

Title: Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application
Lead Officer: Jon Dawson (01926 456204)
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Hales
Wards of the District directly affected: Whitnash, Kenilworth Park Hill,
Warwick Myton and Heathcote, Cubbington and Leek Wootton

Summary

This report provides details of six Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) grant applications:

- Whitnash Town Council to install a 'measured mile' path at Washbourne playing fields
- Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club to install new fencing and build two gazebos
- Kenilworth Rugby Club to create a new water borehole
- Myton Hospice to resurface their car park
- Baginton Parish Council to install new playground equipment
- London & North Western Railway Society (LNWRS) to repair a rotary scanner and purchase new equipment to include scanners, hard drives, a router and electric air duster

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant for:

- (1)** Whitnash Town Council of 50% of the total (net) project costs to install a 'measured mile' path at Washbourne Playing Fields as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 4.2.2 and 6.2 up to a maximum of £18,164 excluding VAT. As supported by appendix 1.
- (2)** Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club of 80% of the total (net) project costs to install new fencing and build two gazebos as detailed within paragraphs 1.2, 4.2.2 and 6.2, up to a maximum of £5,269 excluding VAT. As supported by appendix 2.
- (3)** Kenilworth Rugby Club of 80% of the total (net) project costs to create a water borehole as detailed within paragraphs 1.3, 4.2.2 and 6.2, up to a maximum of £8,250 excluding VAT. As supported by appendix 3. Subject to receipt of the following:
 - Written confirmation from Kenilworth Town Council to approve a capital grant of £450 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by Kenilworth Rugby Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements)
 - Provision of evidence of land ownership
 - Provision of an appropriate valid insurance certificate for the borehole facility
- (4)** Myton Hospice of 50% of the total (net) project costs to resurface their car park as detailed within paragraphs 1.4, 4.2.2 and 6.2, up to a maximum of £4,721 excluding VAT. As supported by appendix 4. Subject to receipt of the following:
 - Provision of evidence of ownership of the car park land

- Provision of an appropriate valid insurance certificate for the hospices grounds
- (5)** Baginton Parish Council of 50% of the total (net) project costs to install new playground equipment as detailed within paragraphs 1.5, 4.2.2 and 6.2, up to a maximum of £21,707 excluding VAT. As supported by appendix 5. Subject to receipt of the following:
- Evidence of increased insurance cover for playground equipment to cover both new and existing equipment
- (6)** LNWRS of 80% of the total (gross) project costs to repair a rotary scanner and purchase new equipment to include scanners, hard drives, a router and electric air duster as detailed within paragraphs 1.6, 4.2.2 and 6.2, up to a maximum of £4,437 including VAT. As supported by appendix 6. Subject to receipt of the following:
- Written confirmation from Kenilworth Town Council to approve a capital grant of £100 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by LNWRS's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements)
 - Provision of an appropriate insurance certificate covering the period 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2022
- (7)** After the approval of the above applications the scheme is then temporarily closed to enable a review of the current criteria and to look at changing the award decision process to an officer scheme of delegation.
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1 Background/Information

1.1 Whitnash Town Council:

Whitnash Town Council has submitted a RUCIS application to install a new 'measured mile' path at Washbourne Playing Fields for residents to use for exercise; the Town Council want the 'mile' to encourage people to walk, run, use wheelchairs, and push prams around it.

Projects of more than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Main Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 50% of the overall project costs or 60% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £36,327 (excluding VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 50%.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £18,164 excluding VAT.

Whitnash Town Council has committed £18,163 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.

Year-Ending 31st March 2021, Whitnash Town Council cash reserves are £1,089,845, however, please note that these high cash reserves include; Civic Centre construction funds totalling £476,352.50, other grants totalling £2851.77 and funds that the Town Council have been saving towards start up and running costs for the new Civic Centre.

Whitnash Town 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.

