

CABINET

30-July 2003

DENMEAD YOUTH PAVILION – GRANT AID

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Contact Officer: Steve Tilbury Tel No: 01962 848292

RECENT REFERENCES:

SC40 – Recreation Facilities Southern Parishes and Town Area - Social and Cultural Policy Review Committee, 18th June 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report explains the current position in relation to the proposed youth and sports facility in Denmead to which the Council has provisionally agreed to give a grant of up to £150,000. It is suggested the offer of support be held open for a further 12 months. The recommendation of the report follows a meeting between the Director of Community Services and Parish Council representatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Denmead Parish Council be informed that the offer of a grant of £150,000 towards the new pavilion facilities in Denmead will remain open until 1st August 2004.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In Summer 2001 the Council agreed to fund a programme of improvements to recreational facilities in the southern parishes. One element of this was the offer of a grant of up to £150,000 to Denmead Parish Council towards its pavilion project at the King George V playing field in Denmead. The purpose of the project is to provide both improved changing accommodation to support the very busy pitches, and facilities for youth events and activities which are seen as a high priority locally. Details of the scheme were set out in report SC40 to the then Social and Cultural Policy Review Committee (relevant extract from report attached as an Appendix).
- 1.2 Progress has been slow because of planning difficulties which are now resolved. The difficulty that now faces the Parish Council is raising the necessary funding.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Although the building works have not been tendered the cost of the new pavilion is estimated at between £600,000 and £700,000. A tendering exercise is to be undertaken shortly which will fix this figure. Taking into account the City Council's grant offer, Open Space Fund monies and its own resources, the Parish Council has in the region of £320,000 in available funds.
- 2.2 The Parish Council recognises that even at the lowest end of cost expectations there is a large sum still required. The City Council and others have given advice on potential sources of further funding. It will not be easy to obtain grants of the scale needed but there are opportunities which need to be pursued. If the Parish Council cannot obtain grants it will have to consider what further resources of its own it could use.
- 2.3 The pavilion project is important to the local area and cannot proceed without the grant offered by the City Council. Given the shortfall in other funds available, the Parish Council has a major task in making the project financially achievable. It needs sufficient time to pursue all likely avenues, but understands that the City Council cannot tie up its resources for an unlimited period.
- 2.4 It is therefore suggested that the Parish Council be informed that the offer of grant is to be held open for a maximum of 12 months at the end of which period if there is no reasonable prospect of the project proceeding the offer will be withdrawn. Twelve months should be sufficient time for the Parish Council to prepare any funding applications and for decisions to be reached. Should circumstances change it is open to the Parish Council to put forward alternative proposals at any point within this period.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Denmead Parish Council has a clear enthusiasm for this important project but recognises the challenge it faces. The establishment of a reasonable deadline for a decision to proceed will assist all parties to focus their minds on the project.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The project is in accordance with one of the Council's four principle aims:
"To encourage more varied cultural and sporting activities for all across the district."

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Extract from Report SC40 regarding Denmead Youth Pavilion

Extract from Report SC40 (Recreation Facilities Southern Parishes and Town Area)

1 Denmead

- 1.2 Further to SC11 27th November 2000 Officers have continued their discussions with Denmead Parish Council. On 4th April 2001 the Parks and Recreation Officer met with the Parish Councils Amenities Committee where the Parish Council was thanked for its report on facilities, which was contained in its entirety in SC11. The Parish Council has subsequently been asked to prioritise its list of schemes.
- 1.3 Based on discussions and the recognition by this Council that the Parish sports pavilion in the King George V playing field is in need of replacement, the Parish Council has centred its project on this. It is understood that the Parish Council is in discussions concerning covenants on the use of the land and that these are not expected to be a bar to the development.
- 1.4 Although the project is on a large scale, which will have to be phased, ultimately it will meet the needs of several groups within the village and will provide complementary facilities to those being proposed for Waterlooville Leisure Centre by Havant Borough Council.
- 1.5 At present, Denmead has little to offer young people within safe walking distance of their homes other than organised activities such as Scouts and Guides and a very active youth Football Club. There is little opportunity for teenagers in particular for informal sports or recreation either indoors or outdoors and a youth club facility is becoming more necessary as the numbers of young people in Denmead increase with new developments.
- 1.6 In addition, the use of the playing fields is maximised. The few sports pitches available are concentrated in the area and are often unable to be used due to the continual wear and tear, which has been exacerbated this year by inclement weather. The parish would also like to promote other sports so as to appeal to a wider group of young people. Within the parish there are no indoor facilities for badminton, basketball, netball, 5-a-side football or fitness training.
- 1.7 Therefore the Parish Council's priority project is the building of a new pavilion/youth club/maintenance workshops. A two-storey facility is being considered to accommodate any or all of the following:
- Sufficient changing rooms and shower facilities for home team, visitors and referees
 - Youth club including small TV/video room, one to one meeting room, table tennis/pool, seating/table area attached to
 - A small hall (min size one court to accommodate badminton, netball, basketball)
 - First aid room
 - Maintenance staff room, workshop & machinery store
 - Sports equipment storage
 - General social seating area on the ground floor

- Kitchen, snack bar/seating area and terrace seating plus cricket scoring booth.

Without outline drawings, the cost of this building is undetermined but is estimated to be in the region of £500,000.

- 1.8 There are also proposals for the installation of a skateboard area costing about £75,000 and an all weather pitch, which would cost about £300,000. Open spaces funding may be available for later phases of the project.
- 1.9 Denmead can no longer be considered a small village since there have been several major developments along its southern edge. Denmead has 6,500 residents including approximately 1,600 young people of all ages and there is a proven need for these facilities within Denmead which will not be met fully by the dryside extension at the Waterlooville Leisure Centre.
- 1.10 The Parish Council agrees that the project is an ambitious one but strongly believes that there is a strong will within the village to see the project through. To achieve this different sources of funding are being investigated to help with the project, but this Council is asked to make a substantial, unspecified contribution to the combined sports and youth project proposals outlined above.