

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE - 7 February 2000
SUBJECT: RURAL INITIATIVES SCHEME - APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT
FROM: COMMISSIONING TEAM

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider applications for grants by:

- ◆ Councillor Butler towards the costs of improving a football pitch in Hampton Magna and towards providing changing accommodation in the Budbrooke Community Centre; and
- ◆ Cubbington Parish Council towards the cost of providing an outdoor basketball court.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Strategic Capital Programme makes provision of £150,000 over a 3-year period for schemes in the rural area. Ideally, the schemes should help the implementation of the Council's Key Issue Strategies.

2.2 In addition, a number of criteria are to be taken into account in considering applications:

- ◆ the ability to provide part-funding from within the parish would be an advantage;
- ◆ in order to be equitable to all parishes, the Council will have regard to the number and value of applications

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- ◆ all schemes will need to be formally supported by the parish council;
- ◆ parish councils be required to put a priority order when more than one application is submitted;
- ◆ proposals to be open to examination by the Council's officers and advisers, including the right to monitor works during their progress.

2.2 Of the total budget, approximately £137,600 has already been allocated to the schemes set out in Appendix "C"

3 THE SCHEMES

3.1 Details of the schemes which are the subject of this report are set out in Appendices "A" and "B", with a brief summary of each application being set out below.

3.2 Councillor Butler has applied for a grant towards the cost of improvements to the football pitch at Hampton Magna, estimated to cost £10,000. There has been no offer of match-funding, whether by the Football Club or by the Parish Council. The Head of Leisure and Amenities does, however, support the scheme. Improvements to the pitch will enable the Club to play their fixtures at home rather than travel to St Nicholas Park.

It is suggested that a grant of £10,000 or the cost of the work, whichever is the lower, be offered.

3.3 Cubbington Parish Council has applied for a Rural Initiative grant of £2,400 towards the cost of providing a basketball court. Some match-funding is available. It should be noted that the Parish Council has reduced its precept in 2000/01. The scheme is supported by the Head of Leisure and Amenities.

It is suggested that a grant of £2,000 be offered.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The suggested amounts of grant in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 will leave approximately £380 in the budget for Rural Initiatives for any new schemes that may arise in the future, although the Sub-Committee has recommended to Strategy Committee that additional resources of £100,000 should be made available to Rural Initiatives for 2000/01.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Consideration be given to the requests for grant aid.

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Areas of District Affected Hampton Magna and Cubbington.

Appendix "A"

HAMPTON MAGNA FOOTBALL PITCH AND CHANGING FACILITIES

1 THE SCHEME

- 1.1 The scheme falls into 2 parts - this application is the first priority, and is to improve the football pitch so that matches can be played on it. The second part of the scheme - to provide changing and shower facilities - will only be pursued if additional funds are made available for Rural Initiatives schemes.
- 1.2 The football pitch is too small, is prone to flooding in wet weather and needs some levelling works and some re-seeding carried out in order to make it fit to play on. The proposal is to lengthen the pitch by about 7 yards and to widen it by about 1.5 yards either side to bring it up to local league standard. Lengthening the pitch would take it closer to the houses at one end, so a 5 metre high fence will be erected, extending 3 to 4 metres either side of the goal posts.
- 1.3 The pitch is also in need of drainage. It does, however, slope towards an existing ditch which will help. The estimated cost of the drainage element of the scheme is £7,000.
- 1.4 The total estimated cost of pitch improvements including drainage is about

£10,000.

2 THE CLUB

- 2.1 There is a senior team that plays in the local league, currently playing all its matches at St. Nicholas Park. It is the senior team that is helping to generate interest amongst younger children. It is intended to start a junior team and a girls' team.
- 2.2 There are no formal accounts made up to a particular year end, but a receipts and payments account has been produced for the 12 months to 31 December 1999. It shows that the Club basically covers its expenses of pitch hire, various fees, etc. through match subscriptions and registration fees, and that in order to provide kit it relies on sponsorship by the local pub. At 31 December, the Club's bank balance was less than £100.
- 2.3 Improvements to the pitch will enable the Club to play its home fixtures at Hampton Magna rather than travel to St Nicholas Park, which is the case at present.

