

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Wednesday 5 January 2011

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room A,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Payne and H Thompson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2010

4. KEY DECISIONS

No items

5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

5.1 Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations – *Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)*

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

2 November 2010

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair)
The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillor Hilary Thompson

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
 Susan Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager
 Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
 Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
 Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
 Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

18. Apologies for Absence

None

19. Declarations of interest by members

None at this stage of the meeting.

20. Receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2010

The minutes were received.

The Chair commented that he felt that the Sports Council should make decisions on the Sports awards and was informed that a meeting was planned with the Sports Council and the issue should be resolved imminently.

21. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations (Community Safety Manager)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

Issues for Consideration

The net Community Safety Capital Grant Fund for 2010/11 had been amended to £100,000. Grants totalling £37,310 had been awarded during the current year. Recommended grant awards for consideration at this meeting were £31,660 which would leave a residual balance of £31,030 available for further applications during this financial year. Three applications had been received.

THE MAYOR, STUART DRUMMOND DECLARED A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST IN THE DALTON STREET APPLICATION AND DID NOT TAKE PART IN DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS.

Dalton Street Car Park CCTV – This application had been deferred at the previous meeting. Members were reminded that the application was for the provision of 4 static cameras and for minimal additional cost the images from these could be transmitted to the CCTV Monitoring Centre. Planning approval would be required and a small amount of landscaping would be necessary, funded by Hartlepool Revival. Members were reminded that other car parks in the town centre had CCTV coverage.

Lucan Street Alleygate Scheme – This application had been proposed by the Night Time Economy Group to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area and had the support of surrounding businesses, as well as the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team and the Section 17 Officer Group.

Summerhill Allotments Security Fencing – The need for this had been identified at the Rift House Neighbourhood Action Plan Forum following a number of incidents of theft and criminal damage. Members commented that there was a need for townwide upgrading of security fencing on allotments and suggested that it would work out cheaper if all fencing was procured in one contract. Officers agreed to pass on their comments to a working party in relation to this.

Decision

Members approved:-

- £6,760 towards the installation of CCTV at the Dalton Street Car Park
- £8,000 towards the installation of alleygates in Lucan Street
- £16,900 towards the installation of security fencing at Summerhill allotments

22. Community Pool 2010/2011 – Round 4 *(Assistant Director Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2010/2011 – Round 4.

Issues for Consideration

Details of applications made during the previous three rounds were summarised in the report. There were three applications recommended for funding in round 4 from Voluntary Wheels, Hartlepool Carers and Radio Hartlepool. An application from Manor Residents Association had been deferred at previous meetings.

Voluntary Wheels – This organisation had requested £5,000 towards the salary costs of the Coordinator Trainer Post. Unforeseen costs for the repair of a vehicle had prompted the application to fund the shortfall in salary costs.

Hartlepool Carers – This organisation had asked for a grant of £31,664 towards the salary costs of a Manager and Administrator. Members commented on the sterling work carried out by this organisation.

Radio Hartlepool – This organisation had applied for a three year tapered award but this had been deferred previously as the group had been unable to provide specific information. However, officers had worked with the group and had elicited that they would welcome other elements of support including financial support to obtain the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations (PQASSO) and to cover the cost of inclusion in the Council's Viewpoint Survey up to a total of £2,500.

Manor Residents – Members were reminded that this application had been deferred in previous rounds as the group had been unable to provide their annual report and accounts.

