

 <b>Executive – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>12A</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application</b>	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fsteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Leamington Brunswick and Warwick West	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Applications file No. 185 onwards Correspondence with Applicant.	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	Yes

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	20.8.13	Andy Jones
Head of Service	20.8.13	Mike Snow
CMT	20.8.13	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	20.8.13	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	20.8.13	Andy Jones
Finance	20.8.13	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	20.8.13	Cllr Mobbs
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides details of two Rural/Urban Capital Improvement applications:

- Shree Krishna Community Centre to be the third party payment provider for a grant application made to WREN for refurbishing toilet facilities, replacing carpeting and fitting external shutters to the main doors
- Central Ajax FC to repair and resurface the access driveway

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

### Shree Krishna Community Centre

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of 11% of the total project costs, as set out in appendix one, up to a maximum of £1,364 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from WREN to approve a capital grant of £12,392 once the third party payment has been made

### Central Ajax FC

An increase to the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant awarded in January 2013 from 35% to 49% of the total project costs, as set out in appendix two. This increases the amount from up to a maximum of £15,000 to up to a maximum of £20,873 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation of planning permission to carry out the work

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 The Council operates a scheme to award Capital Improvement Grants to organisations in rural and urban areas. The grant recommended is in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the project progress.

### 3.2 Shree Krishna Community Centre

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without these premises there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and disadvantage one of the Council's priority areas. Providing the third party funding will unlock a capital grant from WREN which will enable the community centre facilities to be improved and kept more secure. This will help to keep the facility well used and potentially increase the number of users; the community will be able to continue to benefit from activities provided such as yoga sessions and dance lessons.

### Central Ajax FC

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without this organisation there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity, particularly in children, and disadvantage one of the

Council's priority areas. Maintaining the driveway will resolve current safety issues by reducing the risk of accidents and damage to vehicles that are caused by the existing poor surface and will avoid additional on-street parking. This will help to keep the facility well used and avoid other potential issues and hazards; the community will be able to continue to benefit from the sporting activities on offer.

Please note that work on the project has not yet commenced due to a funding shortfall created by an unsuccessful grant application to the King Henry VIII Trust.

#### **4. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Review supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the cross cutting themes which form the priorities for funding areas as follows:-

Engaging and supporting communities including community cohesion and Embedding sustainability.

Targeted geographical areas (Neighbourhood Anchors).

Narrowing the gaps/ families at risk

Rurality

#### **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Applications for 2013/14 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). The unallocated budget from 2012/2013 of £29,685.49, will be added to this and sits within a separate cost centre budget, this could then be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2013/2014 budget has been used.
- 5.2 There is £43,550 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2013/14. If the applications within this report for a) 11% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £1,364 and b) an additional 14% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,873 (combined maximum total of £7,237) are approved, £36,313 will remain in the Urban Cost Centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £66,500 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2013/14.

#### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 The Council has only a specific capital budget to provide grants of this nature and therefore there are no alternative sources of funding if the Council is to provide funding for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Schemes.
- 6.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

#### **7. BACKGROUND**

##### **7.1 Shree Krishna Community Centre**

Shree Krishna Community Centre has submitted an application for the Council to be a Third Party Funder for their £12,392 grant application to WREN.

The RUCIS application is for 11% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £1,364.

Shree Krishna Community Centre is not registered for VAT and will therefore not be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project.

The project includes refurbishing toilet facilities, replacing carpeting and fitting external shutters on the main doors to provide further security.

Shree Krishna Community Centre are not contributing any of their own funds to the project as they have very limited funds due to a low membership fee and offering free activities and classes. The full project costs, with the exception of the Third Party Payment, are being sought from WREN.

Leamington Town Council are not contributing to the project, however, they have written a letter of support that states; since 2007 the community centre has received a total of £6,500 in grants for a variety of projects, on this occasion the Town Council are encouraged that the community centre has applied to external funding bodies for assistance and wholeheartedly endorse the application.

Shree Krishna Community Centre has not previously been awarded a RUCIS grant.

It is recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Shree Krishna Community Centre of 11% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £1,364.

## **7.2 Central Ajax FC**

Central Ajax FC has submitted an application to increase the RUCIS grant awarded in January 2013 (No. 182) for the repair and resurfacing of the access driveway. This project has not yet commenced due to a funding shortfall created by an unsuccessful grant application to the King Henry VIII Trust.

This is a percentage increase from 35% to 49% of the total project costs, which will increase the maximum amount from up to £15,000 to up to £20,873.

Central Ajax FC are not registered for VAT and will therefore not be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project.

The existing driveway has a number of deep pot holes which are a hazard and in high levels of rainfall leave the driveway un-passable. The project will alleviate the current safety issues and reduce the risk of accidents. This will help to ensure that the organisation remains well used without creating other issues or hazards that additional on-street parking may bring.

Central Ajax FC currently has sufficient cash reserves, gained through various local fund raising events and donations, to contribute £15,903 towards the project.

Warwick Town Council has approved a contribution of £1,500 towards the project.

A planning application has been made and is now waiting for a final decision; however, Emma Spandley (WDC Planning Officer) has advised that the WDC Community Protection team has not objected subject to the applicant obtaining land drainage consent from the local land drainage authority for the construction of a structure

adjacent to and to discharge surface water flows into an ordinary watercourse. In principle, the resurfacing of the track is acceptable in Green Belts terms.

I believe that this application meets the criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant as this application is for the same project (which is yet to start) as the initial application agreed earlier this year. The percentage increase in the Council's contribution remains within the agreed criteria. Without an increased contribution from the Council the project is unlikely to be completed.

It is recommended that the Executive approves an increased award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Central Ajax FC of 49% of the total project costs inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £20,873.