

 Executive – 14th December 2011		Agenda Item No. 9
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Chris Brown Finance and Admin Support Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fasteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Budbrooke and Whitnash	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Applications file No. 163 onwards Correspondence with Applicant.	

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

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	10/11/11	Andy Jones
Head of Service		N/A
CMT	15/11/11	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	8/11/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		N/A
Finance	4/11/11	Chris Brown
Portfolio Holder(s)	7/11/11	Cllr Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Friends of Acre Close have consulted with schools, youth club, positive about young people board and the Town Council to establish needs and wants on the new play area.		
Final Decision?	Yes	

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application by Norton Lindsey Parish Council for the refurbishment/replacement of notice boards

The report also contains details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application by Whitnash Town Council for the replacement and installation of new play equipment at Acre Close.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of £800 to Norton Lindsey Parish Council for the refurbishment/replacement of notice boards, which equates to 50% of the cost as detailed in paragraph 7.1 supported by appendix 1.
- 2.2 It is also recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of £26,500 to Whitnash Town Council for the replacement and installation of new play equipment, which equates to 44% of the cost as detailed in paragraph 7.2 supported by appendix 2.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Council operates schemes to award Capital Improvement Grants to organisations in urban and rural areas. The grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the schemes progress.
- 3.2 To provide funding to help the schemes start and progress as the notice boards need replacing so that the community can be kept engaged at Norton Lindsey and the installation of new play equipment at Acre Close will encourage more use from the community to combat child obesity.

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 are 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 2011/12 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). To this has been added £114,586 which is the unallocated budget from 2010/11 which will sit in a separate cost centre and be allocated to either Rural or Urban schemes as the main budgets are used up.
- 5.2 After the grants are awarded by the November Executive, there is £15,618 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost

Centre in 2011/12 and if the applications within this report are approved, £14,818 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre.

- 5.3 After the grants are awarded by the November Executive, there is £40,077 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre in 2011/12 and if the applications within this report are approved, £13,577 will remain in the Urban Cost Centre.

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 alternatives 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 as discussed in paragraph 7.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 Norton Lindsey Parish Council

Norton Lindsey Parish Council have submitted an application in order to refurbish and replace notice boards as the existing notice boards are both too small to display all the notices or in such a state of disrepair they need replacing.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council has £58,650 in reserves.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council's last successful application from the Rural Initiative Scheme was in March 2008 for £500.

It is recommended that the Executive approves the award of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant to Norton Lindsey Parish Council of 50% of the total cost of the project exclusive of VAT subject to a maximum payment of £800

7.2 Whitnash Town Council

Whitnash Town Council have submitted an application in order to replace and install new play equipment including a toddler area at Acre Close playing fields, this is will include the removal of old play equipment which has been in situ for over 15years. The play area will be for all ages and as it is well used, it will help towards the Council's initiative of reducing obesity within children.

Whitnash Town Council are applying to WREN for a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund of £27,813 and in order to access this fund, Warwick District Council will act as a third party agent and therefore must contribute 11% of the WREN award i.e. £3,059. If this application is successful, the District Council will pay this amount to WREN and reduce the amount of grant payable to Whitnash Town Council. The total maximum support requested from the District Council will still be £26,500

Whitnash Town Council has £105,168 in reserves and from this the ongoing maintenance for the new equipment will have to be budgeted for.

Whitnash Town Council's last successful application from the Rural Initiative Scheme was in December 2008 for £4,704

It is recommended that the Executive approves the award of a Rural/Capital Improvement Grant to Whitnash Town Council of 44% of the total cost of the project exclusive of VAT subject to a maximum payment of £26,500