

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



13 March 2020

Our Ref Southern Rural 26.03.2020
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Claire Strong (Chair), Councillor Faye S Frost (Vice-Chair), Councillor David Barnard, Councillor John Bishop, Councillor George Davies, Councillor Steve Deakin-Davies, Councillor Ian Moody, Councillor Lisa Nash, Councillor Sam North and Councillor Terry Tyler

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES. GERNON ROAD,
LETCWOTH GARDEN CITY**

On

THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2020 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda **Part I**

Item	Page
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. MINUTES - 8 JANUARY 2020 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 8 January 2020.	(Pages 5 - 10)
3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
5. HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY To receive a presentation from Hertfordshire Constabulary.	
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions and presentations from members of the public including: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Codicote Tennis Club;2. Offley Entertainment Committee;3. Preston Summer Swim; and4. St Pauls Warden Primary School PTA.	

7. GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE (Pages
REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER 11 - 20)

To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee budgets.

To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 2016.

8. WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

To receive any verbal reports from Members regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.

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Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
GERNON ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY
ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JANUARY, 2020 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors Claire Strong (Chairman), Faye S Frost (Vice-Chairman), David Barnard, John Bishop, George Davies, Steve Deakin-Davies, Ian Moody and Sam North*

In Attendance: *Louise Symes (Strategic Infrastructure and Projects Manager), Claire Morgan (Community Engagement Team Leader), Marie Pritchett, Hilary Dineen (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager) and Matthew Hepburn (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 3 members of the public.*

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio Recording – 30 Seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Tyler.

19 MINUTES - 10 OCTOBER 2019

Audio Recording – 47 Seconds

Prior to the Minutes of the 10 October 2019 being approved, Members entered into a discussion in relation to their request to have an update on the Local Plan.

In respect to points raised by Members, the Strategic Infrastructure & Projects Manager was able to offer the following responses:

- Concerns raised by the Members would be reported back and raised with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport;
- Although disappointing for Members, the Strategic Planning Manager was not able to provide an update on the Local Plan as there was nothing currently for Members to be updated on and;
- Comments had been submitted to the Inspector and there was now a wait to hear back from the Planning Inspector.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 October 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman;
- (2) That the Strategic Planning Manager be requested to provide an update on the Local Plan at the next meeting of the Southern Rural Committee on 26 March 2020.

20 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio Recording – 13 Minutes 20 Seconds

There was no other business notified.

21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 13 Minutes 25 Seconds

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting;
- (2) The Chairman reminded those present that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant that, as this was an emergency, all of us, officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District;
- (3) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (4) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

22 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording – 14 Minutes 40 Seconds

The Community Engagement Team Leader presented the report entitled Grants and Community Update and advised the following:

- Owing to the change of date for that meeting, as a result of the Parliamentary Election, it was felt that the delay in the provision of funding to the Codicote Pre-School for £750 would detrimentally affect the project. The grant was therefore decided under delegated decision by the Service Director – Legal and Community;
- There was £10,982 left for allocation at the last meeting of the financial year in March;
- The deadline for receiving grant applications was 31 January 2020 and;
- Anyone wishing to apply for a grant could do so by emailing the Community Engagement Team Leader directly or contacting the Community Engagement Team.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor David Barnard

The Community Engagement Team Leader provided the following responses to questions raised:

- The ability for Parish Councils to apply for grant funding would be discussed later in that meeting under agenda item Community Grants Policy Review.

RESOLVED: That the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area be endorsed.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- (3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

23 NHDC PARKING STRATEGY DRAFT PARKING OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Audio Recording – 17 Minutes 40 Seconds

The Parking Projects Officer and the Strategic Infrastructure & Projects Manager presented the report entitled NHDC Parking Strategy Draft Parking Operational Guidelines and advised the following:

- The North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Strategy 2019-2031 was approved in January 2019;
- New opportunities to manage the parking stock across the District and generate additional income has been included in the draft Parking Operational Guidelines, which included;
 - Other Services in Council Car Parks;
 - Charging for On-Street Parking;
 - Employee Parking Schemes and;
 - Sale of Permits to Non-Residents in Controlled Parking Zones.
- The North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Operational Guidelines document should be read alongside the Parking Strategy;
- It was important that the Parking Operational Guidelines remained a living document in order to ensure it provided a flexible approach to emerging issues;
- The Parking Issues Reporting Pack allowed members of the public to report parking issues;
- The Reporting Pack sought to educate members of the public on parking related issues and different types of parking controls;
- Applicants must keep a log of parking issues over a four week period in order to allow for the severity to be assessed;
- 80% of residents must agree with the parking issue and;
- A similar report pack was in use at Hertfordshire County Council.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Faye Frost;
- Councillor John Bishop and;
- Councillor George Davies.

