



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Elmbridge)

LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING

10 September 2012

KEY ISSUE

To give consideration to the funding requests received that have been sponsored by at least one County councillor.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive funding to spend on locally determined purposes that help to promote social, economic and/or environmental well-being. This funding is known as Member Allocations.

For the financial year 2012/13, the County Council has allocated £12,615 revenue funding to each County Councillor and £35,000 capital funding to each Local Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Agree the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 **revenue** funding as set out in section 2 of this report and summarised below:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Claygate in Bloom	Claygate War Memorial Garden Project	£855
St Paul's Church Parochial Church Council	St. Pauls Church Tower Repairs	£11,000

- (ii) Agree the items recommended for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 **capital** funding as set out in section 2 of the report and summarised below:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Claygate in Bloom	Claygate War Memorial Garden Project	£2395
Lower Mole Countryside Management Project	Lower Mole Landrover Project	£5,000

- (iii) Determine whether conditions regarding the return of £744 of the Committee's 2011/12 funding should be waived or upheld; and if a further £819 should be awarded to the Walton Heritage Day Organising Committee, from this year's budget, to support the Walton Heritage Fun Day 2012, as detailed in section 3 of this report.
- (iv) Note the expenditure previously approved by the Community Partnerships Manager and/or the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated authority, as set out in section 4.
- (v) Note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report or at Appendix 1.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its 14 June 2012 Local Committee (Elmbridge) meeting, councillors agreed to pool their £35,000 capital budget but to keep their £12,615 revenue allocations separate.
- 1.2 Member Allocation funding is generally made to organisations on a one-off basis, so that there should be no expectation of future funding for the same or similar purpose.
- 1.3 Member Allocation funding will not usually be granted for purposes that benefit an individual, nor to fund schools for the direct delivery of the National Curriculum, nor to support political parties.
- 1.4 When considering bids, organisations applying are advised against assuming that the Local Committee will meet the total cost of their project.

2 BIDS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL – REVENUE/CAPITAL FUNDING

- 2.1 The proposals for revenue and capital funding for consideration and decision at this Committee are set out below.

Claygate War Memorial Garden Project

£855 Revenue
£2,395 Capital

Michael Bennison

Claygate in Bloom has submitted an application for £3,250 to replace the cracked and uneven concrete slabs forming the path and surround to the First World War Memorial. The slabs will be replaced with good quality stone that will improve both the safety and appearance of the path, thus promoting local heritage and providing a lasting legacy for future generations. The total cost of the project will be £5,040 with the remainder coming from Claygate Parish Council, Claygate Village Association and Elmbridge Borough Council Jubilee fund.

St. Pauls Church Tower Repairs

£11,000 Revenue

Ernest Mallett & Nigel Cooper

St Paul's Church Parochial Church Council has submitted an application for £11,000 to carry out essential repair work to the church tower. This will ensure that the tower is safe and waterproof. The total cost of the project is £33,900 of which an additional £15,500 has already been raised and the remainder will come from further fundraising and church donations. St Paul's Church has previously received £1,462 for the purchase of audio equipment from the Elmbridge Local Committee in 2011/12.

Lower Mole Project Land Rover

£5,000 Capital

Ernest Mallett

Lower Mole Countryside Management Project has submitted an application for £5,000 towards the purchase of a Land Rover vehicle.

The Project organises a volunteer programme that enables individuals from the local community to help with practical conservation and access across the Project area, which includes the borough of Elmbridge. Each year around 13,000 volunteer hours are achieved, making the Project one of the largest generators of voluntary activity in the region.

The Land Rover is an essential vehicle for the running of the Lower Mole Project. It will be the only four wheel drive vehicle that the Project will have that can access places that the minibus cannot. It will be the main towing vehicle for the trailer that the Project recently purchased with a grant.

The total cost of the vehicle is approximately £28,000 of which £15,400 has already been raised. £4,520 is also being requested from the Epsom & Ewell Local Committee and £2,520 from the Mole Valley Local Committee.

