

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 October 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider a grant application to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) from Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council
- ◆ consider a grant application to the REF from Sandford Village Hall Association

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council of up to £61,066 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the refurbishment of Gilmourton Park; and
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Sandford Village Hall Association of up to £49,167.20 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the village hall refurbishment.

3. Background

- 3.1. Since 2004, the Council has collected and administered Community Benefit funding through Planning and Economic Development Services. The service is responsible for securing the contributions from developers, advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered. Processes are continuously reviewed to ensure the best practices in grant provision and monitoring are undertaken to ensure the necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.
- 3.2. Grant awards above £20,000 require approval from Committee, awards below this level are approved by the Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 774

Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council – project value £101,777.

Proposed Grant award £61,066 Intervention rate of 60%

The proposed REF grant of £61,066 will be funded from Calder Water windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 4.2. By way of background, Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council (SUACC) is a rural Community Council representing the area of Sandford and Upper Avondale. They represent the whole community, facilitate and support projects and events which benefit the health and wellbeing of all residents and have responsibility for communicating community views on wider issues to any relevant stakeholders:-
- ◆ The objectives of SUACC are, to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community which it represents, to liaise with other community groups within the area, and to fairly express the diversity of opinions and outlooks of local people, in relation to matters that directly affect the interests of the community and to take such action in the interests of the community.
- 4.3. The SUACC has a 8 management committee of 8, 20 regular volunteers and it has consulted regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.4. The grant will allow SUACC to develop an inclusive playpark, including inclusive play equipment, accessible gate and access pathway within the Gilmourton Park area with facilities for all ages and abilities. The plans for the park also include picnic areas, tree planting and improved pathways thereby ensuring it is an attractive, year-round location for local children, families and other residents to use. It will be a focal point for the community, providing a meeting area for children and parents alike, and a location for community events. This will ensure that everyone can enjoy all the qualities and social benefits that a park can provide.
- 4.5. The project requires capital funding to develop Gilmourton Park in partnership with SLC. The Playpark has limited, poor quality equipment and is, therefore, uninviting to local children and families. The refurbishment project will provide a great new area for children to play and will encourage social interaction for children who can be isolated. The development will create accessible pathways secure gates, play equipment includes swings, seesaw, roundabout, and a multi-play structure (contributed by SLC Landscape Services).
- 4.6. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve rural exclusion, events and leisure activities for the area. The project will support Theme one of the REF priorities, Stronger Communities.
- 4.7. The application scored 29 and 37 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 33 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 62% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 60% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
EB Scotland Landfill Fund	To be confirmed	£24,971
Kype Muir Windfarm Fund	To be confirmed	£10,027
Snabe Quarry	To be confirmed	£5,713
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (60%)		£61,066
Total project value		£101,777

- 4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in November 2022 and be complete by February 2023. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

5. Grant recommendations

5.1. Application Number 748

Sandford Village Hall Association – project value £88,867.20.

Proposed Grant award £49,167.20 Intervention rate of 55%

The proposed REF grant of £49,167.20 will be funded from Kype Muir windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 5.2. By way of background, Sandford Village Hall Association (SVHA) is an established Social Enterprise with its purpose being:

- ♦ The Objects of SVHA are, to promote and encourage the health and wellbeing, the advancement of education of the residents of Sandford and surrounding district, without distinction of race, religion, political or other opinions using Sandford Village Hall. The hall association looks after the maintenance and general upkeep of the hall including the taking hall bookings, opening, closing and cleaning. Bookings are also accepted for one-off events such as family celebrations. Full membership of the Association shall be open to all residents aged 18 and over in the village of Sandford and surrounding district. Membership will also be open to members over the age of 18 of Sandford Bowlers, Sandford WRI, Avondale Young Farmers and such other clubs, groups or associations as meet regularly in the Hall and are approved by the Management Committee. Membership will be renewed annually.

- 5.3. The SVHA has a management committee of 9, 4 regular volunteers and it has consulted regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.

- 5.4. The grant will allow SVHA to refurbish the hall and comply with disability access. Sandford Village Hall was last upgraded in 2000. The fabric of the hall internally/externally has deteriorated to the point where a full programme of repairs/refurbishment are required as evidenced in a condition survey in 2021 completed by HOLLIS. The survey also identified areas where the hall is non-compliant with disability access legislation. accessible toilet dimensions; internal door widths; gravel parking area and the access/egress paths.

- 5.5. The project requires capital funding to cover project management fees to coordinate the construction and refurbishment works, which will include a disabled access toilet, replacement internal doors and standards to comply with wheelchair access, replacement windows, interior décor and gravel a parking area with wheelchair access and egress paths.

- 5.6. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve rural exclusion, events, and leisure activities for the area. The project will support Theme three of the REF priorities, Healthy and Active Communities.

- 5.7. The application scored 27 and 32 out of 53 by the 2 appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 29.5 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 55% of eligible costs.

- 5.8. All REF awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 55% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
Banks Kypemuir Community Fund	Confirmed	£39,700
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (55%)		£49,167.20
Total project value		£88,867.20

- 5.9. The project is scheduled to commence in October 2022 and be complete by June 2023. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The awards will come from Calder Water and Kype Muir windfarms which contributes to the Renewable Energy Fund to ensure sufficient reserves remain for future applications in 2021/2022. The funds have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitment detailed in this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The projects will support the sustainability of rural villages of Gilmourton and Sandford and strengthen rural wellbeing by providing improved leisure activities and facilities within the rural communities.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns, delays to the projects or match funding not being secured and the long-term use of the asset. Work will continue with the applicant to help ensure match funding is secured and that projects are delivered broadly on time and within budget.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

15 September 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ We will work toward a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 774
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 774
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 748
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 748

Contact for Further Information

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

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