Points raised by Members were as follows:

- The cost of a replacement permit;
- The Lairage multi-storey car park in Hitchin bay monitoring system proposal;
- Income generated by Penalty Charge Notices from off-street parking;
- Car sharing incentives and;
- Advancements in technology in order to help Parking Enforcement Officers know the time a vehicle parked.

The Parking Projects Officer and the Strategic Infrastructure & Project Manager provided the following responses to questions and points raised by Members:

- Councillors and members of the public had reported the issue of motorists having no way of knowing whether parking spaces were available in lower levels at the Lairage multi-storey car park in Hitchin; a bay monitoring system or some form of electronic signage to inform drivers in advance, was given as an example as a way of addressing that problem;
- There was no cost to a replacement permit at present, and the draft Guidelines were looking to introduce this;
- More Penalty Charge Notices were issued to vehicles parked on street parking compared to off-street parking;
- Implementing technology such as Induction Software was being looked into. However, there was a huge cost associated to that work;
- Car sharing incentives were being looked into under the Electric Vehicle Strategy and;
- Ways in which to promote and publicise the Parking Reporting Pack were being considered.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Draft North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Operational Guidelines at Appendix A of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Draft North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Issues Reporting Pack 1 and Part 2 at Appendix B and C of the report be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That the Draft North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Operational Guidelines at Appendix A be considered and adopted, subject to the following amendments:
 - The deletion of point 7 on page 42 of the report as the resourcing cost was covered in point 5 on page 42 of the report;
 - The deletion of 'and at least once during the life of NHDC parking strategy' under Policy 5 – Off-street Car Park Tariff Reviews on page 42;
 - Add 'if required' to the end of point 3 on page 42 of the report.
- (2) That the Draft North Hertfordshire District Council Parking Issues Reporting Pack 1 and Part 2 at Appendix B and C be considered and adopted;
- (3) That delegated authority be given to Service Director - Regulatory to approve minor amendments and format changes to the draft Parking Operational Guidelines as required in consultation with the Executive Member and Deputy for Planning and Transport;

- (4) That officers proceed with the work associated with the key projects listed in the Parking Strategy Strategic Action Plan using the Parking Operational Guidelines to implement the policy framework.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The draft Parking Operational Guidelines will provide the necessary guidance and assessment criteria for the Parking Strategy policy framework for managing parking across the District in a most cost efficient way that accords with the Council's Corporate Objectives and its Medium Term Financial Strategy.

24 COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

Audio Recording – 45 Minutes

The Community Engagement Team Leader presented the report entitled Community Grants Policy Review and advised the following:

- The report outlined the proposed changes to the grants policy;
- The process had been simplified;
- The policy was last reviewed in 2016;
- Changes to the eligibility criteria were on page 90 of the report at paragraph 8.2.1;
- Organisations with charitable status, voluntary sector groups, community groups, Community Interest Companies, Community Interest Organisations, Schools, Academies, Business Improvement District Groups, Parish and Town Councils were now able to apply for grants;
- The 2016 Policy stated that applicants were ineligible for funding if they had other funding from NHDC within 2 years. This would no longer apply under the new policy;
- These changes would encourage a variety of organisations to apply and;
- The new criteria was similar to that of other local authorities.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor John Bishop;
- Councillor David Barnard;
- Councillor Faye Frost;
- Councillor George Davies;
- Councillor Claire Strong and;
- Councillor Sam North.

Members raised the following:

- There was a concern expressed in relation to the policy change detailed at paragraph 8.2.3 in regards to allowing applicants to apply for a grant despite receiving funds within the 2 years;
- The types of organisations that would be eligible for funding and;
- Whether grants should only be awarded to organisations based within North Hertfordshire rather than the broader eligibility criteria of 'be for the benefit of North Hertfordshire residents' as detailed on page 96 of the report under Eligibility Criteria.

The Community Engagement Team Leader provided the following responses to points and questions raised:

- In order to be eligible for funding, organisations would need to be a CIC/CIO, hold charity status or have a Constitution;
- Area Committee Grants were not as substantial as pre-2016;

- District wide Community Grant applicants may be considered by a proposed District-wide panel and;
- A proposed change in the Council's constitution will allow for the relevant Executive Member to authorise a District-wide grant.

RESOLVED: That the proposed review of the Community Grants Policy and criteria be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the criteria and outline consultation process be approved, subject to the following amendments:

- Grant eligibility criteria clause B on page 96 of the report - grants to only be given to organisations based within the North Hertfordshire District rather than broadly 'be for the benefit of North Hertfordshire residents.'

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of grant funding awards to organisations, charities and voluntary groups, and the use of grant budgets devolved to Area Committees allows the Authority to further its aims and overarching Priorities of the Council and District.

25 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 1 Hour 7 Minutes 15 Seconds

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Southern Rural Committee would be held on 26 March 2020 at 8pm as there would be a pre-meet with Parish Councils from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for grant applications was 31 January 2020.

RESOLVED: That an informal discussion between Members and Parish Councils prior to the Southern Rural Committee meeting on 26 March 2020 named Village Voices be arranged.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform Members about Ward Matters.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman

**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE
26 MARCH 2020**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CURRENT COUNCIL PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT
/ RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

NEW COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COUNCIL / BUILD
THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES / RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE
ENVIRONMENT / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY /

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officers have been involved in.
- 1.4 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee be recommended to consider the provision of grant funding to the organisations outlined below:
- 2.2 **£3,500 to Codicote Tennis Club** towards resurfacing the tennis courts as outlined in 8.1.1
- 2.3 **£500 to Offley Entertainment Committee** towards the promotion of the VE Day/Weekend events. 8/10th May 2020 as outlined in 8.1.2
- 2.4 **£600 to Preston Summer Swim** towards the cost of Lifeguard training as outlined in 8.1.3
- 2.5 **£810 to St Pauls Warden Primary School PTA** towards the cost of purchasing a bicycle shelter as outlined in 8.1.4
- 2.8 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- 3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However, in the course of debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items included within this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place regarding funding proposals for Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee's discretion.
- 7.2 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1. Southern Rural Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2019/20. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant	Codicote Tennis Club
Project	Resurfacing the tennis courts
Sum requested	£3,500
Total project cost	£53,300
Joint funding	£13,500 Fundraising £34,500 from Clubs' funds
Annual expenditure 2018	£11,722
Funds held (year end 2018)	£53,000 Including fixed assets
Previous support	£4,250 between 2006 and 2016
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Current Priority	Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect
New Council Priorities	Build thriving and resilient communities / respond to challenges to the environment / enable an enterprising and co-operative economy

Over the last 5 years several tennis clubs within the area have re-surfaced their courts with artificial turf (Advantage Pro) which now appears to be the playing surface of choice. It is a competitive and performance surface suitable for all players helping to improve ability and mobility. It has the added advantage of supporting an ageing membership as it is kinder on players joints (more forgiving than a hard surface) and has better grip in the wet. Overall an improvement to health & safety. The club are beginning to find themselves at a disadvantage to some other clubs and with their ageing membership they wish to provide improved facilities for both members and the wider community. The improved surface will help to (i) attract more members to the sport (ii) retain the ageing members, and (iii) assist with avoiding injury and enabling members / non-members to enjoy playing for as long as possible - ultimately leading to improved health benefits.

The Codicote Tennis Club provide sports and social activities to the local community, and currently have c130 active members, lower than previous years, which is believed to be because the facilities are no longer compatible with some other clubs. The membership costs are set at a competitive level (lower than other Clubs in the area) to ensure the sport is not seen as elitist. They also offer free memberships to financially disadvantaged individuals. Whilst this is a member's club with fee income to support the overall expenses and infrastructure of the Club, non-members can hire the courts. They also offer the courts for free for charity and community fundraising events - which has been a regular feature for many years. They run social activities and encourage visitors to attend. We have successfully held several events this year raising £1,600 of profit towards the costs of the new courts.

The club's activities / courts are available 365 days a year between sunrise and 10pm. The club run regular sessions including leagues and competitions for members throughout the year. They also have a twice weekly session where non-members or people new to the sport can trial our facilities and learn to play, before deciding on whether to join and become more involved in tennis.

The Club will be using £34,500 of their existing sinking fund put aside to support infrastructure. They have secured £10,000 from the Luton Airport Fund, £2500 from the Parish Council and £1,000 from the HCC Cllrs Locality Budget. In addition, they have raised £1,800 from fund raising events.

The club are requesting £2,000 above the £1,500 suggested within the current grant policy. However, the committee can agree to provide funding of any amount if the funds are available within the budget.

8.1.2

Applicant Project	Offley Entertainment Committee (OEC) promotion of the VE Day/Weekend events. 8/10th May 2020
Sum requested	£500
Total project cost	£1,500
Joint funding	£500 Parish Council, £500 Pilkington Farm Partnership
Annual expenditure	The OEC has not operated since 2014 and therefore have no accounts or funds.
Funds held	None
Previous support	
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Current Priority	Attractive & Thriving
New Council Priorities	Be a more welcoming and inclusive council / build thriving and resilient communities / respond to challenges to the environment

The OEC have been resurrected to hold funds needed to promote the VE Day / Weekend events in Offley. Organisations from the village are working in partnership to put on a programme of events over the weekend of Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May.

The OEC are working in partnership with Offley Recreation Centre, Offley Place Hotel, St Mary Magdalene church and other local businesses and public houses.

The draft itinerary so far is as follows:

Friday 8th May

VE Family Celebration Day at Offley Recreation Centre

Saturday 9th May

VE Day Celebration Ball to held at Offley Place Country Hotel

Sunday 10th May – events at St Mary Magdalene Church.