3 PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT

- 3.1 Budbrooke Parish Council supports the application, but feels unable to provide any financial support. It has doubled its precept in 2000/01 over 1999/2000, largely so that it can make a grant of £2,500 to the Budbrooke Community Association towards the extension of the Community Centre (which this Sub-Committee agreed to support to the extent of £20,000 at the last meeting), and in order to make a start on improving fall areas under play equipment in order to meet the requirements of new regulations.

4 MATCH FUNDING

- 4.1 The criteria to be taken into account in considering applications for grants under the Rural Initiatives scheme include "the ability to provide part-funding from within the parish would be an advantage."
- 4.2 There is no offer of any match funding towards the costs of the scheme, although the team has been supported by the local pub which has sponsored the kit and provided goal nets.
- 4.3 The Parish Council feels unable to part-fund the scheme.

5 COMMENTS BY HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

- 5.1 It has been this Council's policy over recent years to provide a number of centralised pitches with good changing facilities as opposed to assisting with one-off local pitches, but this policy has changed somewhat in the last 2 or 3 years to a more community minded approach. This pitch could provide a good local sporting amenity for a relatively small capital outlay.
- 5.2 The pitch would obviously benefit from having changing facilities if, in the long run, it is going to be used on a more regular basis, and there is space to provide those facilities if necessary. On a more short-term basis, the Parish Council should see how the drainage works and whether or not the pitch can provide a home for an adult team playing regularly in a league.

6 KEY ISSUE STRATEGIES

- 6.1 It is considered that the scheme will meet the Social Key Issue Strategy SO2 - to encourage the development of communities where none exist or where they are weak.

Appendix "B"

CUBBINGTON OUTDOOR BASKETBALL INITIATIVE

1 THE SCHEME

- 1.1 To help improve the recreation facilities available in the parish, the Parish Council has registered its interest in participating in the Outdoor Basketball Initiative being organised by the English Basketball Association. It wants to provide a basketball court which will be freely available, particularly to the young people of Cubbington, and has asked that this Council helps by meeting the cost of providing the playing surface - about £2,400.
- 1.2 The aim of the initiative, which began in 1997, is to provide 10,000 vandal-proof, outdoor basketball goals throughout England. Funding for the goals comes from the Lottery Sports Fund. There should be at least 40 hours free community use of the goals each week. The EBA will provide the goals, but it is up to the applicant, in this case Cubbington Parish Council, to provide the holes into which the goals will be sunk and the area on which basketball can be played.
- 1.3 The surfaced area on which basketball is played should be at least 9 metres by 9 metres. No such surface is available in Cubbington.

- 1.4 The cost of installing the goals is £279, and the cost of providing the surface is about £2,400.

2 PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT

- 2.1 It is Cubbington Parish Council that has made the application, and it is prepared to meet the cost of £279 for installing the goals. It is, however, heavily committed financially to completing refurbishment of the Village Hall, and feels unable to contribute towards the cost of providing the playing surface. It has, however, reduced its precept by £6,000 between 1999/2000 and 2000/01 as a result of its financial commitment to the Village Hall falling from £20,000 to £12,500.

3 MATCH FUNDING

- 3.1 The criteria to be taken into account in considering applications for grants under the Rural Initiatives scheme include “the ability to provide part-funding from within the parish would be an advantage.”
- 3.2 The cost of the goals themselves is being funded by the EBA, and the Parish Council will meet the cost of installation.

4 COMMENTS BY HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

- 4.1 The Head of Leisure and Amenities supports the scheme, seeing this as a good additional facility for young people in Cubbington and the surrounding area. There will be the possibility of partnership working in the future with the Youth Sports Development Team and the Parish Council in order to develop basketball in Cubbington.
- 4.2 Sites have been / are being provided in the District through the Outdoor Basketball Initiative at:

Stoneleigh Village Hall - 1 goal;
Kenilworth Community Centre - 2 goals;
Aylesford School - 5 goals;
Abbey Fields Tennis Courts - 1 goal;
Guy Road Recreation Ground - 1 goal;
Beauchamp Square Gardens - 1 goal; and
St Nicholas Park - 1 goal.

5 KEY ISSUE STRATEGIES

- 5.1 It is considered that the scheme will meet the Social Key Issue Strategy SO2 - to encourage the development of communities where none exist or where they are weak.