Decision

Members approved:-

- £5,000 for Voluntary Wheels as a contribution towards the salary costs of the Coordinator Trainers post
- £10,555 towards 5 months salary costs of a Manager and Administrator for Hartlepool Carers

- Up to £2,500 for Radio Hartlepool to cover the costs of the community radio station achieving the PQASSO quality mark and the inclusion of Radio Hartlepool in the Viewpoint survey
- The application from Manor Residents Association was deferred again but Members advised that the group should be asked to provide their annual report and accounts by 31 December 2010 if they wished their current application to be considered in this financial year

The meeting concluded at 3.08 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 5 November 2010

GRANTS COMMITTEE**5th January 2011**

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Proposed awards for consideration from the Community Safety Capital Fund are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Requested Grant</u>
Parton Street East redevelopment	£ 25,000
Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation	£ 24,440
Burbank CCTV upgrade	£ 4,870
Stranton Cemetery CCTV	£ 3,900
Chester Road Allotments fencing	£ 24,000

3. RELEVANCE TO THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

Grants Committee has responsibility for determining the levels of grant awarded.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee on 5th January 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members of the Grants Committee are requested to consider/approve, within remaining funds available, grant requests for five projects totalling £82,210.

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has decided that its capital budget for 2010/11 would include an allocation of £150,000 to implement community safety projects, which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and substance misuse.

- 2.2 However at Cabinet meeting of 15th December 2008, a decision that the allocation of £50,000 from the annual Community Safety Capital budget to provide an investment scheme for CCTV cameras and equipment during 2009/10 to 2011/12 was approved.

- 2.3 Consequently the net Community Safety Capital Fund allocation for 2010/11 is £100,000.

- 2.4 The Safer Hartlepool strategy covers a 3 year period, with annual priorities agreed. Those annual priorities for the year 2010/11 are:

- Drug dealing and supply
- Violent crime, including domestic abuse
- Acquisitive crime
- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Delivery of the alcohol harm reduction strategy 2006-2009 including the introduction of an effective local alcohol treatment service
- Reassurance and Community engagement.

- 2.5 The Community Services and Safety Board, at its meeting in August 2000, approved criteria against which to judge a project's proposals as follows:

1. Clearly identifying the link to Action Plans for each relevant objective
2. Outline the problem and proposals to remedy it

3. Identify the cost and contribution from the Department budget
 4. Include an approximate timescale for implementation
 5. Include further information which is appropriate for officers/members to know about.
- 2.6 For the 2010/11 capital allocations, matched funding of 35% minimum is requested.
- 2.7 All projects are considered first by the Section 17 Officer Group which comprises senior officer representatives from all Council Departments. Applications are also considered by The Council's Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team for comment as to how they fit into current financial priorities.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The net Community Safety Capital Grant Fund for 2010/11 has been amended to £100,000. A financial adjustment has added £980 to this year's allocation. In addition a contingency grant of £8,000, approved by Grants Committee on 17 August 2009 in respect of the Tunstall Court/Ward Jackson car park project is not required. The monies have, therefore, been recovered and are available towards this year's allocation, the revised overall amount of which is now £108,980.
- 3.2 Grants totalling £68,970 have been awarded during the current year which leaves a residual revised balance £40,010 available for applications during this year. Grant awards, however, for consideration at this Grants Committee total £82,210 which cannot be met in full from the remaining allocation.

4. APPLICATIONS

4.1 Parton Street East redevelopment.

- 4.1.1 Parton Street East is part of the Mapleton Road/Wharton Terrace/St. Oswald's Street area which lies within both the North Central Housing (NCH) Market Renewal area and the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) area. The area comprises a series of narrow terraced streets of properties, which are largely owner occupied or privately rented, and have increasingly experienced high occupancy turnover and a significant number of voids. This, in turn, has led to instability in the local housing market and a range of associated problems facing residents living in the area.
- 4.1.2 Consultations carried out as part of the NCH Market Renewal area Master Plan highlighted some of these problems and recognised that this specific area was becoming "increasingly fragile". A major concern identified was the raised stone shrub beds, which were regularly used as places to congregate, where people consumed alcohol and sometimes acted in an anti-social way, disturbing local residents. In addition to anti-social behaviour

issues, problems with traffic movement and parking were also recorded in the Master Plan consultation.

