

 Executive – 10th February 2016		Agenda Item No. 10A
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	Old Milverton and Blackdown, 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application file no. 206 to 208 and file no. 213; 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
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	25.1.16	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	25.1.16	Mike Snow
CMT	25.1.16	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	25.1.16	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	25.1.16	Andy Jones
Finance	25.1.16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	25.1.16	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 14 th January 2016.		
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 Scheme grant applications:

Leamington Netball Club to;

- Build and equip a purpose built courtside facility to provide disabled / wheelchair access, two toilets (one of which will be a disabled toilet), a social / mentoring / de-brief area and a kitchen / refreshment facility.
- Raise the two perimeter fences that are not currently at full height to reduce anti-social behaviour when not in use, ensure that safety aspects are covered by reducing the number of occasions of netballs going over the fence onto either the car park or Leamington Rugby Club's 3rd team pitch and support the club's safeguarding policy for young female players.

Lapworth Cricket Club to;

- Build a new patio area and walkway either side of the existing pavilion to resolve health & safety issues with the current uneven surface and to create an enlarged amenity and leisure area for the increasing number of players and spectators.
- Provide power to the equipment shed and score box to enable the club to carry out their own basic maintenance which will reduce costs, to enable an electronic scoring device to be installed and also enable the use of power tools in that part of the ground, for example, leaf blowers and hedge cutters.

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Leamington Netball Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Leamington Netball Club of 42% of the total project costs to build and equip a purpose built courtside facility and raise the height of two perimeter fences, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from BiffaAward (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £30,000

As supported by appendix 1.

Lapworth Cricket Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs to build a new patio and walkway and to provide power to the equipment shed and score box, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.2, up to a maximum of £11,716 including vat. As supported by appendix 2.

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

Leamington Netball Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the netball club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activities 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 provide disabled access to facilities and increase court usage thus providing increased opportunity for the community to participate in sporting activity and it will also improve safeguarding of under 16's players.

Lapworth 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 activities 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 provide disabled access to the cricket pavilion and will also provide a leisure and seating area which will improve opportunities for the community to participate in sporting and social activity. The club also helps to tackle disadvantage in a rural area as there are no bus services in the village and as a result the club offers the only sporting facilities to those members and families of the local community who do not have access to their own means of transportation. The nearest sporting facilities outside of Lapworth are at Hockley Heath where they play football on the recreation ground or travelling further afield to Claverdon to participate in Rugby. The nearest cricket clubs to Lapworth Cricket Club's Melson Memorial Park ground are Dorridge Cricket Club and Rowington Cricket Club, neither of these two venues have any public transportation links with Lapworth which is approx. 2 miles from each club both served by very busy roads with little or no pedestrian provision.

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 2015/16 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 In addition there is the unallocated budget from 2014/2015 plus underspends from closed projects in 2015/2016 of £132,886 which sits within a separate cost centre budget; this could then be used for either rural or urban schemes once the 2015/16 budget has been used.
- 5.3 There is no budget remaining for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2015/16.
- 5.4 There is £59,206 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2015/16. If the applications within this report from:

Leamington Netball Club of 42% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.

Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £11,718 including vat.

Are approved, a total of £41,718 will be awarded leaving £17,488 remaining in the rural cost centre budget.

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 Leamington Netball Club:

Leamington Netball Club has submitted a RUCIS application to:

- Build and equip a purpose built courtside facility to provide disabled / wheelchair access, two toilets (one of which will be a disabled toilet), a social / mentoring / de-brief area and a kitchen / refreshment facility
- Raise the two perimeter fences that are not currently at full height to reduce anti-social behaviour when not in use, ensure that safety aspects are covered by reducing the number of occasions of netballs going over the fence onto either the car park or Leamington Rugby Club's 3rd team pitch and support the club's safeguarding policy for young female players

The application is for 42% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000.

Leamington Netball Club has committed £10,102 to the project from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Leamington Netball Club is a section of Leamington Rugby Club which is vat registered (number; 272935339) although they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

Leamington Town Council has approved a £2,000 contribution to the project.

Leamington Netball Club has applied to BiffaAward for a £30,000 capital grant; a copy of the application has been provided. They are now waiting for a decision.

Leamington Netball Club was formerly AP Netball Club, they lost their playing facilities when AP sold off their sports facilities around 1990; due to this situation Leamington Rugby Club offered to provide the netball club with space on their ground to build a new netball court which was achieved via grants from the Sports Council, Warwick District Council and local fundraising. Leamington Netball Club thus became an integral part of the rugby club; legally they are one entity although they are operationally separate in relation to the playing of two different sports. Leamington Netball Club has its own organisational structure, committee and membership, totally separate from the rugby club.

Whilst Leamington Netball Club has not previously had a RUCIS grant award, Leamington Rugby Club have had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- £1,914 (50% of the total project costs) for replacing the drainage / sewage system in December 2010
- £3,013 (50% of the total project costs) for energy saving alterations to the cellar coolers in November 2011
- £36,000 (41% of the total project costs) to build an extension to install disabled toilet facilities, refurbish female and male toilet facilities and create disabled access to the main entrance in February 2014.

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 Leamington Netball Club of 42% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £30,000.

8.2 Lapworth Cricket Club:

Lapworth Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to;

- Build a new patio area and walkway either side of the existing pavilion to resolve health & safety issues with the current uneven surface and to

create an enlarged amenity and leisure area for the increasing number of players and spectators.

- Provide power to the equipment shed and score box to enable the club to carry out their own basic maintenance which will reduce costs, to enable an electronic scoring device to be installed and also enable the use of power tools in that part of the ground, for example, leaf blowers and hedge cutters.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £11,718.

Lapworth Cricket Club has committed £11,218 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Lapworth Cricket Club is not registered for vat and therefore will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

Lapworth Parish Council have approved a £500 contribution to the project.

Lapworth 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 Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £11,718.