Whitnash Town Council have previously successfully applied for RUCIS grant awards:

- January 2019 – 80% grant awarded which equated to £1,473 for installing a height restrictor barrier at Washbourne Playing Fields
- July 2014 - additional award to grant agreed December 2013 which increased the overall award to 37% and equated to an additional £5,364 for third party payment charge for WREN grant application due to unsuccessful Sport England grant application
- December 2013 - 32% grant awarded which equated to £24,500 for installation of a "measured mile" at Acre Close Park
- December 2011 – 44% grant awarded which equated to £26,500 for the replacement and installation of new play equipment at Acre Close Park
- December 2008 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £4,704 for modernisation of play equipment; please note that there was a £359 under spend on this project
- July 2005 – 34% grant awarded which equated to £15,506 for external and internal improvements to the Community Hall and improved security; please note that there was a £2,991 under spend on this project
- December 2004 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £7,743 for replacement play equipment at Acre Close Park and Washbourne Playing Fields play areas
- December 2004 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £5,800 for Community Centre road works and levelling and paving of entrance

The application therefore meets the scheme criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.

It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Whitnash Town Council of 50% of the total costs of the project excluding vat up to a maximum of £18,164.

1.2 **Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club:**

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club has submitted a RUCIS application to install new fencing and build two gazebos. This is part of an overall project to expand the facility which will see the number of pistes (lanes) expanding from 10 to 16 and will also provide shelter to both players and spectators to enable all-year round participation.

Projects of less than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Small Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 80% of the overall project costs or 90% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £6,586 (excluding VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive

project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,269 excluding vat.

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club has committed £1,317 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.

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club will be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding VAT. The vat will initially be paid from the club's cash reserves following a loan from the Playing Captain which will be repaid when the VAT reclaim is received; these funds have been evidenced through the provision of a recent bank statement.

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club made a formal request to Whitnash Town Council for a £200 financial contribution to the project, unfortunately this was declined, the reason given was that "Whitnash Sports and Social Club is not eligible for financial aid from Whitnash Town Council as it is a private members club".

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club have never previously had a RUCIS grant award.

The application meets the scheme criteria, it is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club of 80% of the total costs of the project excluding VAT up to a maximum of £5,269.

1.3 **Kenilworth Rugby Club:**

Kenilworth Rugby Club has submitted a RUCIS application to create a new water borehole to ensure that the club can draw a measured supply of ground water on a daily basis in periods of prolonged dry weather to top up the ponds created to relocate the Great Crested Newts (a condition of Natural England for granting the relocation licence for the newts as part of the club's ground relocation) and to feed the irrigation system for the playing pitches.

It should be noted that there is a low risk that water may not be found which would result in an unsuccessful project and would still incur costs as noted on the contractors quote; "In the event of no water being found there will be a one-off charge of £2,500 to cover the cost of transportation and one days' drilling". However, Kenilworth Rugby Club believe that there is very little risk of not finding water as a full geotechnical investigation has been undertaken (report has been provided); "as part of the investigation, groundwater monitoring visits carried out to the standpipes installed in the cable percussive boreholes have recorded the presence of standing levels of groundwater at the base of CP101 and CP012 at depths of between 1.48m (CP101) and 1.82m (CP102)".

Projects of less than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Small Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 80% of the overall project costs or 90% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £8,250 (excluding VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £6,600 excluding vat.

Kenilworth Rugby Club has committed £1,200 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.

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

Kenilworth Rugby Club have made a formal request to Kenilworth Town Council for a £450 financial contribution to the project and are now awaiting a decision; if the application is unsuccessful the project shortfall will be covered by Kenilworth Rugby Club from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Kenilworth Rugby Club has previously had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- March 2018 – 80% grant awarded which equated to £7,705 to improve and redevelop clubhouse facilities; replace furniture, dim-out curtains, damaged radiators, security door, hand drier and install a new hot water tank to better provide hot water for all showers
- July 2014 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £3,628 to repair the changing room roof and provide a new irrigating system

The application therefore meets the scheme criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.

