

 Executive – 2nd July 2014		Agenda Item No. 6A
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Applications	
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	Kenilworth and Whitnash	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 194 onwards and applications file 197 onwards; 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 & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	16.6.14	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	16.6.14	Mike Snow
CMT	16.6.14	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	16.6.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	16.6.14	Andy Jones
Finance	16.6.14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	16.6.14	Cllr Cross
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer) –Copy of report forwarded 5 th June 2014 and 20 th June 2014		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides details of two Rural/Urban Capital Improvement applications:

- Whitnash Town Council to be the third party payment provider for a grant application made to WREN to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park.
- Kenilworth RFC to a) repair the changing room roof to seal a significant leak and to prevent water ingress and b) provide a new irrigating system for the main playing pitch to adequately water the pitch to encourage appropriate grass growth and recovery.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Whitnash Town Council

An increase to the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant awarded in December 2013 from 32% to 37% of the total project costs, as set out in appendix one, to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park. This increases the amount from up to a maximum of £24,500 to up to a maximum of £29,864 subject to receipt of the following:

- Confirmation that the original quote from the chosen supplier remains valid to ensure that the project remains within criteria
- Written confirmation from WREN to approve a capital grant of £48,767 once the third party payment has been made

Kenilworth RFC

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of 50% of the total project costs, as set out in appendix two, to a) repair the changing room roof to seal a significant leak and to prevent water ingress and b) provide a new irrigating system for the main playing pitch to adequately water the pitch to encourage appropriate grass growth and recovery, up to a maximum of £3,628 subject to receipt of the following:

- A third quote for the supply of the irrigation system equipment
- Written confirmation of funding decision from Kenilworth Town Council; if approved, the contribution from Kenilworth RFC's cash reserves will be reduced accordingly

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 Whitnash Town Council

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as the creation of the "measured mile" will provide an increased opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in a sporting / health & wellbeing activity which could potentially help to reduce obesity, particularly in children, and also help to reduce anti-social behaviour. The park, including the planned measured mile, helps to target disadvantage as it provides a free leisure facility for the whole community to use; this helps residents who cannot afford to travel to other areas for sports facilities / exercise, it is also on a main bus route and close to shops creating opportunity for local businesses / shops. The Community came together to support the first phase of improvements to the park and are again supporting this next phase, for example; The "Friends of Acre Close" voluntary group gathered feedback and views from the community on behalf of the Town Council by completing questionnaire's with residents at a fun day; this shows the level of engagement the project has created within the community. The Measured Mile also gives additional opportunity for the park to be used and enjoyed by a wide range of residents of all ages from across the community; this also helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Kenilworth RFC

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without this organisation there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and an increase in obesity, particularly in children. A new irrigation system will ensure that the main pitch has the capacity to be used more frequently which will increase opportunities for members of the community to enjoy and participate in sports activities.

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
Narrowing The Gaps

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2014/15 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 The unallocated budget from 2013/2014 of £33,634 will be requested to be considered as slippage as part of the June Final Accounts Report. This budget will sit within a separate cost centre budget so as to be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2014/2015 budget has been used.
- 5.3 There is £61,750 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2014/15. If the applications within this report (Whitnash Town Council up to a maximum of

£5,364 and Kenilworth RFC up to a maximum of £3,628) are approved, £52,758 will remain in the Urban Cost Centre budget.

- 5.4 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2014/15.

6. RISKS

- 6.1 There are no main risks for these proposals.

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 Whitnash Town Council

Whitnash Town Council has submitted an application to increase the RUCIS grant awarded in December 2013 (No. 190) to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park. This project has not yet commenced due to a funding shortfall created by an unsuccessful grant application to Sport England.

Whitnash Town Council have submitted a new grant application to WREN; grants from WREN are liable for a third party payment charge before the grant funds can be released, this additional application is to cover the third party payment charge should the WREN grant application be successful.

This is a percentage increase from 32% to 37% of the total project costs, which will increase the maximum amount from up to £24,500 to up to £29,864.

Whitnash Town Council are registered for VAT; they will be reclaiming the VAT in connection to this project therefore the award is excluding VAT.

Whitnash Town Council has stated that they will provide £2,000 (2.5% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves. The Town Council will also put in £500 per annum in their precept to cover any running costs; they also have a vandalism amount in their precept each year.

Whitnash Town Council has previously had successful RUCIS applications:

- o £26,500 (44% of the total project costs) for the replacement and installation of new play equipment at Acre Close in December 2011
- o £4,704 (50% of the total project costs) for modernisation of play equipment in December 2008 – please note that there was a £359 under spend on this project

- o £15,506 (34% of the total project costs) for external and internal improvements to the Community Hall and improved security in July 2005 – please note that there was a £2,991 under spend on this project
- o £7,743 (50% of the total project costs) for replacement play equipment at Acre Close and Washbourne play areas in December 2004
- o £5,800 (50% of the total project costs) for Community Centre road works and levelling and paving of entrance in December 2004

I believe that 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 as this application is for the same project (which is yet to start) as the initial application agreed in December 2013. The percentage and grant amount increases in the Council's contribution remains within the agreed criteria. Without an increased contribution from the Council the project is unlikely to be completed.

It is recommended that the Executive approves an increased award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Whitnash Town Council of 37% of the total project costs excluding VAT subject to a maximum of £29,864.

8.2 **Kenilworth RFC**

Kenilworth RFC has submitted a RUCIS application to a) repair the changing room roof to seal a significant leak and to prevent water ingress and b) provide a new irrigating system for the main playing pitch to adequately water the pitch to encourage appropriate grass growth and recovery

As part of the local plan there is a possibility of Kenilworth RFC relocating to new land within the next 3 to 5 year period, however, the irrigation equipment / system is needed now to enable continued and increased use of the main playing pitch. The irrigation equipment represents 35% of the total project net costs; it is moveable should the club relocate to new land.

The RUCIS application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £3,628.

Kenilworth RFC are registered for VAT; they will be reclaiming the VAT in connection to this project therefore the award is excluding VAT.

Kenilworth RFC has committed £912 to the net project costs from their cash reserves.

A grant application has been made to Kenilworth Town Council, we are now waiting for their decision; if the Town Council agree to contribute to the project, Kenilworth RFC's contribution from cash reserves will be reduced accordingly.

Kenilworth RFC hasn't previously received any RUCIS grants.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth RFC of 50% of the total cost of the project excluding VAT subject to a maximum of £3,628.