Elmbridge Borough Council

Local Spending Board - Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton

Report of a meeting held on Thursday, 8 March 2018

Members of the Committee:

* Mrs. K. Randolph (Chairman)

* Tricia W. Bland

* B. Fairbank

* N. Haig-Brown

* N. Houston

Mrs. S.R. Kapadia

* Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon

* Mrs. T. Shipley

* Mrs. J.R. Turner

* Denotes attendance

County Councillor present:

N. Darby

1/17 To Appoint a Chairman for the 2017/18 Municipal Year

The Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board appointed Mrs. K. Randolph as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

2/17 Declarations of Interest

In respect of the bid submitted by the Thames Ditton Foundation, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Mrs. J. R. Turner wished that it be noted that she was the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture and as such, the Portfolio remit encompassed all the Borough’s Commons, including Milbourne Pond, and she also wished that it be noted that she was acquainted with the applicant.

In respect of the bid submitted by the Thames Ditton Foundation, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, B. Fairbank wished that it be noted that he was acquainted with the applicant.

In respect of the bid submitted by the Thames Ditton Foundation, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Mrs. T. Shipley wished that it be noted that she had a personal interest in Milbourne Pond by virtue of undertaking various Ward Councillor duties in this locality.

In respect of the bid submitted by the Thames Ditton Foundation, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon wished that it be noted that she was acquainted with the applicant. In addition, in respect of the bid submitted by Thames Ditton Infant School, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct,
Conduct, she also wished that it be noted that she was previously a Governor of Thames Ditton Infant School.

In respect of the bid submitted by the Thames Ditton Foundation, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Tricia W. Bland wished that it be noted that she was a Board Member of the Thames Ditton Foundation.

3/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Local Spending Board held on 21 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters of Report

4/17 Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board Report

The Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board considered a report that summarised the four applications received by the Council which sought Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds:

- Hinchley Wood Secondary School, which was seeking £20,000. The application was in respect of funding for additional cycle parking for 60 student bikes.
- Thames Ditton Infant School, which was seeking £11,000. The application was in respect of funding to replace an outdoor roof canopy.
- Thames Ditton Foundation, which was seeking £13,116. The application was in respect of funding to reprofile Milbourne Pond.
- Old Cranleighan Society, which was seeking £106,500. The application was in respect of funding towards resurfacing the hockey pitch, extending the car park and providing bike storage facilities.

Members noted that £360,000 was available for the settlement area of Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton and Thames Ditton to spend on local infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, Members noted that the legislation stated that the funds must be allocated to projects that met the following criteria:

- the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- anything else that was concerned with addressing the demands that development placed on an area.
Applicants had been invited to the meeting to present their respective application.

5/17 Hinchley Wood Secondary School

The Chairman was disappointed to learn that there was no representation from Hinchley Wood Secondary School in order to answer the Board’s questions relating to the application.

As there was no representation for the application, the Infrastructure Delivery Co-Ordinator provided Members with background information in respect of funding for the proposed repair of an existing bike shed and the installation of a third bike storage compound in order to accommodate an additional 60 student bikes.

The Ward Councillor was pleased to see the application and measures to increase cycling with the locality. She also commented that sixth formers should be encouraged to cycle to school instead of using a motor vehicle.

A Member welcomed the application and was of the view that the application linked in well with the Council’s vision.

Arising from the discussion, a Member requested that Hinchley Wood Secondary School be encouraged to inform their pupils to cycle more responsibly and be aware of other road users. In this regard, a Member requested that Surrey County Council be encouraged to add cycle tracks in order to accommodate the extra cyclists in the area.

Members were supportive of the application and on consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board

Resolved that £20,000 be awarded to Hinchley Wood Secondary School in respect of funding for additional cycle parking for 60 student bikes.

6/17 Thames Ditton Infant School

The Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board welcomed Mrs. S. Burnes and Mr. M. Bowen, representatives of Thames Ditton Infant School to the meeting. Mr. Bowen presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding to replace an outdoor roof canopy.

Mr. Bowen explained that the existing canopy was installed approximately 10 years ago and over a period of time, had degraded significantly as a result of weather conditions and general everyday use. Members noted that the project was to replace a large section of the corrugated roof canopy in order to provide better outdoor provision for physical education; enhancement of the outdoor area for school play / learning; and improve safety. The replacement of the old canopy with a new modern, sustainable and easier to maintain canopy, would create a much brighter, safer outside environment that would be more conducive to learning and play activities.
A Member commented that the Thames Ditton Infant School was the largest infant school on the smallest site in Surrey and she further commented that the way the school had maximised every inch of the playground was admirable.

A Member queried whether the project would be completed prior to the children returning to the school after the Easter break, if the funding was to be granted. Mrs. Burns replied that if the funding was granted, the work would take place over the Easter break and would be completed prior to the children returning to school.

A Member commented on whether there was an awareness of the potential noise level of the After-School Club on neighbouring residents if the usage and hours of the After-School Club were to be extended. Mrs. Burns replied that there was no intention to change the hours of the After-School Club and that the canopy should alleviate some of the noise level.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Burnes and Mr. Bowen for attending the meeting and for the informative presentation the Board had received.

Members were supportive of the application and on consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board

Resolved that £11,000 be awarded to Thames Ditton Infant School in respect of funding to replace an outdoor roof canopy.

7/17  Thames Ditton Foundation - Milbourne Pond

The Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. A. Roberts, a representative of Thames Ditton Foundation to the meeting. Mr. Roberts presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding to reprofile Milbourne Pond.