- 4.1.3 Four years ago the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange NAP Forum funded design fees to prepare remodelling plans for streets in the area aimed at addressing these issues. In 2007/8 the NAP Forum agreed to fund the first phase of work in St. Oswald's Street. Together with the Forum monies match funding was received from JAG and Housing Renewal. Over £80,000 was invested in St. Oswald's Street for works including removal of planters and hard and soft landscaping to improve the street-scene. .
- 4.1.4 During 2009 £150,000 was invested in Wharton Terrace, Parton Street West and the adjacent Mapleton Road. There were concerns that the completion of the original St. Oswald's Street works would lead to local displacement of anti-social behaviour issues. Consequently six raised planters were removed along with repaving works, replacement of bollards and landscaping in all three streets. This programme was supported by two grants from the HBC Community Safety Capital Grant scheme totalling £76,500.
- 4.1.5 Following completion of both these phases, consultation has been undertaken with local residents. Feedback has been positive with good satisfaction levels on the quality of the improvements and success in addressing anti-social behaviour issues. The impact on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour within the overall area are worthy of note. 33 crimes were reported in 2009, in itself a reduction from 2008 levels, reducing to 17 reported for the first 9 months of 2010. Similarly anti-social behaviour incidents reports, which in both 2008 and 2009 were averaging around 70 per annum, have fallen substantially to 25 incidents for the first 9 months of 2010.

Without doubt the programme delivered to date, of which the streetscape improvements are but a part, has been successful in addressing crime, anti-social behaviour and resident confidence. Remaining levels are crime evidence a wide range of incidents with property related and assault incidents to the fore. The predominant level of anti-social behaviour incidents relate to rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

- 4.1.6 During a recent site visit to Parton Street East, a Council representative was approached by a few residents enquiring when their street would be improved to the standard of completed phases. They felt that the improvements would help reduce anti-social behaviour, litter, and improve the general appearance and parking issues. It is indicated that young people congregate in the planters causing a noise disturbance and littering the area. Anti-social behaviour reported incidents totalled 5 in 2009 which is a substantial reduction from 2008. 4 incidents, all for rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, have been recorded for the first 9 months of 2010. Crime figures evidence a more marked reduction from 9 reported during 2009 to 5 for the first 9 months of 2010.
- 4.1.7 The project originally looked to undertake similar refurbishments to those already undertaken in the area. However this has been scaled down

significantly and will now focus on minor remedial works including the removal of planters and tree planting to establish a landscaping programme. Planter removal is seen to address local fears of displacement of anti-social behaviour from completed phase locations to Parton Street East although this is no evidence, through statistical information, that this has in fact materialised.

4.1.8 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:

- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour including deliberate fire setting
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Reassurance and Community engagement.

4.1.9 This overall programme, concluding with Parton Street East, is aimed to complement a range of Community Safety initiatives including improvements to the nearby North Cemetery. The Neighbourhood Partnership is committed to securing empty properties across the area through the implementation of target hardening measures, along with encouraging the occupancy of those through an empty property strategy. A number of operations are regularly undertaken with Police and other partners to enforce DPPO (Designated Public Places Order) powers and address unruly behaviour by younger persons.

4.1.10 Planning approval is not required although the necessary HBC premises consents will be obtained.

4.1.11 Financial Implications

Project costs	£40,000
HBC North Minor Works	£15,000 (agreed)
Grant requested	£ 25,000

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution criteria.

All future revenue costs will be met by HBC Neighbourhood Services.

4.1.11 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider a grant of £25,000 towards this project.

The application, in that the range and cost of works has been substantially scaled down from that originally proposed, has the support and recommendation of The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team. Section 17 Officer Group had reservations in their support of previous phases of this programme, again

given the range of measures being undertaken. With, however, the scaling down of this final phase they would also support the proposal.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.2 Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation

- 4.2.1. Burn Valley Gardens was set down in the late 19th century. It was the second park, after Ward Jackson Park, to be opened in Hartlepool and is nearest to the town centre. Covering 7.7 hectares (approximately 19 acres) it is a linear shaped park, developed on either side of a stream, running from York Road at the east to Catcote Road at the west. The Gardens now provide a wide range of leisure activities and play activities for all ages as well as walk and countryside areas.
- 4.2.2 Over a number of years the Gardens attracted various anti-social elements which led to damage and deterred Hartlepool residents from using the facilities. However a number of initiatives have been delivered to reverse this trend and public use has substantially increased. Whilst occasional pockets of trouble do occur, increased patrols by Police officers, higher levels of incident reporting by members of the public and HBC employees and an increasing presence of the public, are all assisting in maintaining those improvements.
- 4.2.3 These initiatives underpin the work of Burn Valley Rejuvenation Consortium, constituted in 2003, to plan and seek funding to develop the whole Gardens area. A major project emanating is the initial rejuvenation of the upper part of the Gardens then extending access beyond to the countryside encouraging formation of a green corridor from the town centre. This project has been successful in attracting some £850,000 of external funding. Nevertheless it is essential that other parts of the Gardens continue to be protected from misuse and damage.
- 4.2.4 In close proximity to this proposed development area is a bowling green and pavilion established many years ago. A small HBC service area is also included. This has been complimented by a new play-builder scheme recently created. Initial indications are that the play-builder facility is well used by families whilst the bowling green continues to have a strong cohort of support. Entry to both areas is by tarmac route from Elwick Road with vehicles continuing to access the bowling facilities over a small bridge spanning the intersecting stream. Mixed traffic and pedestrian movement is not, however, an ideal arrangement. Consequently proposals have been developed to:
 - introduce a small number of street lights alongside the tarmac route. These will be night sensitive low energy units activated when people are moving in the location. Whilst the access gates are locked at dusk, lighting has been introduced in another area of the Gardens and proven to be an effective intruder deterrent. In addition the lights could encourage the occasional use of the bowling pavilion for social events

- install a single camera, recording on site to monitor the play-builder area for user re-assurance and prevention of vandalism/damage
- install a small camera system to the bowling and service area. Whilst this area is already fenced, this additional facility is seen as enhancing the overall security and affording a deterrent to anti-social behaviour during daylight hours

Phase 2 of the project will create a small car park area close to the Elwick Road entrance

- 4.2.5 There have, in the past, been serious assaults within the Gardens combined with recurring anti-social behaviour. The lower part of the Gardens has also suffered repeated alcohol consumption and drug misuse. Whilst this has been reduced there are concerns, especially related to alcohol consumption, that the issues are being displaced further up the Gardens. This would not be conducive to the new play-builder facilities and bowling activities.

As well as addressing identified issues, there is ongoing need to afford reassurance to users of the Gardens thereby encouraging that increasing through flow of local residents and visitors.

- 4.2.6 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:

- Violent crime
- Drug dealing and supply
- Alcohol consumption
- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Reassurance and Community engagement

- 4.2.7 There has been widespread and continuing consultation with New Deal for Communities Groups and local residents. They are fully supportive of these additional measures.

Similarly Police and other partners encourage this further phase of addressing safety and security within the area.

- 4.2.8 The proposed lighting and CCTV operation to monitor the play-builder site will require planning approval.

4.2.9 Financial Implications

Installation of lighting	£17,200
Installation of CCTV at play-builder site	£ 4,960
Installation of CCTV at bowling facilities	<u>£ 3,380</u>
Project cost	£25,540

HBC Parks & Countryside	£ 1,100
Grant requested	£24,440

The grant request does not directly meet the 35% criteria. However this project is seen as a key contributory part to phase 1 of the overall upper Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation project which is funded to £462,000.

4.2.11 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and approve a grant of £24,440 towards this project.

The application has been considered by The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team who do not support project progression at this time. Their view is that implementation of this project is too early within the overall scheme and that the overall project budget should fund installation of the camera and lighting phases. There have not been any objections to the scheme raised through Section 17 Officer Group.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.3 Burbank CCTV upgrade.

