

 Executive – 26th September 2018		Agenda Item No. 9
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 email: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Lapworth	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	RUCIS Scheme details. RUCIS Application file no. 239 to 240; correspondence with applicants.	

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 Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	10.9.18	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	10.9.18	Mike Snow
CMT	10.9.18	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	10.9.18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	10.9.18	Andy Jones
Finance	10.9.18	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	10.9.18	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team, Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer), Stuart Winslow (Sports and Leisure Contract Manager) and Mair Evans (Arts Development Officer); Copy of report forwarded 22nd August 2018.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant application by Lapworth Parish Council to update / replace playground equipment that has reached the end of its life span and reposition the entrance gates to create easier access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Lapworth Parish Council of 36% of the total project costs to update / replace playground equipment and reposition the entrance gates, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8, up to a maximum of £21,741 excluding vat subject to receipt of the following:
- Written confirmation from Tesco Bags of Help to approve a capital grant of £4,000 (if a reduced amount is offered, the Parish Council will increase their contribution to the project from their cash reserves to cover the budget shortfall; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement)
 - Providing proof of ownership of the land

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 grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the projects progress.
- 3.2 The project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy; refurbishing the playground will increase opportunities for children within the community to enjoy and participate in physical activity which can potentially reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity. The project will provide new, modern, multi-purpose play equipment that will cater for a wider age-range and repositioning the entrance gates will also enable easier access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. A well used playground helps to engage and strengthen the community as it will bring together a wide range of people, for example; young people, parents, grand-parents. Without this playground, facilities within the village are very limited in addition to which is an infrequent bus service for residents without personal transport. The existing play equipment is visually jaded and nearing the end of its lifespan, to avoid health and safety issues there are increasing annual maintenance requirements, which incurs costs, for example; the ROSPA report has identified the basket swings as being a 'medium' risk due to the proximity of the uprights to the swing of the basket. The project will resolve this issue.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF):

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands; People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal, if any, in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
All RUCIS applications are designed to encourage and support local communities and local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	Through the delivery of RUCIS grants the aim is to deliver cohesive and active communities which in turn help to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	N/A
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for

the right job with the right skills and right behaviours		money
Impacts of Proposal		
N/A	N/A	N/A

- 4.2 Supporting Strategies; each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and but none are directly relevant in this case.
- 4.3 Changes to Existing Policies; there are no changes to existing policies.
- 4.4 Impact Assessments; there are no new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2018/19 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 There is £28,645 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2018/19. If the application from Lapworth Parish Council of 36% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £21,741 (excluding vat) is approved, £6,904 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £19,338 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2018/19.

As per appendix 2.

6. Risks

- 6.1 There are no main risks for this proposal.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

8. Background

Lapworth Parish Council has submitted a RUCIS application to update / replace playground equipment that has reached the end of its life span and reposition the entrance gates to create easier access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

The application is for 36% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £21,741 excluding vat.

Lapworth Parish Council has committed £7,000 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Lapworth Parish Council will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat. The vat will initially be paid from the Council's cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Lapworth Parish Council have already successfully applied for financial contributions to the project from National Lottery Awards for All and Lapworth Charity. Applications have also been made to the Dorridge Fun Run and Tesco Bags of Help; they are now waiting for confirmation of the amount to be contributed from these applications.

Lapworth Parish Council will also be committing Section 106 contributions (Kingswood Development) to this project; planning permission has already been agreed for this development and evidence has been provided for the amount of Section 106 monies to be received.

Lapworth Parish Council have previously had a RUCIS grant award:

- March 2006 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £4,840 for village hall refurbishments

There have also been the following grants awarded for Lapworth Village Hall although records from so long ago don't definitively indicate if the grants were awarded to Lapworth Parish Council for the village hall or whether the grants were awarded to the village hall as an organisation in its own right:

- 2003/04 – 40% grant awarded which equated to £4,750 for roof repairs
- 2001/02 – 45% grant awarded which equated to £9,000 for the car park
- 2000/01 - 29% grant awarded which equated to £1,00 for a dishwasher

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Lapworth Parish Council of 36% of the total costs of the project excluding vat up to a maximum of £21,741.