

 Executive – 15th October 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Rural Initiatives Grant Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Roger Wyton Principal Accountant 01926 456808 e mail: roger.wyton@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Finance	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 Initiatives Scheme details Rural Initiatives Scheme Applications file no.125 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

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	24/9/08	Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive	N/A	
CMT	24/9/08	
Section 151 Officer	24/9/08	Mary Hawkins
Legal	24/9/08	Simon Best
Finance	N/A	Report from Finance
Portfolio Holder(s)	28/9/08	Cllr. Mrs. Bunker
Consultation Undertaken		
None		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives details of an application for a Rural Initiative Grant. The Executive is asked to consider the level of funding it wishes to grant in light of the merits of the scheme and the implications on the budget remaining for this financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive considers for approval the request for a grant under the Council's Rural Initiatives Scheme and the recommendation detailed in paragraph 7.1 supported by Appendix 1.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide funding to help the scheme progress.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 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 Initiatives.
- 4.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The total budget for the Rural Initiatives Scheme Applications for 2008-09 was £100,000. At its meeting in March 2008, the Executive approved the bringing forward to 2007-08 of £11,000 in order to provide funding for the applications considered in March. Thus the budget for 2008-09 has been reduced to £89,000 of which £54,415 remained to be allocated prior to this report.
- 5.2 Appendix 2 shows the implications for this financial year of accepting the recommendation as detailed in 7.1 .

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The assistance provided to applicants under this scheme will contribute to the Council's Objective of targeting resources to the areas of greatest need.
- 6.2 The application within this report will contribute towards the new Corporate Strategy Objectives (2008-11) in terms of "Development", by helping to retain pleasant villages and making the district an attractive place to live, work and visit. It will also contribute towards the promotion of safe, vibrant and sustainable local communities.

7. APPLICATION RECEIVED

- 7.1 Leek Wootton Parish Council is applying for a £500 Rural Initiatives grant towards the cost of erecting a fence around a wooded area at the bottom of the Village Hall garden which is currently waste ground in order to provide a forest garden which can be used by users of the Village Hall and residents, young and old, alike. All users of the Village Hall, including guides, brownies and beavers support the

proposal and it also has the full support of the Village Hall and the Trustees of the Leek Wootton Memorial Recreation ground. The Pre School group and the Village Hall committee are contributing £200 each along with £100 from the Parish Council itself. This leaves £500 and it is therefore recommended that the Executive considers awarding a grant of 50% of the total cost of the project exclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £500. At the 31st March 2008, the Parish Council had available cash and reserves amounting to £3,470 which is a reduction of £658 from the balance at 31st March 2007.