

 Executive – 8th March 2017		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: center;">13B</h1>
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	Norton Lindsey, Barford, Old Milverton & Blackdown, Warwick West, Kenilworth, Stoneleigh	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 219 to 221 and file no. 222 to 224; 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	20.2.17	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	20.2.17	Mike Snow
CMT	20.2.17	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	20.2.17	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	20.2.17	Andy Jones
Finance	20.2.17	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	20.2.17	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 9 th February 2017.		
Final Decision?	Yes/No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

1.1 This report provides details of six Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant applications:

- Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club to create a 2 bay outdoor practice net and install an underground power supply from the pavilion to the nets for use of a bowling machine
- Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council to install a rubber mulch all-weather surface around the toddler's play area, public seating and recreational area on the village green
- Old Milverton Parish Room to provide a new flat roof to replace the existing roof which is at the end of its life span
- Warwick Cricket Club to purchase 2 new mowers to replace the existing mowers which are at the end of their life span
- Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club to repair and refurbish the 3 lane outdoor practice nets which are nearing the end of their life span
- Stoneleigh Village Hall to provide 3 new UPVC doors, create an outdoor patio area and redecorate the hall interior

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs to create a 2 bay outdoor practice net and install an underground power supply from the pavilion to the nets for use of a bowling machine, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £17,061 including vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Norton Lindsey Parish Council to approve a capital grant of £5,000 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by the Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts)
- Written confirmation from the England Cricket Board to approve a capital grant of £10,000 (or if declined, or a reduced amount is offered, an alternative capital grant provider)
- Written confirmation from Heart of England Community Fund to approve a capital grant of £2,000 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by the Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts or alternatively another capital grant provider)

As supported by appendix 1.

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council of 50% of the total project costs to install a rubber mulch all-weather surface around the toddler's play area, public seating and recreational area on the village green, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.2, up to a maximum of £5,387 excluding vat.

As supported by appendix 2.

Old Milverton Parish Room

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for the Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total project costs to provide a new flat roof, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.3, up to a maximum of £4,603 including vat.

As supported by appendix 3.

Warwick Cricket Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Warwick Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs to purchase 2 new mowers, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.4, up to a maximum of £7,520 including vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Warwick Town Council to approve a capital grant of £675 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by the Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts)

As supported by appendix 4.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs to repair and refurbish the 3 lane outdoor practice nets, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.5, up to a maximum of £6,228 excluding vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Kenilworth Town Council to approve a capital grant of £2,000 (or if declined, or a reduced amount is offered, an alternative capital grant provider)

As supported by appendix 5.

Stoneleigh Village Hall

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Stoneleigh Village Hall of 50% of the total project costs to provide 3 new UPVC doors, create an outdoor patio area and redecorate the hall interior, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.6, up to a maximum of £7,253 including vat.

As supported by appendix 6.

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 All projects contribute to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy:

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as the introduction of an all-weather practice facility will increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activity and help to reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity, including in children. This new facility will support the introduction of competitive matches for the junior section and for the first time, entry of a 3rd XI in the Cotswold Hills cricket league. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as the introduction of a rubber mulch flooring around the toddler's play area, public seating and recreational area on the village green will ensure that this is a usable facility in all-weathers, all-year round which will increase opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in physical activity and help to reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity, particularly in children. An all-weather facility will enable residents to get out more throughout the year and meet each other which will further strengthen and engage the community.

Old Milverton Parish Room

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the Parish Room there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in physical, social, arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in disengaging and weakening the community and an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity. If the project work isn't carried out in the near future the facility will become unusable as the existing flat roof is at the end of its life span; it leaks and has caused damage to the internal structure. Additionally there is no roof insulation which makes the kitchen and toilets cold and prone to condensation.

Warwick Cricket Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the cricket club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activity which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity (particularly in children) and disengage and weaken the community. The project will enable volunteers to have more time coaching and interacting with people rather than continually repairing existing equipment which is at the end of its useful life span, this will help to further engage and strengthen the community and will also increase opportunity for members of the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activity.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the cricket club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activity which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity (particularly in children) and disengage and weaken the community. If the project work isn't carried out in the near future the outdoor cricket net facilities will become unusable as they are nearing the end of their life span; if they are not repaired and refurbished health & safety issues will increase and make them unusable.

Stoneleigh Village Hall

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the Village Hall and playing fields there would be fewer 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 obesity, particularly in children. The redecoration of the interior will keep the hall maintained in a good condition to enable current activities and bookings to continue, possibly attracting more bookings and usage. Additionally, the provision of a new patio area adjoining the hall will enable more activities and events to be held which will increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in physical, social, arts and cultural activities as well as offering further opportunity to reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 The Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the cross cutting themes which form the priorities for funding areas as follows:-

- Community Engagement & Cohesion (including Families at Risk)
- Targeting disadvantaged rural locations
- Reducing inequalities

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2016/17 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).

5.2 As part of the February 2016 Budget report it was agreed that in future the unallocated RUCIS budget would no longer be carried forward, but returned to the Council's overall finances.

5.3 There is £44,565 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2016/17. If the applications from:

- Warwick Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £7,520 (including vat)
- Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £4,982 (excluding vat)

Within this report are approved, £32,063 will remain in the urban cost centre budget.

5.4 There is £37,083 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2016/17. If the applications from:

- Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £17,061 (including vat)
- Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £5,387 (excluding vat)
- Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £4,603 (including vat)
- Stoneleigh Village Hall of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £7,253 (including vat)

Within this report are approved, £2,779 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.