It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth Rugby Club of 80% of the total costs of the project excluding vat up to a maximum of £6,600.

1.4 **Myton Hospice:**

Myton Hospice has submitted a RUCIS application to resurface their car park.

Projects of more than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Main Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 50% of the overall project costs or 60% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £11,330 including VAT (£9,442 excluding VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 50%. The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £4,721 excluding vat.

Myton Hospice has committed £4,721 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.

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

Myton Hospice made a formal request to Warwick Town Council for a £400 financial contribution to the project, unfortunately this was declined, the reason given was "section 4 of our Grants Policy states that 'only one application will be considered from an organisation in each financial year.' We awarded and paid Myton Hospice £2,559.00 in May 2021 so unfortunately we are unable to consider any further grants from Myton Hospice until next Financial Year (started from 1st April 2022)."

Myton Hospice have never previously had a RUCIS grant award.

The application meets the scheme criteria, it is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Myton Hospice of 50% of the total costs of the project excluding VAT up to a maximum of £4,721.

1.5 **Baginton Parish Council:**

Baginton Parish Council has submitted a RUCIS application to install new playground equipment at the 'Lucy Price playground' to update the facilities and once again make it an enjoyable and safe play area for children of all ages and abilities.

Projects of more than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Main Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 50% of the overall project costs or 60% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £43,414 (excluding VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 50%.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £21,707 excluding VAT.

Baginton Parish Council has not committed a contribution to this project as they are funding other stages of the overall project which have included to-date £11,925 on repairs and refurbishing existing play equipment and ear-marking other funds for tree works around the playground area, signage with emergency details noted and other potential works not yet quoted. The £11,925 costs have been evidenced via a copy of the contractors invoices.

Baginton 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.

The remaining 50% of the project costs have been 'matched' by the 'Lucy Price Relief in Need Fund'.

Baginton Parish Council have previously successfully applied for RUCIS grant awards:

- July 2007- 50% grant awarded which equated to £1,100 for play area repairs
- February 2006 – 33% grant awarded which equated to £1,750 for a replacement bus shelter

The application therefore meets the scheme criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.

It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Baginton Parish Council of 50% of the total costs of the project excluding vat up to a maximum of £21,707.

1.6 **LNWRS:**

LNWRS has submitted a RUCIS application to repair a rotary scanner and purchase new equipment to include scanners, hard drives, a router and electric air duster .

Projects of less than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Small Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 80% of the overall project costs or 90% if it is an environmentally sensitive project; the project cost is £5,546 (including VAT), it is not an environmentally sensitive project and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £4,437 including vat.

LNWRS has committed £1,009 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.

LNWRS will not be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project therefore the award will be including VAT.

LNWRS have made a formal request to Kenilworth Town Council for a £100 financial contribution to the project and are now awaiting a decision; if the application is unsuccessful the project shortfall will be covered by LNWRS from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

LNWRS has previously had the following successful RUCIS grant:

- March 2018 – 80% grant awarded which equated to £7,885 to provide disabled access/facilities and to purchase and install security equipment for their Study Centre and purchase a large A0 scanner

The application therefore meets the scheme criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.

It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to LNWRS of 80% of the total costs of the project including vat up to a maximum of £4,437.

2 Alternative Options available to Cabinet

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded, however, this will potentially prevent the projects from being completed.

3 Consultation and Member's comments

- 3.1 Include any comments received in response to the consultation on the report.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no legal rights implications for the proposals; please note that whilst Whitnash Town Council have deemed Whitnash Sports & Social Club (WSSC) as a 'private members club' whilst declining the Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club's (WWPC) request for a financial contribution to the project, our definition, along with a number of other sports clubs that have successfully applied for RUCIS grants, is that although there is a membership scheme this is open to anyone in the community to join and guests/visitors are still able to go in/use the facilities. It is a not-for-profit organisation as there are no shareholders, no

dividends paid etc, any profits made are retained within the cash reserves for re-investing in the club. Additionally, the applicant is actually WWPC which is a sports section affiliated with WSSC but is separately run with its own committee, accounts and membership. Again, WWPC is open to anyone to join, it is run by volunteers and is a not-for-profit organisation. This all meets the RUCIS scheme criteria.

