

Name of Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Neil Harden
Portfolio:	Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services
Date of Background Report:	19 December 2018 (date of notification of Portfolio Holder Decision):

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £5,000 to Long Marston Tennis Club for 'Project Tiger' from the Community Grant Budget

In the Winter round 2018 a community grant application was submitted from Long Marston Tennis Club for 'Project Tiger' which achieved approval from the grants panel.

Long Marston Tennis club requested a grant of £10,000 to support their project, which has an overall value of £43,694. They have secured match funding and a loan for the remainder of the project cost.

The grants panel made the decision to award £5000, due to a high number of strong applications in this round, and Long Marston Tennis Club detailed in their application that they would be able to meet the total project cost with a loan, so their project could still go ahead.

The grant will specifically be used towards the cost of resurfacing, fencing and hunching provided by 1st Surface.

Background

Long Marston Tennis club's objective is to give members of all standards a safe, friendly and competitive environment. They have around 50 members of all abilities from beginners to very experienced. They play in competitive league teams, two of which won their divisions last year. Of these members, the majority are over 50 years old, in line with the demographic of the surrounding areas. They continually promote being active and host two club sessions each week, which are well attended. They provide Easter and Summer camps for children. They have two registered LTA coaches who support the club focussing on adult and juniors. Their existing facilities consist of two macadam floodlit courts and a small clubhouse. In the future they would like to expand their membership and also offer weekly coaching for children.

Project Tiger: The three main elements in need of addressing are; the surface which has holes appearing and slippery when wet/icy, the fencing and the haunching surround are all in need of repair/replacement. Taken from members of the committee, a small project team evaluated the options for the courts moving forward with a mandate to achieve the following:

- Maximise the amount of playing time available for members
- Improved safety of play for members
- A kinder surface for their demographics/players
- Increase accessibility for those not able to make use of the court currently

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Three options were researched:

1. Repair and repair existing surface
2. Replace with macadam surface
3. Replace with synthetic surface.

They engaged in a competitive bid process eventually focussing on two companies to provide quotes. The committee decided that the preferred option would be the synthetic "Tiger Turf" solution. This was on the basis that their two objectives of resurfacing were to increase the amount of playing time available for members in a safe environment. This type of surface would allow for a safe playable surface in conditions that the current courts would not. A quote from 1st Surface was provided with their application.

The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities and groups are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who look at how well applications meet the criteria of the fund; whether the project supports the Councils objectives and how it supports at least two of the five ways to well-being: be active, take notice, learn, give and connect.

Agree recommendation

Request further information

Financial Implications:

The money will be taken from the community grant budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Reports considered:

Long Marston Tennis Club community grant application Spring round 2018 - Ref ID 1138

Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Corporate Grants Panel

Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy Section 151 Officer:

The grant application has gone through the standard community grant scheme assessment and due diligence and the board have approved a grant award of £5k. There are sufficient funds available in the community grants approved budget to fund this request.

Implications:

Risk: there are no specific risks identified that relate to the allocation of funding as described in this report

Value for Money: the community grants criteria looks to gain additional value from supporting community projects with a small amount of resource which yields maximum

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community benefit. It therefore provides good value for money. Many of the projects and activities are also directed towards external funding sources.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant as detailed - This has been rejected because the application fulfils the Council's scoring criteria within the community grant scheme.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date:

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 17-01-19

Date Decision Published: 17-01-19 Decision No: PH-031-18

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 24-01-2019

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: