

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 January 2016
Subject:	Grant to Alderton Parish Council
Report of:	Simon Dix, Finance and Asset Management Group Manager
Corporate Lead:	Rachel North, Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Councillor D J Waters
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The Council has set aside grant sums totalling £35,000 for the development of a sports pavilion in Alderton since late 2000. Having reviewed the progress of this project over a number of years, the Community Grants Working Group felt the continued support for this grant offer should be referred back to Executive Committee for a decision.

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to APPROVE:

- a) the extension of the grant offer to Alderton Parish Council until 31 August 2016 to allow the project to be delivered.
- b) The transfer of the £35,000 capital balance to the Community Grants Working Group for redistribution should the current grant offer be withdrawn after 31 August 2016

Reasons for Recommendation:

Given the financial resources now available, the impetus from the focus group and the need for the facility within the village, it is recommended that the Council continue to support this project in the short term.

Resource Implications:

The sum of £35,000 has been set aside within the Council's capital programme for the last 11 years. There are therefore no new resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications:

None at present as the grant monies have not been released to the Parish Council.

Risk Management Implications:

None.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The progress of the project will be monitored by the Community Grants Working Group at its quarterly meetings.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1** In November 2000 the Executive Committee awarded a grant to Alderton Parish Council of £20,250 for the development of a sports pavilion. The site for the pavilion would be on the playing fields at Beckford Road following its acquisition from the County Council some years earlier. It was envisaged that the pavilion would provide toilet and changing facilities for local teams and would be complemented by the construction of a driveway, parking area and roller board area. It was estimated that the full cost of the project would be in the region of £150,000.
- 1.2** In November 2004, a further grant of £14,750 was made available by the Strategy and Resources Committee towards the project. This gave total grant funding of £35,000 from the Borough Council towards the project. Following the award, the Parish Council hoped to secure additional funding from other providers and to commence the works in early 2005.
- 1.3** The Parish Council established Alderton Community Trust to take the project forward and to secure additional funding. They were successful in being awarded £10,000 from Entrust towards the project but struggled to attract the additional financing required.
- 1.4** In December 2009, the Executive Committee formed a Grants Working Group to administer the grants process on behalf of the Council. Part of the remit of the Working Group is to review the progress of grants awarded and, if necessary, withdraw the grant offer if progress is not being made.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1** The Grants Working Group considered the latest position of the sports pavilion at its meeting in September 2015. Whilst support for the overall project aim remained from Members, it was felt that holding the grant available for nearly 11 years, and nearly 15 in the case of the original grant, was more than sufficient to allow the project to be delivered. The Working Group felt that the current grant offer should be withdrawn and Alderton Parish Council be encouraged to reapply to the Community Grants Scheme when they were in a position for the project to be delivered.
- 2.2** Whilst the Working Group has authority within its terms and conditions to withdraw grants that it has awarded this does not extend to grants that were awarded prior to its commencement. Clearly the Alderton grant pre-dates the existence of the Working Group and therefore the matter was referred to the Executive Committee, having originally approved the grant, for a decision on the matter.
- 2.3** Further information on the project has been sought from the Parish Council so as to provide the Committee with a comprehensive picture of the current position of the project. A supporting document is contained at Appendix A for Members' information.

2.4 The availability of s106 funding to support this project has greatly changed the likelihood of the project being delivered. Over £50,000 of s106 is now available following the recent developments within the village. It should be noted that £22,829 from CALA homes has yet to be received by the Council but it is expected that the obligation will be triggered in the new year following occupation of the first property. The sum is also subject to index linking which will increase the overall funding available. In addition, the Borough Council now employs a Grants Officer who can assist in sourcing the funding required for the landscaping and pathway elements of the project.

2.5 There now appears to be impetus behind the focus group formed to deliver this project which would, when delivered, provide a much needed recreational facility within the village. Given this latest position, it is proposed that the grant offer is extended until 31 August 2016 to allow the works to commence. If the works haven't commenced by this date, it is suggested the grant be withdrawn automatically and the funds set aside for distribution by the Community Grants Working Group.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The Committee could withdraw the grant offer and require Alderton Parish Council to resubmit an application to the Community Grants Working Group. If the offer is withdrawn, it is suggested that the £35,000 is set aside for further distribution towards community benefit.

3.2 Alternatively, Members may wish to withdraw the monies from a community use and set aside to support the Council's development ambition given the dwindling capital resources available.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Alderton Parish Council and the Community Grants Working Group have been consulted on this report.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Community Grants guidelines approved in September 2015 by Executive Committee.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 The development of the sports pavilion could provide an important recreational amenity within the village.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Executive Committee – 21st November 2000.

Strategy & Resources Committee – 3rd November 2004.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: A – Project Plan from Alderton.