4.1.2 There are no human rights implications for the proposals.

4.2 **Financial**

4.2.1 The budget for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2021/22 is £100,000.

4.2.2 There is £63,206 remaining budget available to be allocated, if the applications from:

- Whitnash Town Council of 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £18,164 excluding VAT
- Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club of 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,269 excluding VAT
- Kenilworth Rugby Club of 80% of the total (net) project costs up to a maximum of £8,250 excluding VAT
- Myton Hospice of 50% of the total (net) project costs up to a maximum of £4,721 excluding VAT
- Baginton Parish Council of 50% of the total (net) project costs up to a maximum of £21,707 excluding VAT
- LNWRS of 80% of the total (gross) project costs up to a maximum of £4,437 including VAT

are agreed, £658 will remain in the RUCIS budget.

4.3 **Council Plan**

4.3.1 Warwick District Council's Fit for the Future (FFF):

People - Health, Homes, Communities; 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 appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe; 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 appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

4.4 **Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

4.4.1 There are no environmental implications for the proposals.

4.5 **Analysis of the effects on Equality**

4.5.1 Impact Assessments; there are no new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities

4.6 **Data Protection**

4.6.1 There are no data protection implications for the proposals.

4.7 **Health and Wellbeing**

4.7.1 All projects support a combination of potential reductions in anti-social

behaviour, obesity and social isolation.

5 Risk Assessment

5.1 There are no risks for this proposal.

6 Conclusion/Reasons for the Recommendation

6.1 Warwick District 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.

6.2 All projects meet the criteria and contribute to the minimum number of required objectives for the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy, for example; support reduction in anti-social behaviour and obesity, increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports and physical/arts/cultural activities, and engage and strengthen communities.

6.3 To maintain a 'robust' scheme periodic reviews should be undertaken to ensure that the scheme criteria remains relevant and suitable; this includes the decision making process.

Background papers:

None

Supporting documents:

Appendix 1 – Whitnash Town Council RUCIS 257 Application Details

Appendix 2 – Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club RUCIS 258 Application Details

Appendix 3 – Kenilworth Rugby Club RUCIS 259 Application Details

Appendix 4 – Myton Hospice RUCIS 260 Application Details

Appendix 5 – Baginton Parish Council RUCIS 261 Application Details

Appendix 6 – LNWRS RUCIS 262 Application Details

Appendix 7 – Summary of Financial Impact of Approving Scheme

Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

Committee/Date	9 th December 2021	
Title of report	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee *required	Date	Details of consultation /comments received
Ward Member(s)	N/A	Not applicable
Portfolio Holder WDC & SDC *	8.11.21	Cllr Hales - support
Financial Services *	8.11.21	Richard Wilson – no comments
Legal Services *	8.11.21	Phil Grafton – no comments
Other Services	N/A	Not applicable
Chief Executive(s)	8.11.21	Chris Elliott – no comments
Head of Service(s)	8.11.21	David Platts – no comments
Section 151 Officer	8.11.21	Mike Snow – no comments
Monitoring Officer	8.11.21	Phil Grafton – no comments
CMT (WDC)	22.11.21	Chris Elliott, Andy Jones, Dave Barber, Tony Perks - support
Leadership Co-ordination Group (WDC)	22.11.21	Support
Other organisations	N/A	Not applicable
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Ctte/Council?		Recommendation Cabinet Committee
Contrary to Policy/Budget framework		No
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?		No
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?		Yes – Forward Plan Item 1198
Accessibility Checked?		File/Info/Inspect Document/Check Accessibility