
To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 17 August 2021

Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services

Heading: Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on progress made in supporting community projects through the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment fund. The report further seeks Board approval for the provision of grant funding for the projects described in Section 3 and set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The key objective in allocating funding is to work with and support community groups to identify and deliver improvement projects in their local communities. The Fund support groups to improve their local greenspaces (including parks and play areas) and to strengthen the identity, heritage, uniqueness and integrity of their villages. Another aspect is to open up opportunities for groups to access additional funding from external sources and, as can be seen by a number of the projects, communities are actively engaging with this. Successful bids for external funds boost community funding and create a greater sense of ownership for communities.
- 1.3 The Council and partners have been working closely with groups across Renfrewshire since the launch of the fund in October 2018. Several smaller applications have been approved by the Director of Communities and Housing under delegated authority to enable smaller projects to develop and move forward quickly. Elected members are updated on projects proposed in their Ward areas.
- 1.4 Two local groups have applied to the Green Spaces and Parks Fund. Lochfield Bowling group hopes to deliver a long-lasting AstroTurf bowling green to a Council owned asset, however release of the £50k applied for will be dependent on the group securing the required remaining sum from other funding sources. The Charleston Residents Association will create a community garden improving the appearance of the surrounding space contained within the Neilston Road high rise flats area.

- 1.5 To date over £1.6M of the Green Spaces, Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund has now been allocated (appendix 2).
 - 1.6 Kilbarchan, Barwood and Sandyflats play park job specifications are with Procurement who are approaching suppliers from the relevant framework agreement. Officers are working with groups successful in the May round of funding to deliver their submitted projects.
 - 1.7 This report seeks approval for projects to an overall value of £60,000.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:
 - (i) notes the work currently being undertaken to support communities as they develop projects to be funded using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund; and
 - (ii) agrees to fund the projects as detailed in Section 3 of this report and Appendix 1, awarding grant funding totalling £60,000 to support community groups.
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3. Summary of Applications

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council has supported 52 projects since October 2018 to meet the criteria for this fund
- 3.2 The following applicants are expected to apply in the coming months when applications are supported to meet Fund criteria:
 - Bishopton Community Development Trust – new play & sports complex
 - The SuGAR Project - upgrade to McKerrell Street Play Park
 - Friends of Jenny's Well Nature Reserve – improvements & preservation
 - Ralston Community Council - Park Upgrade
 - Inchinnan Social Club Car Park Upgrade
 - Ardgyffe Park Outdoor Gym
- 3.3 Reports will be brought back for the consideration of the Board in relation to these projects at future meetings of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.
- 3.4 A cross-service panel of Officers has been established to review and assess the applications against the agreed objectives and criteria.
- 3.5 In this round, 2 applications have been assessed and currently meet the criteria for approval of grant funding. More information on each project is detailed below, with a summary of the applications included in Appendix 1 to this report.

Applications 1: Lochfield Ladies Social & Bowling Club
Funding Requested: £50,000
Recommendation: Approve

- 3.6 Lochfield Ladies Social and Bowling Club have been constituted since 1934. This application has been submitted with the further involvement and support of the Lochfield Gents Social and Bowling Club.
- 3.7 The groups have taken over the day-to-day operation of the Green, opening and closing the space to visitors and looking after the onsite Clubhouse. There is no longer a greenkeeper or technician stationed at the site, the group advise glass cutting is carried out by a contractor every few weeks.
- 3.8 The groups open the site every day, from March through to October, 13.00 to 16.00 to enable their 62 members to meet, socialise and play bowls. As this is a local authority supported Club, annual fees are low at £26 per annum compared to more expensive, privately owned facilities nearby. Lochfield is the only local Council-owned bowling green.
- 3.9 Renfrewshire Leisure recently upgraded the Clubhouse, refreshed the structure and ensured it was wind and water-tight offering members an opportunity to deliver more activities. Recent consultation has shown local interest in proposed activities such as a walking Club and Bridge and Bingo nights.
- 3.10 The North and South Bowling Greens are currently in a poor state of repair, last being replaced circa 2000. The group are concentrating on the South Green for the purposes of their bid.
- 3.11 The current waterlogged South Green would be replaced with a raised astroturf Green, offering ease of maintenance and a durable alternative to grass. An efficient built-in drainage solution would also be included. The failing banking surrounding the Green would also be replaced.
- 3.12 Renfrewshire Leisure are supportive of the application which would deliver a long-lasting solution for the facility and increase the appeal of Lochfield Bowling Club locally.
- 3.13 The groups are both keen to encourage new members and families to use the site and are arranging a gala day event for next April to promote the club and ascertain what local people would like to see there.