As per appendix 7.

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

8.1 Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club:

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to create a 2 bay outdoor practice net and install an underground power supply from the pavilion to the nets for use of a bowling machine.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £17,061 (including vat).

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club have committed £61 to the project costs from their cash reserves; however, in the event of other grant applications being declined or lesser amounts offered, the Club will fund any budget shortfall from their cash reserves which has been evidenced through their annual accounts.

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club isn't registered for vat and therefore will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council have confirmed that they are willing to provide a grant of £5,000 towards the project, however, this needs to be agreed with Warwickshire County Council in connection with a release of "depot money" in 2001.

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club have applied to the English Cricket Board and also Heart of England Community Fund for capital grants and are waiting for decisions.

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club have previously had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- 2001/02 – 35% grant awarded which equated to £3,000 (there's no record of what the project entailed)
- August 2009 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £6,000 to extend the cricket pavilion

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 the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Cricket Club of 50% of the total cost of the project including vat up to a maximum of £17,061.

8.2 **Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council:**

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council has submitted a RUCIS application to install a rubber mulch all-weather surface around the toddler's play area, public seating and recreational area on the village green.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,387 excluding vat.

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council have committed £5,387 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts.

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council are able to reclaim vat, the award will therefore exclude vat.

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council have previously had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- In 1998/99 (Barford Village Green) - 46% grant awarded which equated to £5,020 (there's no record of what the project entailed)
- June 2008 (Barford Parish Council) - 50% grant awarded which equated to £1,135 to refurbish bus shelters

- June 2012 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £2,439 for roof insulation for the Memorial Hall
- December 2014 - 30% grant awarded which equated to £30,000 to replace, upgrade and extend the play area located at the King George's playing fields. Please note that this grant was subsequently withdrawn and replaced by a grant for a higher amount from the Chief Executive's Office

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 the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council of 50% of the total project costs excluding vat up to a maximum of £5,387.

8.3 **Old Milverton Parish Room**

The Old Milverton Parish Room has submitted a RUCIS application for a new flat roof to replace the existing roof which is at the end of its life span.

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; the project cost is £5,754 (including vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is therefore for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £4,603.

The Old Milverton Parish Room have committed £151 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

The Old Milverton Parish Room isn't registered for vat and therefore will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

Old Milverton and Blackdown Parish Council support the project and have approved a £1,000 contribution towards the total project costs.

The Old Milverton Parish Room has not previously had a RUCIS grant award.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to the Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £4,603.

8.4 **Warwick Cricket Club**

Warwick Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to purchase 2 new mowers to replace the existing mowers which are at the end of their life span.

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; the project cost is £9,400 (including vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is therefore for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £7,520 including vat.

Warwick Cricket Club has committed £1,205 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

An application has been made to Warwick Town Council for a contribution of £675 towards this project and is now awaiting a decision; if the Town Council decline the application or offer a reduced amount, Warwick Cricket Club will cover the budget shortfall from their cash reserves, these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Warwick Cricket Club is a section of Warwick Sports Club which is vat registered (number; 585055327) although they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project as it would put them over their claim amount threshold; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

With regards to multi-sports organisations, the RUCIS scheme criteria states:

“Multi-sport organisations that are legally one entity but with separate sports activities that are operated and managed independently on a day-to-day basis with separate memberships, committees, volunteers, constitutions and bank accounts;

- Each individual sport organisation can apply for a grant in their own right for a project that is connected to their sport / facilities only. Grants will only be awarded once in a 2 year period.
- If the project is for a shared facility, for example, a clubhouse used by each organisation; providing one of the individual sports organisations has not had a grant within the last 2 years and are prepared to be the applicant, a grant may be awarded. Grants will only be awarded once in a 2 year period.”

Warwick Cricket Club are applying for a grant to purchase equipment which is for the sole use of their sport organisation and they have never previously had a RUCIS grant award; the application therefore meets the scheme criteria noted above.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Warwick Cricket Club of 80% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £7,520.

8.5 **Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club**

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to repair and refurbish the 3 lane outdoor practice nets which are nearing the end of their life span.

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; the project cost is £6,228 (excluding vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is therefore for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £4,982 excluding vat.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has committed £492 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club is vat registered (number; 273589517); they will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat.

An application has been made to Kenilworth Town Council for a contribution of £2,000 towards this project and is now awaiting a decision.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has not previously had a RUCIS grant award.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total cost of the project excluding vat subject to a maximum of £4,982.

8.6 **Stoneleigh Village Hall**

Stoneleigh Village Hall has submitted a RUCIS application to provide 3 new UPVC doors, create an outdoor patio area and redecorate the hall interior.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £7,253 including vat.

Stoneleigh Village Hall has committed £3,554 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Stoneleigh Village Hall isn't registered for vat and therefore will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

Stoneleigh Parish Council supports the project and has approved a £100 contribution towards the total project costs.

Stoneleigh Village Hall has already had grant applications approved by the following organisations; Stoneleigh Ladies Choir, Stoneleigh Male Choir, Stoneleigh United Charity and the Women's Institute.

Stoneleigh Village Hall has previously had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- December 2004 - 25% grant awarded which equated to £2,281 for resurfacing the car park
- April 2012 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £30,000 for redeveloping tennis courts

- September 2014 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £19,081 to a) combine two small rooms into one larger room, b) create direct access from the enlarged room onto the stage in the main hall and, c) construct a storage area that leads directly from the main hall to the stage

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 the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Stoneleigh Village Hall of 50% of the total project costs including vat up to a maximum of £7,253.