- 4.3.1 Burbank, a high deprivation area, suffered unacceptable levels of crime and anti-social behaviour over a period of many years. However over the past several years a number of initiatives, in which Community Groups, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC), HousingHartlepool and Cleveland Police have been prime motivators, has resulted in positive outcomes and substantial success in reducing those crime and anti-social behaviour levels. That, in turn, has led to increasing levels of local confidence and reassurance which has enhanced the overall standing of the area.
- 4.3.2 In 2004 the then Bridge Youth centre was developed externally with the introduction of a hard standing sports area and a community garden. To protect this investment, a number of security measures were incorporated including two CCTV cameras whose images were recorded on site. Live monitoring was able to be undertaken, again on site, during Centre opening hours. The system was acquired by, and remained the property of, BURT (Burbank Uniting Residents Together). At the time of installation Hartlepool Borough Council declined to take ownership of and operational responsibility for the system
- 4.3.3 In 2007/8 HBC took the decision to close and demolish Bridge Youth Centre. Most activities were transferred to the nearby Burbank Community Centre which received a substantive upgrade. However the external activity areas – sports area and community garden – remained in situ. In conjunction with the relocation BURT arranged and funded the redeployment of the existing

cameras, retaining the same monitoring priorities, and the installation of an additional two new cameras. A further request that HBC adopt the CCTV system was again declined. Following that decision BURT acknowledged that they had responsibility for repair/maintenance of the system and compliant operation to Data Protection and CCTV Code of Practice requirements.

- 4.3.4 The monitoring priorities for the four cameras were established as:
- Burbank Street north
 - Burbank Community Centre periphery, including resident overnight parking areas, plus Burbank Street south
 - Outdoor sports area
 - Community garden – subsequently enhanced by the development of a play-builder facility.
- 4.3.5 All cameras are linked to a recorder located in a secure Police office within Burbank Community Centre. Through that arrangement local Police officers are able to monitor live images, revise monitoring priorities and recover recorded images for investigation and evidential purposes.
- 4.3.6 Over the past two years BURT has struggled to support recommended maintenance and repair. The recorder has now failed, removing the facility for recording of camera images. Replacement, therefore, is a priority. In addition the principal camera monitoring Burbank Street north is affected by interference from the nearby Longhill/Sandgate CCTV system, resulting in poor image quality.
- 4.3.7 The CCTV system has been used regularly by Cleveland Police and is an effective tool in combating crime/ASB. However recent reduction successes have faltered and there are emerging issues including drug related activity, in which the lack of CCTV support is proving detrimental. Furthermore the failure of BURT to appoint a Data Controller for the system raises concerns on the legality of operation.
- 4.3.8 Burbank Forum, following the demise of BURT, has formally requested HBC to adopt the system and incorporate the cameras within HBC Community Safety CCTV system. Adoption would be conditional upon the handover of an operational system – replacement of the recorder and maintenance undertaken prior – which Burbank Resident groups will fund at a cost of £1,500.

HBC will become the Data Controller and accept all future operational and maintenance/repair costs.

- 4.3.9 The project is to upgrade the system by replacing and linking the Burbank Street north camera to HBC CCTV Monitoring Centre. That will remove local interference problems and enable live monitoring of the whole of Burbank Street. Remaining cameras, which will also be adopted, will continue to have image recording and other control within Burbank Police office. HBC and Cleveland Police will conclude a protocol for future partnership operation and compliance. In the event of any local incidents, or exchange of intelligence, residents will report to Cleveland Police who will liaise, in accord with HBC

standard CCTV operational procedures, with CCTV Monitoring Centre to undertake suitable response actions.

4.3.10 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:

- Drug dealing and supply
- Violent crime including domestic abuse
- Acquisitive crime
- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Reassurance and Community engagement

4.3.11 Existing planning consents should not require amendment.

4.3.12 Financial implications

Upgrade and connection to HBC CCTV Monitoring centre	£ 7,500
HBC Community Safety – CCTV Budget	£ 2630 (agreed)

Grant requested **£ 4,870**

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution criteria.

