

 Executive – 7th August 2013		Agenda Item No. 9A
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fsteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Leek Wootton	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 185 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	16.7.13	Andy Jones
Head of Service	16.7.13	Mike Snow
CMT	16.7.13	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	16.7.13	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	16.7.13	Andy Jones
Finance	16.7.13	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	16.7.13	Cllr Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement application by Leek Wootton Sports Club to resurface the car park.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of 48% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £8,500 subject to receipt of the following:
- Written confirmation of the Parish Council approval to fund £300 of the project cost to ensure that the RUCIS grant remains as 48% of the total project cost
 - Written confirmation of planning permission to carry out the work

As supported by appendix 1.

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 This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without these premises there would be less 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 this rural area. Maintaining the car park will create additional parking capacity including two disabled parking bays and will resolve current health & safety issues by reducing the risk of accidents that are caused by the existing poor surface. 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 bridge, darts, dominoes and pool as well as the cricket and football teams.

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.
- 5.3 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2013/14. If the application within this report for 48% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £8,500 is approved, £66,500 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre budget.

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

Leek Wootton Sports Club

- 7.1 Leek Wootton Sports Club has submitted an application to resurface the car park.
- 7.2 The application is for 48% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £8,500.
- 7.3 Leek Wootton Sports Club are registered for VAT (registration number 545083349) but will not be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project as the contractor they will be using (B & M Paving) is not VAT registered.
- 7.4 The existing car park has "developed" since the sports club building was erected in the mid 1960's with a mixture of rubble, shale etc. It is now very uneven, very dusty in dry conditions, puddles in wet weather and lethal underfoot in icy weather. The project is to resurface the car park which will alleviate the current health & safety problems (vehicle accidents) in wet and icy weather conditions.
- 7.5 By resurfacing the car park and adding lines more off-street parking spaces will be created including two disabled parking bays. This will make the club's facilities more accessible and help to further increase the number of people using them.
- 7.6 A planning application has been made and is now waiting for a final decision, however, Sandip Sahota (Development Management Team Leader) has advised that he anticipates that there will be no objection in principle.
- 7.7 Leek Wootton Sports Club has stated that they will provide £8,950 (50% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves.
- 7.8 Leek Wootton Sports Club requested a £500 contribution from the Parish Council; they have had verbal confirmation that a £300 contribution has been approved and are now waiting for written confirmation.
- 7.9 Leek Wootton Sports Club has previously had a successful RUCIS application:
- £4,000 (50% of the total project costs) to purchase a new tractor in February 2010

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.