the county. The total cost of the project is quoted at £1,400, with £700 already promised from the Local Committee in Mole Valley.

Members **EK £250, JM £200, CT £250**
Project Cost **£ 700**
Amount Requested **£ 700**

2.5 **EPSOM & EWELL HIGH SCHOOL – ECO GARDENING CLUB**

It is proposed to create an ecological garden area, including the erection of a garden shed for early plantings and storage, for the purpose of growing vegetables from seed. The project will have a key role in educating students in environmental issues and the vegetables will be for school use. The organisers have met with the Rangers to obtain advice on how to move forward with the project and they hope that their school will become the first 'eco secondary school' in the area.

Members **Jan Mason £500**
Project Cost **£ 1,000**
Amount Requested **£ 500**

2.6 **STREET LIGHT REPAIR – ROSEBERY ROAD**

Cllr Chris Frost wishes to allocate funding for the urgent repair of the streetlight outside No. 1 Rosebery Road, which will help local residents to feel safer after dark and also reduce the current level of vandalism.

Members **Chris Frost**
Project Cost **£ To be advised**
Amount Requested **£ “ “ “**

2.7 **SPEAK OUT NOW – ONLINE SYSTEM FOR REPORTING BULLYING (BLENHEIM HIGH SCHOOL)**

An online questionnaire with 350 pupils at the school identified bullying as one of the priority issues for students to tackle. This online reporting system will allow pupils safely to report a bullying incident from any internet access point (including their own home). It then allows for confidential communication through a secure messaging system between the pupil reporting and the member of staff dealing with the report. The system would give access to all pupils at the school (1300). In discussions with Surrey Community Safety Unit, this system was identified as an example of best practice in addressing bullying in the school environment, and is seen as part of Blenheim's commitment to the Surrey Safer Schools Award Pilot.

Members **Jan Mason £700, Colin Taylor £700**
Project Cost **£ 1,400**

Amount Requested £ 1,400

2.8 RESTORATION OF URN AT EWELL COURT HOUSE

Funding is requested to contribute towards the cost of specialist restoration of a Victorian urn which, since being damaged by vandals, has been stored away from public view. The total cost is estimated at £822.50 (incl. VAT) and the application requests a contribution of £500.

Members Jan Mason £500
Project Cost £ 822
Amount Requested £ 500

2.9 PARKING IMPROVEMENTS IN ROSEBANK (see also para 4.5)

An approved scheme to improve the car parking situation in Rosebank cannot be completed this year within current budgets. Highways has sufficient funding (£10,000) to carry out a reduced version of the original plans, covering a lesser area than originally envisaged. Colin Taylor proposes to allocate £3,000 from his revenue budget to this project in order that the work can encompass a wider area than would otherwise be possible.

Members Colin Taylor £3,000
Project Cost £ t.b.c.
Amount Requested £ 3,000

3 MEMBERS' REVENUE ALLOCATION – APPROVALS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The following application was approved by the Area Director under delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

- 3.1 A one-off sum of £250 from David Wood's allocation was agreed (21.09.2009) as a contribution towards the cost of landscaping the apiary site behind Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell.

4 PROPOSALS AGAINST CAPITAL GRANT

4.1 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN FOR LONGDOWN LANE SOUTH

Deferred at the September meeting following a suggestion that there was already a VAS at this location. Highways officers have now confirmed that there is a VAS near Epsom College but this is a considerable distance from the proposed installation for northbound traffic on the bend near Bunbury Way (at the Downs end of the road). A number of accidents have occurred near this bend in Longdown Lane South. The installation of a new vehicle activated sign showing 'Bend' would slow down traffic approaching the bend thereby improving safety.

Members Chris Frost £2,500
Project Cost £ 2,500
Amount Requested £ 2,500

4.2 SUNNYBANK TRUST – DIRECTOR'S OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The Sunnybank Trust has a newly appointed volunteer Director whose role will be to facilitate centralised co-ordination of the work of the charity and bring about more effective administration and communication. The application is to equip office space for this new post, and the cost is estimated at £3,000. This figure includes IT equipment at £1,025 and the remainder will be used to purchase second-hand furniture.

Members	CF £1,000, EK £500, CT £1,000
Project Cost	£ 3,000
Amount Requested	£ 3,000 (Recommendation : £2,500)

4.3 LOWER MOLE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT PROJECT – LAND ROVER APPEAL

The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project runs two vehicles to service the needs of its practical work programme for volunteers from the local community. The Ford Transit Minibus was replaced in 2007 with assistance from a wide range of organisations, including a contribution from Member Allocations. The second vehicle is a 1997 Land Rover which is essential for towing the trailer and transporting bulky materials and heavy work tools to the work sites, which are often well away from roads and good tracks. To lease a new Land Rover over a 10 year period would cost around £75,000, but the purchase price would be significantly less, at around £27,000. A similar application has been submitted to the Local Committee in Mole Valley, as well as other trust/foundations/funding organisations. It is anticipated that the funding would be required before March 2010.

Members	CF £1,000, JM £1,750, CT £2,250
Project Cost	£ 26,900
Amount Requested	£ 5,000

4.4 EPSOM MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FUND

Funding is requested to purchase 2 DASH monitors which would be used to monitor vital signs in patients in paediatric A&E at Epsom Hospital. At present, there is only one such monitor and at busy times this can cause problems. Continuous monitoring is particularly important in cases of respiratory illness, those on oxygen or those with life-threatening problems.

Members	CF £750, EK £750, JM, £750, CT £750
Project Cost	£ 6,000
Amount Requested	£ 6,000
Amount Recommended	£ 3,000

4.5 PARKING IMPROVEMENTS IN ROSEBANK (see also para. 2.9)

An approved scheme to improve the car parking situation in Rosebank cannot be completed this year within current budgets. Highways has sufficient funding (£10,000) to carry out a reduced version of the original plans, covering a lesser area than originally envisaged. Colin Taylor proposes to allocate the remaining portion of his capital allocation to this project in order that the work can encompass a wider area than would otherwise be possible.

Members	Colin Taylor £2,000
Project Cost	£ t.b.c.
Amount Requested	£ 2,000

5 RETURNED FUNDING

- 5.1 A sum of £1,500 was allocated in March 2005 for Planting and Graffiti Removal at Nonsuch Walk. Borough Council officers have now confirmed that graffiti removal was completed from within their existing budgets and no major tree planting project was devised for this site. The only planting at this site was infill planting following tree removal and this was paid for by the Borough Council. This sum has therefore been added to David Wood's revenue allocation for recommitment.
- 5.2 In March 2008 a grant of £300 was allocated to the local residents group to set up Horton Hill Neighbourhood Watch. Despite prior consultation which had the support of local residents, interest has dwindled and the project is no longer viable. This funding has been returned to Colin Taylor's allocation.
- 5.3 A grant of £1,489 was approved in March 2008 in respect of Long Grove Park Tree Planting. This work was recently completed at a cost of £1,180. The balance of £309 has been returned to Colin Taylor's allocation.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The attached tables show commitment and balance remaining for Members' individual allocations and the capital grant.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The contributions proposed would benefit a wide range of adults and children in Epsom and Ewell, some of whom may have disabilities.

8 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money and it is recommended that they should be approved.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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