Prior to the proposed migration of the system to HBC, Burbank Forum has agreed to fund replacement of the defunct recorder and full system maintenance. Completion of that work and transfer of the system will be concluded before the upgrade work is undertaken.

All future revenue costs will be met from HBC Community Safety CCTV budgets.

4.3.13 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider a grant of £4,870 towards this project.

The proposal has the full support and recommendation of The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team as well as the Section 17 Officer Group.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.4 Stranton Cemetery CCTV.

4.4.1 Stranton Cemetery, covering approx. 47 acres, was established early last century – opened around 1912 – and is the principal cemetery for Hartlepool. Since opening there have been around 50,000 burials. Hartlepool's only

Crematorium is also located within the site. On average there are about 300 burials and 800 cremations per year. The site is open 365 days per year.

- 4.4.2 The site has two vehicle/pedestrian access points – off Tanfield Road and Brierton Lane. These entrances are gated, being locked and unlocked at dusk and dawn. The site has peripheral walls to all four sides. However railings to the Brierton Lane walls which are less than 1 metre in height, were removed many years ago. These walls, therefore, have limited security effectiveness although unofficial overnight entry is not identified as a major issue. Apart from the immediate Crematorium/Chapel and Tanfield Road office areas, there is no artificial site lighting or power supplies to other parts of the Cemetery.
- 4.4.3 It would be expected that the sanctity of the Cemetery be respected by Hartlepool citizens. However there have been spasmodic incidents of anti-social behaviour and a recent theft from a car of a visitor. Occasionally reports of drug use and alcohol consumption are forthcoming. Recently concerns, profiled within local media, have been raised by receipt of a petition to the Council, of the disturbance and suspected removal of items from a grave within the children's area of the Cemetery. There is no evidence to suggest that these incidents are occurring other than during daytime opening hours.
- 4.4.4 In addition to funeral services the site receives many visitors every day. Most are families and individuals remembering lost relatives and friends. Whilst cars are discouraged from the site, unless as part of a funeral cortege or within disabled blue badge criteria, there are still substantial vehicle movements which are not necessarily conducive to the location. That includes the possibility of some people using the Cemetery as a vehicle “rat-run” which is totally inappropriate.
- 4.4.5 A number of measures have been proposed to address these concerns:
- on site security patrols increased although the location of a permanent security presence is not felt to be operationally feasible
 - increased Police visibility, although not to an intrusive level, and co-ordination with site management. In the event of alcohol related incidents the Police are being encouraged to consider D.P.P.O. (Designated Public Places Order) powers. However these powers would be applied proportionately to avoid interference with burials and remembrance visits where toasts are occasionally drunk at gravesides
 - installation of a CCTV camera to monitor each of the two entrances. These would afford evidence were it felt necessary to pursue action in respect of unacceptable behaviour and use of the site. This option has been utilised in a number of other towns and cities and if used sensitively has proven to deter unacceptable entry and usage
 - increased site staff visibility and reporting
 - appropriate signage
 - media awareness
 - establishment of a Friends of Stranton Cemetery Group to further encourage public awareness and commitment.

- 4.4.6 This project is to install two CCTV cameras, one each at the Tanfield Road and Brierton Lane entrances. Cameras will be linked to an existing security system in the adjacent Tanfield Nursery site. Whilst images will be recorded, it is not the intention to undertake live camera monitoring. Nevertheless the system will be linked to Hartlepool CCTV Monitoring centre which would enable intervention monitoring in the event of incident reports and/or support of intelligence and information regarding inappropriate site activity. It is recognised that the cameras would have limited impact during hours of darkness. Those hours are not, however, seen as the current priority.

Cameras will be the responsibility of Hartlepool Borough Council who will ensure compliant operation in accordance with Data Protection and the CCTV Code of Practice requirements.

- 4.4.7 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives with the grants scheme:

- Acquisitive crime
- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Reassurance and Community engagement.

- 4.4.8 The various measures proposed have been developed by a working group of senior HBC managers and Cleveland Police officers.