8.1.3

Applicant	Preston Summer Swim Club
Project	Training lifeguards
Sum requested	£600
Total project cost	£2000
Joint funding	£1400 from income raised
Annual expenditure	£2000
Funds held	None
Previous support	None
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Current Priority	Attractive & Thriving, Responsive and Efficient
New Council Priorities	Be a more welcoming and inclusive council / build thriving and resilient communities / respond to challenges to the environment /enable an enterprising and co-operative economy

The Preston Summer Swim provides an opportunity for families to spend time together outdoors. It brings the local community together and promotes wellbeing and exercise to all but in particular to children. Many local children have learned to swim whilst at the Summer Swim.

The Club is inclusive to all and where a family or individual have financial difficulties there is the opportunity for the fee to be waived. This is decided on a case by case basis.

The summer swim takes place during July and August every year at the swimming pool that is part of the Princess Helena College.

The school kindly allows the use of the pool whilst their pupils are on the Summer break. Preston Summer Swim work closely with the school to deliver this provision to the residents of Preston and the surrounding areas. The club gives a donation to the school towards the running costs of operating the pool during the summer.

It costs £2000 approximately to operate the club for 8 weeks and the cost of training the lifeguards is £600 which is the amount of grant funding the club are requesting.

The course costs are £300 per head and cover the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification, Automated External Defibrillator and First Aid at Work Courses. The course is provided by accent training a subsidiary of Stevenage Leisure Ltd.

8.1.4

Applicant	St Pauls Warden Primary School PTA
Project	Purchase and installation of a bike shed
Sum requested	£810.00
Total project cost	£1,158.00
Joint funding	£347 from groups' own reserves
Annual expenditure	£1,377.83
Funds held	£14,270.58
Previous support	None
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Current Priority	Attractive & Thriving, Prosper & Protect, responsive and efficient
New Council Priorities	Be a more welcoming and inclusive council / build thriving and resilient communities / respond to challenges to the environment /enable an enterprising and co-operative economy.

The St Pauls Warden Parent Teacher Association are looking to purchase a bike shed which children can use to store their bikes safely during the school day. By providing a bike shed to keep bicycles locked safely away it will encourage children to cycle to school. This encourages good habits for the future, environmental awareness, road safety and health / wellbeing. Encouraging the use of sustainable transport helps to limit the number of motorised traffic.

8.2 Previous Grant Awards

Breachwood Green Cricket Club received £780 in March 2019 towards the cost of securing the footing of two storage containers. They have reported that they haven't completed the project but plan to do so in April and will feed back to the committee for the June meeting with photos of the completed project.

8.2 Highways Matters

8.2.1 This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

Any new proposals or revised schemes will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Area Committees have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016. Section 9.8.2 (g) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides that they may: "establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities".
- 9.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 9.3 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 Committee budget 2019/20
- 10.2 There are carry over amounts from 2018/19 equating to £2,282 and these funds will be utilised ahead of allocating this financial year's budget.
- 10.3 At the last Southern Rural Committee meeting held on October 10th the Committee agreed to put the £280 allocated to each ward member back into the main Development Budget. The Development Budget for 2019/20 now contains £8,700.
- 10.4 The grants outlined in in this report equate to **£5,410** the £2,282 in the 2018/19 carry forward will be fully utilised and the remaining £3,128 will be taken from the 2019/20 Budget.
- 10.5 The amount remaining to be carried over from the 2019/20 will be **£5,572**

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - 2019/20 financial year budget sheet

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.

SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/20

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
Development Budget Brought Forward from 18/19	£5,771	£3,489	£3,489	£0	£2,282					
Development Budget 19/20	£8,700	£0	£0	£0	£8,700					
				£0	£0					
TOTAL	£14,471	£3,489	£3,489	£0	£10,982					

<u>DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS 18/19</u>	<u>Funding</u>			<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Carry Forward Budget	£5,771		11940006826	Offley Tennis Club	£350	07-Mar-19	£350	£0		
			11940006826	Kimpton Environmentalists	£500	10-Apr-19	£500	£0		
			11940006826	Offley Village Hall	£389	10-Oct-19	£389	£0		Christmas Tree and Party
			11940006826	Whymondly Baptist Church	£1,500	10-Oct-19	£1,500	£0		Renovations to Disabled Toilet
				Codicote Pre-School	£750	19.11.19	£750	£0		
	£5,771		11940006980		£3,489		£3,489	£0	£2,282	

<u>DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS 19/20</u>	<u>Funding</u>			<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Base Budget 19/20 inc Old Member Ward Budgets	£8,700							£0		
								£0		
								£0		
								£0		
								£0		
								£0		
								£0		
								£0		
	£8,700		11940006980		£0		£0	£0	£8,700	