3 WALTON HERITAGE FUN DAY

£819 revenue

Tom Phelps-Penry

- 3.1 The Walton Heritage Day Organising Committee has submitted an application for £819 revenue funding from Councillor Tom Phelps-Penry's allocation in order to host its annual Heritage Fun Day on 8 September 2012. This is an event for which the Local Committee has provided financial support since 2007. Most recently, in 2011, the Walton Society Heritage Day Committee received £744 from the Local Committee towards the cost of entertainment and facilities hire at the event. The bid received this year will constitute a repeat bid, as described in paragraph 1.2 of this report.
- 3.2 The County Council is prohibited from using taxpayer's money to promote political parties. The Walton Society is a registered political party that sponsors councillors elected to the County Council. However, the committee acknowledged the value of the event to the local community in Walton and when awarding funding for last year's Fun Day event stipulated that "If at any time this day is advertised as an event organised by a political group then Walton Heritage Day Committee will be required to return the funding". This condition was also incorporated into the funding agreement signed between the Walton Society and the County Council. Upon investigation, the Community Partnerships Team found that

the Walton Society logo had been included in a prominent position on the event's publicity poster, naming the Walton Society as the sponsor of the event. Advice from the County Council's legal service concurred that there had been a breach of the funding conditions and a return of the funding awarded was requested by the Community Partnerships Team. Although requested, the funding awarded for last year's event has not yet been returned.

- 3.3 The Elmbridge Local Committee is therefore asked to determine whether conditions regarding the return of £744 of the Committee's 2011/12 funding should be waived or upheld; and if £819 from this year's budget should be awarded to the Walton Heritage Day Organising Committee to support the Walton Heritage Fun Day 2012.

4 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVED BIDS

- 4.1 The Community Partnerships Manager or the Community Partnerships Team Leader (East Surrey) has already approved the following revenue bids under delegated authority, since the last committee meeting:

COUNCILLOR	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Mike Bennison	Stay connected through arts	£1,000
Mike Bennison	Replacement of Hinchley Wood Scout & Guide HQ chairs	£600
Ernest Mallet	Holiday Play Scheme - Elmbridge Shout	£400
Ernest Mallet	Installation of automatic fire door closers	£300
Mike Bennison	Church Hall A/V System	£1,000
Margaret Hicks	Healthy & Positive Lifestyles Project 2012	£1,000

5 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, part or none of the funding proposals under discussion in this report.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 In relation to new bids, consultation, where appropriate, may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving the funding, the local Member of the Community Partnerships Team as required.
- 6.2 The appropriate Surrey County Council services and partner agencies are consulted when bids are submitted, as required.

7 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Each project detailed in this report has completed a standard application form giving details of timescales, purpose and other funding applications made. The County Councillor proposing each project has assessed its merits prior to the project's inclusion as a proposal for decision by the Committee.
All bids are also scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Council's Financial Framework and represent value for money.
- 7.2 There are sufficient monies to fund all of the proposals contained within this report. If the above recommendations are approved, the remaining balances will be those set out in the financial position statement attached at Appendix 1.
- 7.3 Please note that these figures may not include any applications submitted for approval after the deadline for this report or that are currently pending approval under delegated authority. They also do not include any funding that is in the process of being returned to the Local Committee.

8 EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The allocation of the Committee's budgets is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, the area. The success of the bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the agreed criteria, which is flexible.
- 8.2 The Local Committee funding can be allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County's standards for appropriateness and value for money within the agreed Financial Framework and the local agreed criteria, which is available from the Community Partnerships Team.

9.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2012/13 Local Committee delegated budget, as detailed in the report.

10 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Committee is being asked to decide on these bids so that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bids in line with the wishes of the Committee.

11 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

11.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.

11.2 Any changes to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Members and the Chairman, and if the changes are considered to be significant, an amended bid will be brought back to the Committee for approval. In all other circumstances, the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible, once the signed agreement has been received.

11.3 All successful applicants will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.

Lead Officer:	Sandra Brown Community Partnership Team Leader (East)
Telephone Number:	
E-mail:	sandra.brown@surreycc.gov.uk
Report Contact:	Neil Lord Local Support Assistant
Telephone Number:	01737 737 420
E-mail:	communitypartnershipseast@surreycc.gov.uk
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCC Constitution: Financial Framework• Local Committee Protocol• Criteria and Guidance for Members Allocations• Local Committee Funding Bids

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