The underlying issues, and potential remedies, have been discussed and supported by full Council following concerns raised in the petition, by a considerable proportion of the public.

- 4.4.9 Planning consent will be required for the installation of the cameras.

4.4.10. **Financial implications**

Installation & commissioning	£ 6,000
HBC Parks & Countryside	£ 2,100
Grant requested	£ 3,900

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution criteria.

All future revenue costs will be met by HBC Parks & Countryside.

4.4.11. **Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider a grant of £3,900 towards this project.

The application has the full support and recommendation of the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team and Section 17 Officer Group.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.5 Chester Road Allotments fencing.

- 4.5.1 This substantial Allotment site is bounded, to three sides, by Chester Road, Thornhill Gardens and Jesmond Gardens with the fourth boundary adjoining Grayfields Recreation Ground. Site comprises of 147 plots of which 139 are tenanted although a number, to an increasing level, have become abandoned for a number of reasons.
- 4.5.2 The Allotments have suffered, over a number of years, from a high occurrence of break-ins, regular fly-tipping and cable burning, vandalism and the use of disused sheds and buildings for anti-social behaviour. These incidents have also included some cruelty, including one arson attack, to animals kept on site. There is a strong suspicion that not all incidents are reported to the Police and/or HBC. Not unexpectedly these have been the prime factors in the abandonment of a number of plots. Furthermore restoration to core use can only be achieved through extensive clearance of fly-tipping waste and contaminates which can be costly.
- 4.5.3 Remaining plot tenants are feeling increasingly vulnerable and at risk to these unacceptable activities. HBC and Police have established a North Area Allotment Group, meeting regularly, to open liaison with representatives from all the North Allotment sites. The Group looks at crime/ASB priorities and seeks to develop remedial actions. Several have already been progressed including use of alarmed locks, smart water of equipment plus identification and reporting of fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour incidents. In parallel a security audit has been undertaken from which other site priorities have been identified.
- 4.5.4 The principle weakness in site security is damage to the wooden fencing to the north side which is separated from Grayfields by a secluded pathway. With minimal lighting, only at the Thornhill Gardens end, and no resident or passing over view, the fence is regularly damaged or breached thereby becoming the main route for unauthorised entry.
- 4.5.5 Replacement of the fence to this side of the site, by a strong metal palisade or mesh fence, is regarded as the primary need to improve external security and arrest this downward trend which could well increase. In addition the feasibility of restricting access to the footpath, initially overnight, is under exploration. Early completion of the re-fencing project would also link in with the development of the new Jesmond Road Primary School which is adjacent to the east side of the Allotment site. That boundary will include security fencing which will protect both the School and Allotment sites. Wooden fencing to the other two external sides, on Chester Road and Thornhill Gardens, is adequate for the time being and the added benefit of residential overview gives some degree of comfort.

4.5.6 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:

- Acquisitive crime
- Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour including deliberate fire setting
- Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- Reassurance and Community engagement.

4.5.7 Previous fencing and gating projects undertaken at other Allotment sites within Hartlepool have proved to be effective in reducing levels of crime/anti-social behaviour and increasing tenant confidence.

4.5.8 The proposal will require planning approval prior to any new fence erection. It is not anticipated that any objections will arise.

4.5.9 **Financial implications**

Installation	£37,000
HBC Waste & Environment Management	£ 7,000 (agreed)
HBC North Minor Works	£ 5,000 (to be confirmed)
North JAG	£ 1,000 (to be confirmed)
Grant requested	£24,000

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution requirement.

All future revenue costs will be met from HBC Waste & Environment Management Section.

4.5.10 **Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider a grant of £24,000 towards this project.

The application has the full support and recommendation of The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team and Section 17 Officer Group.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members of the Grants Committee are requested to consider/approve, within remaining funds available, grant requests for five projects totalling £82,210.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Brian Neale
Crime & Disorder Manager
8 Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DJ

Tel: (01429) 405584
E-mail: Brian.Neale@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual grant application papers.