Mr. Roberts explained that Milbourne Pond was an historic dew pond and dated back to the 18th Century. The issues with the pond occurred in the 1950’s and were caused by a lowering of the water table and development in the area. Members noted that pro-bono work by an international environmental consultancy, ERM, detailed the problem and advised the Thames Ditton Foundation to install 4-meter deep holes to monitor the water table. The reprofiling would provide year-round water without the need for a plastic liner and the reprofiling would sustain long term ecology. Mr. Roberts informed Members that the pond was a focal point for the common and when full, made a significant contribution to public amenity.

A Member requested clarity on a year-round pond when periodically the pond was known to dry out and he further queried that if the water table was below the bottom of the pond, what would make the water rise to a metre above the pond floor. Mr. Roberts replied that nature dictated the best scenario for the pond and the water table would continue to go up and down, however, the clay liners were in the perfect location to trap the water when it rained and increase the water table.

A number of Members expressed their support for the application and were of the view that Milbourne Pond was a valuable community amenity.
Mr. Roberts advised Members that the original amount of CIL funding sought was £13,116, however the amount requested had since been amended down due to additional funds having been raised and the sum of £8,000 was now being requested from the Board.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Roberts for attending the meeting and for the informative presentation the Board had received.

Members were supportive of the application and on consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board

Resolved that £8,000 be awarded to the Thames Ditton Foundation in respect of funding to reprofile Milbourne Pond.

8/17 Old Cranleighan Society

The Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. D. Khurshid, Mr. N. Hawes and Mr. C. Choi, representatives of the Old Cranleighan (OC) Society to the meeting. Mr. Khurshid presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding towards resurfacing the hockey pitch, extending the car park and providing bike storage facilities at the OC Club.

Mr. Khurshid explained that the OC Club had provided international standard coaching and recreation for almost 1,000 local children. The current surface of the existing all-weather hockey pitch had reached the end of its natural life and therefore required replacing with a new synthetic surface. Members were informed that up to 900 children utilised the hockey and rugby sections on a weekend and the volume of motor vehicles, especially on Sunday mornings, created congestion and had become a road safety concern. In an attempt to alleviate this, the OC Society had invested substantially in purchasing the neighbouring Weston Green Sports Club and amalgamating this into the OC Club. In this regard, the purchase had increased the available parking by approximately 50 spaces. Members noted that the OC Society wanted to place environmentally friendly geosynthetic hexagons on some parts of the car park, in order to accommodate a further 100 more motor vehicles. Mr. Khurshid explained that the improvements would significantly ease the congestion and road safety on the Portsmouth Road, Longmead Road and other local streets in the vicinity of the OC Club. As the club was used primarily by families living in the immediate area, the OC Society wanted to encourage parents and children to cycle to the club. Part of the project was to install cycle racks for between 50 and 75 bicycles, however, at present, there were no storage facilities.

A Member commented that she would endorse the application with the proviso that the OC Society establish a sinking fund for the maintenance of the astro-turf pitch. She also recommended that the OC Society contact the Countryside Officer at Elmbridge Borough Council to provide advice with regard to the car parking expansion and the implications on common land.
A Member requested clarity on whether Elmbridge Borough Council’s costs would increase given that the OC Society would accommodate the number of motor vehicles that currently park on the Portsmouth Road and would in future be crossing EBC’s common land. Mr. Khurshid replied that repairs were not endorsed on common land, however the OC Society would mitigate any increase in costs, if any. Mr. Hawes further commented that in an attempt to alleviate the volume of motor vehicles, the OC Society had substantially invested in the purchasing of the neighbouring Weston Green Sports Club and amalgamating it into the OC Club.

A Member commented that the OC Club provided a good social opportunity for young people, however he raised a concern with regard to the affordability of the fees charged. Mr. Khurshid replied that the fees were at the lowest level possible so that their overhead costs would be covered. However, he explained that the ethos of the OC Society was not to allow money to become an obstacle in sport participation and exceptions would be made on affordability.

A Member expressed her concern that the list of users attached to the application provided by the OC Club did not include a number of state schools in the area and given that the remit of the OC Club was to provide a facility for the whole community, she requested that a more concerted effort be made to include talented local pupils. Mr. Choi replied that a vast majority of the Colts and the Minis that arrive on a Sunday morning were from state schools. Mr. Choi also explained that the OC Club was a community led club and coaching sessions had been offered to the local schools.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Khurshid, Mr. Hawes and Mr. Choi for attending the meeting and for the informative presentation the Board had received.

Members were supportive of the application and on consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board

Resolved that £106,500 be awarded to the Old Cranleighan Society in respect of funding towards resurfacing the hockey pitch, extending the car park and providing bike storage facilities.

9/17 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman invited the Planning Policy Manager to address the Board. Members were advised that an application in respect of Thames Ditton Common / Weston Green had been accidentally omitted from the Agenda.

The Local Spending Board Members noted that the item would be presented to the next meeting of the Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Local Spending Board for full consideration.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 8.25 pm
These Minutes should be referred to in conjunction with the Minutes of the subsequent meeting of the Council, where they are presented; and for completeness to the next relevant meeting when the Minutes are adopted.

Mrs. K. Randolph
Chairman

Democratic Services Officer
Mrs. P. Phillips            Committee and Member Services Officer

Other Officers in attendance
Ms. S. Parkes           Planning Policy Manager
Ms. J. Jenkins           Infrastructure Delivery Coordinator