

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 January 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund Update Report and Grant Application - West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider an application to the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund from West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association for financial assistance towards the upgrading of a play park and associated pathwork improvements
- ♦ report on the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund grants awarded to date since its inception.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that a grant of £10,000 be awarded to West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association towards eligible costs associated with the upgrading of the Hillocks amenity area subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of all funding being received by South Lanarkshire Council and confirmation of ongoing management by Land Services; and
- (2) that the grant awards from the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund to date be noted as detailed within Appendices A and B.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June, 2007, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Whitelees Windfarm and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.2. The Fund is financed from payments from Scottish Power who operate the Whitelees Windfarm. To date Scottish Power have made payments into the Whitelees Fund of £422,654 including interest.
- 3.3. The Section 75 legal agreement for Whitelees places an obligation on the Council to jointly prepare and implement an access strategy associated with the windfarm area.

- 3.4. The Renewable Energy Fund is administered by Enterprise Resources who have responsibility for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.

4. Proposal

West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association

- 4.1. West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association was established in September 2007 with the aim of promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of local residents.
- 4.2. At the Enterprise Resources Committee on 7 July 2009, West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association received a grant award of up to £9,683 towards the Hillocks Project with an overall cost of £160,000. However, the group was unsuccessful in attracting sufficient match funding therefore the project has been split into several phases.
- 4.3. Phase 1 of the project involves improving the existing play park with new safety fencing around the perimeter. A woodland walk will be created through the park area with improved lighting to create a safer environment along with seating and bins. Any application for REF support for future phases would be considered on its own merits and agreement to contribute to Phase 1 does not commit the Fund to future support automatically.
- 4.4. The project will be managed by the Group. Following completion, the facility will be managed by South Lanarkshire Council Community Resources subject to agreement being reached over the specification to be implemented.
- 4.5. The total eligible cost of the project is £40,270. The proposed grant from Whitelees REF is £10,000 equating to an intervention rate of 25%. A funding application has been submitted to Viridor for the remainder of the project costs. It is expected, if successful, that works would commence on site in Spring 2010 and be completed by Summer 2010.
- 4.6. This application scored 22 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process allowing an intervention level of up to 35%.

5. Projects Approved to date by Whitelees Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund

- 5.1. A list of all projects supported to date by the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund is attached. Appendix A lists those capital projects with overall costs above £10,000 and which are supported through the main fund. Appendix B lists those capital projects with overall costs below £10,000 and which are supported through the Local Grant Scheme.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. To date, Scottish Power have made payments into the Whitelees Fund of £422,654 including interest.

- 7.2. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June, 2007, approval was given to utilise 31 months of income from Whitelees REF towards the access works required and associated costs. This equates to a total of £265,248 leaving an available budget of £157,406 for projects this financial year with £112,031 (70%) to be utilised through the main Renewable Energy Fund.
- 7.3. Whitelees REF has already committed funds of £80,212 towards projects from this budget of £112,031. There are sufficient funds available therefore to meet the additional £317 for West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association.
- 7.4. The Local Grant Scheme has awarded grants of £22,793 from an available budget of £45,375
- 7.5. A list of all projects supported to date by the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund is attached. Appendix A lists those capital projects with overall costs above £10,000 and which are supported through the main fund. Appendix B lists those capital projects with overall costs below £10,000 and which are supported through the Local Grant Scheme.
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1. None
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. This Report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. Appropriate consultation has taken place with Community Resources.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

22 December 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- People focused
- Improve health and increase physical activity

Previous References

- Executive Committee Report on Community Benefit – 3 March 2004
- Enterprise Resources Committee Report on Whitelees Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund - 27 June 2007
- Enterprise Resources Committee Report on Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund Applications – 7 July 2009

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated April 2009 received from West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 3 June 2009 for West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Appendix A

Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund

Successful Grant Applications

Applicant	Project	Grant Award
Adams Community Trust	Upgrading of existing play park in Strathaven Park	£20,000
Strathaven Tennis Club	Upgrading of existing facility at Strathaven Park	£15,000
West Mains Tenant and Residents Association	New play area and associated path works at West Mains	£9,683 (further £317 tbc)
East Renfrewshire Council	Whitelees Access Works Management and Maintenance	£35,529

Appendix B

Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund

Local Grant Scheme

Successful Grant Applications

Applicant	Project	Grant Award
Friends of Langlands Moss	Phase one of Conservation of Langlands moss, infrastructure management/installation of damming, boardwalk repair, signage. Project involves pathway upgrade.	£5,000
Strathaven Scouts	Purchase of trailer for outdoor pursuits and camping trips.	£595
Adams Community Trust, Strathaven	Community consultation and feasibility to consider options for improvement to toddlers' play area of park.	£682.50
Upper Avon Angling Association	Access improvement: pathways upgrade, specialist equipment and fish hatchery.	£2,015.60
Strathaven Model Society Limited	Establishment of new workshops including interior building works and removal and installation of heavy engineering machinery.	£2,500
Strathaven Dynamos	Costing exercise for new changing facility.	£2,000
East Kilbride Pipe Band	Image improvement involving the purchase of bespoke equipment.	£5,000

Strathaven Town Mill Arts and Heritage Centre	Establishment of group as limited company, alarm system and entertainment license.	£2,500
Avondale Bowling Club	Enlarging and refurbishment of changing rooms to meet needs of members of bowling club and 3 other community groups who use the facility.	£2,500