Application 2: Charleston Tenants and Residents Association
Funding Requested: £10,000
Recommendation: Approve

- 3.14 The Charleston Tenants and Residents Association were constituted in 1979 and have long since been working and speaking on behalf of the tenants residing within the surrounding flats.
- 3.15 There is an open space in the middle of the surrounding high-rise flats which is currently barren and bare. The group, along with residents, have agreed to create a community garden in this area, which will be landscaped by a private company, then maintained thereafter by the local residents.
- 3.16 The area will be a social meeting point with seating, encouraging residents to socialise and enjoy the garden.
- 3.17 There are many elderly residents living in the surrounding homes who have expressed they would look forward to being involved in the garden, maintaining, organising and planting.
- 3.18 The Charleston TARA are keen to stress the Garden will further strengthen the sense of community within the flat and help to combat loneliness and isolation.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - Council approved the allocation of £1.870 million to establish the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund in March 2018. Due to the capital works being undertaken, Officers are ensuring that there are minimal recurring revenue costs to Services in the coming years.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning –**

The Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Village Investment Fund will be important to achieving and assisting the Community Plan by ensuring that Renfrewshire is thriving, well, fair and safe for residents, workers and visitors.
4. **Legal** - All legislative requirements will be taken cognisance of during this process wherever required e.g. health and safety requirements.
5. **Property/Assets** - There is the potential for property/assets to be included as part of this fund.
6. **Information Technology** - None

7. **Equality & Human Rights**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety** - Cognisance will be taken of health and safety requirements wherever required e.g. for play park equipment.
 9. **Procurement** - There is potential for the Council to be procuring and installing equipment of behalf of a community group as part of this grant funding process.
 10. **Risk** - Discussions with the Council Risk Manager are on-going to ensure that the risk to the Council, as part of this grant funding process, is minimised.
 11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable
 13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable
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List of Background Papers

None

Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Applicant	Project Description	Requested	Recommendation	Reason	Geographical Area
1. Lochfield Ladies Social and Bowling Club	The Bowling Green in Lochfield is the last of 2 Council owned and maintained Bowling Greens in Renfrewshire. The Ladies and Gents Social and Bowling Clubs have joined forces to submit an application to begin bidding for a replacement astroturf Green. The new Green would require very little maintenance and would be a more durable solution, offering users an improved bowling experience. The groups further hope that the new Green will encourage greater use of the Club where they hope to extend activities to Bridge and Bingo in their newly refurbished Clubhouse.	£50,000 (only to be released on the group successfully raising the remainder of the funds)	Approval by Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.	Lochfield Bowling Club has a strong and committed user group. They are also keen to work to introduce families and school children to the experience of Bowling and the rewards it offers.	Lochfield
2. Charleston Tenants and Residents Association	The Charleston TARA have historically been very active in speaking up for their residents' concerns. The group have further engaged regularly with eh Team Up to Clean Up Campaign, being Caddy recipients and looking after the grounds contained within the high flat area. The group now wish to brighten up the middle grey slabbed area by installing seating, planters and picnic areas within a gated, fenced area where local people feel safe to meet and socialise.	£10,000	Approval by Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.	The largely elderly population would benefit greatly from this area, not only offering somewhere to hone their gardening skills, but also somewhere to meet and chat with other residents.	Paisley

Table 2: Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas Funding Summary

Project	Funding proposed	External Funding (or other Council funding)
Lochfield Bowling Club – Replacing Green	£50,000	£1,635 – LAC Grant for fridge, tables, urn and benches (2018/19)
Charleston Tenants and Resident Association	£10,000	£2,000 – residents pantomime visit (2019/20) £2,000 - residents pantomime visit (2018/19)

Table 3: Overall Funding Position

Funding	Initial Allocated Budget	Current Allocated Budget	Committed Budget (including this Board)	Potential Value of Projects in Progress
Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas	£1,070,000	£1,120,000	£930,267 (84%)	£205,000
Bargarran Play Area	£110,000	£160,000	£160,000 (100%)	-
Village Investment Fund	£370,000	£370,000	£304,517 (89%)	£70,000
Staffing costs	£320,000	£220,000	£220,000 (100%)	-
Total	£1,870,000	£1,870,000	£1,614,784 (86%)	£275,000