

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

5 January 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

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

Officers: Alison Mawson, Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)
Susan Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

23. Apologies for Absence

None

24. Declarations of interest by members

None

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

The minutes were received.

The Community and Youth Resource Manager highlighted that the annual report and accounts for Manor Residents Association had still not been received as supporting evidence for their Community Pool application. Members noted this.

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

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

Issues for Consideration

The capital budget for 2010/11 included an allocation of £150,000 to implement community safety projects. Cabinet had agreed that £50,000 of this funding would be allocated to provide an investment scheme for CCTV cameras and equipment during 2009/10 to 2011/12 leaving a net allocation of £100,000 for 2010/11. A further financial adjustment of £980 had been added and a contingency grant of £8,000, approved by Grants Committee in August 2009 was no longer required, leaving a revised overall amount of £108,980. Grants totalling £68,970 had been awarded during the current year leaving a residual balance of £40,010. However recommended grant awards for consideration at this meeting were £82,210 leaving a significant shortfall.

Parton Street East redevelopment – Parton Street East is part of the Mapleton Road/Wharton Terrace/St Oswald's Street area which lies within both the North Central Housing Market Renewal area and the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan area. Consultation carried out as part of the NCH Market Renewal area Masterplan had shown a range of associated problems facing residents living in the area and a recognition that the area was becoming increasingly fragile. Consequently the NAP forum funded design fees to prepare remodelling streets in the area. Over £80,000 was invested in St Oswald's Street by the NAP Forum, JAG and Housing Renewal in 2007/8 for work to improve the street scene. A further £150,000 was invested in Wharton Terrace, Parton Street West and Mapleton Road during 2009 with support from the Community Safety Capital Grant scheme of £76,500. Following this work further consultation with residents had shown positive feedback. It was now proposed that similar remodelling plans be implemented in Parton Street East, albeit on a smaller scale than previous work due to the current economic climate. The total revised cost would be £40,000, £15,000 of which would come from the Minor Works budget. Therefore a grant of £25,000 was requested.

Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation – Members were advised that a number of anti-social behaviour initiatives had taken place in recent years, underpinning the work of the Burn Valley Rejuvenation Consortium to develop the whole garden area. £850,000 of external funding had been secured to rejuvenate the upper part of the Gardens and extend access beyond to the countryside, encouraging the formation of a green corridor from the town centre. A bowling green and pavilion lay in close proximity to the proposed development area, complemented by a newly created playbuilder scheme. Entry is by tarmac route from Elwick Road and the proposal was to introduce lighting along the tarmac route, activated by movement in the location. Installation of a single camera to monitor the

playbuilder area and a small camera system to the bowling and service area was also proposed. Planning approval would be required for the proposed lighting and CCTV operation to monitor the playbuilder site. The total cost would be £25,540, £1,100 of which would come from HBC Parks and Countryside. Therefore a grant of £24,440 was requested. The Community Safety Officer highlighted that the grant request did not directly meet the required 35% match funding criteria. However the project was seen as a key contributory part to phase 1 of the overall upper Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation project. The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team had considered the application and did not support project progression at this time, feeling that it was too early within the overall scheme and that the overall project budget should fund installation of the camera and lighting phases.

Burbank CCTV upgrade – In 2004 the then Bridge Youth centre had been developed externally, including 2 CCTV cameras recording and monitoring images on site. The system had been acquired by Burbank Uniting Residents Together (BURT) with HBC declining to take ownership and operational responsibility at that time. In 2007/8 the youth centre was closed and demolished. However the external activity areas remained in situ. BURT arranged and funded the redeployment of the existing cameras and installed 2 additional cameras. HBC again declined to adopt the CCTV system with BURT acknowledging responsibility for repair and maintenance of the system and compliant operation to Data Protection and CCTV code of practice requirements. BURT had subsequently struggled to support recommended maintenance and replacement of the failed recorder was now a priority. Following the demise of BURT Burbank Forum had formally requested HBC adopt the system and incorporate the cameras within the Community Safety CCTV system. Adoption would be conditional upon repairs to the current system which Burbank Resident groups would fund at a cost of £1,500. The grant request was to upgrade the system by replacing and linking the Burbank Street north camera to HBC CCTV Monitoring Centre. This would remove current local interference problems and enable live monitoring of the whole of Burbank Street. Remaining cameras would also be adopted by HBC and continue to have image recording and other control within Burbank Community Centre Police office. The total cost would be £7,500, £2,630 to come from the Community Safety CCTV budget. Therefore a grant of £4,870 was requested. All future revenue costs to be met by Community Safety CCTV budgets. The Community Safety Officer noted that the upgrade work was conditional on replacement of the defunct recorder and full system repair to be funded by Burbank Forum .

The Chair asked that the purchase of additional cameras from the whole grant allocation process be carried out as one contract to ensure the most economic result. The Community Safety Officer confirmed that the most cost effective solution would be sought.

Stranton Cemetery CCTV – Stranton Cemetery is Hartlepool's principal cemetery and only crematorium in the town. An average 300 burials and

800 cremations take place annually and the site is open 365 days a year. In recent years there have been spasmodic incidents of anti-social behaviour including the theft of a car. Drug and alcohol use have also been reported. These problems had been highlighted by the receipt of a petition to Council regarding the disturbance and suspected removal of items from a child's grave. Also noted was a high number of vehicular movements within the cemetery despite all vehicles being discouraged other than blue badge holders or those travelling as part of a funeral cortege. A number of measures had been proposed including an increase in on-site security patrols, increased police visibility and installation of CCTV cameras. The establishment of a Friends of Stranton Cemetery Group was also being looked at. The current application was for funding to install 2 CCTV cameras at the main entrances on Tanfield Road and Brierton Lane. Cameras would be linked to an existing security system in the adjacent Tanfield Nursery site. Images would be recorded, although not monitored, and the system would be linked to Hartlepool CCTV monitoring centre to enable intervention monitoring and support intelligence or information on inappropriate site activity. Planning consent would be required. The total cost would be £6,000, £2,100 to come from HBC Parks and Countryside. Therefore a grant of £3,900 was requested. All future revenue costs would be met by Parks and Countryside

Chester Road Allotments fencing – These allotments had suffered from a high occurrence of break-ins, fly-tipping and other anti-social incidents including cruelty to livestock on site. HBC and the Police had established a North Area Allotment Group to work with all North allotment holders and develop remedial actions. However the principle weakness in site security was damage to the wooden fencing to the north side where there was minimal lighting and no resident view. Replacement by a strong metal palisade or mesh fence would therefore improve external security. Early completion of the project would also link in with the development of the new Jesmond Road Primary School, adjacent to the east side of the allotment site. That boundary would include security fencing which would protect the school and allotment sites. The total cost to replace north boundary fence would be £37,000, with £7,000 confirmed from HBC Waste and Environmental Management, £5,000 to be confirmed from the Minor Works fund and £1,000 to be confirmed from the North JAG. Therefore a grant of £24,000 was requested. All future revenue costs to be met by the Waste and Environment Management Section.

Members highlighted the description of the fencing on Chester Road and Thornhill Gardens as 'adequate'. The Community Safety Officer acknowledged that this would need to be looked at in the future but it was not a priority at the moment. While the current work could be carried out in 2 stages this would be less cost effective.

Members indicated their approval for all 5 applications however noted that the shortfall in funding meant they would be unable to support them all. The Assistant Director indicated that officer advice would be to decline the application for Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation on the grounds that this

was the only application that would not be dealing with an existing problem but would rather be rectifying a potential future problem. The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team did not support project progression at this time for these reasons and also because they felt the budget for the overall rejuvenation of the gardens should be used to fund the lighting and camera installations. Members supported this course of action, noting that the Friends of Burn Valley Gardens had recently been awarded a substantial amount of external grant funding. They also noted the use of Primary Capital Programme Funding for the Chester Road Allotments scheme and the significant scaling back of the original Parton Street East redevelopment project.

Decision

Members were mindful that only £40,010 budget was available to allocate and therefore Members approved

- £25,000 toward the Parton Street East redevelopment
- 4,870 toward the Burbank CCTV upgrade
- £3,900 toward the Stranton Cemetery CCTV
- £6,240 toward the Chester Road Allotments fencing,

Members deferred the application for the Burn Valley Gardens rejuvenation until such time as further funding became available

27. Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for her service to the Grants Committee and wished her a happy retirement.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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