Elmbridge Borough Council

Local Spending Board - Esher & Hersham

Report of a meeting held on Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Members of the Committee:

* D.J. Archer (Chairman)

* R. Green

* P.R.C. Heaney

* Mrs. A.E. Hill-Purcell

* T.G. Oliver

* Mrs. M.C. Sheldon

* Denotes attendance

County Councillors present:

J. O'Reilly and P.J. Szanto

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

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board appointed D.J. Archer as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

2/17 Declarations of Interest

In respect of the bids submitted for Hersham, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, R. Green wished that it be noted that he was acquainted with the applicants by virtue of undertaking various Ward Councillor duties in this locality.

In respect of the bid submitted by Weybridge Beekeepers, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Mrs. A.E. Hill-Purcell wished that it be noted that she was acquainted with the applicant.

In respect of the bid submitted by the Hersham Youth Trust, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, Mrs. M.C. Sheldon wished that it be noted that she was a Trustee and Chairman of the Hersham Youth Trust.

In respect of the bid submitted by Esher Church of England High School, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, T.G. Oliver wished that it be noted that he was the Chairman of Governors of Esher College.

In respect of the bid submitted by Esher Green Surgery, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, T.G. Oliver wished that
it be noted that a number of his family attended the surgery and he was acquainted with the applicant.

In respect of the bid submitted by Esher Green Surgery, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, D.J. Archer wished that it be noted that he attended the surgery.

In respect of the bid submitted by Esher Green Surgery, whilst not a disclosable pecuniary or any other interest under the Code of Conduct, P.J. Szanto wished that it be noted that he attended the surgery.

3/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 March 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board held on 28 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters of Report

4/17 Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board Report

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board considered a report that summarised the twelve applications received by the Council which sought Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds:

- Surrey County Council, which was seeking £20,000. The application was in respect of funding to provide electronic vehicle-activated signs on Burwood Road.

- Bell Farm Primary School, which was seeking £66,659. The application was in respect of funding to expand office and staff space for the growing school.

- The Lower Mole Partnership, which was seeking £5,400. The application was in respect of funding for surfacing of another section of the circular riverside path in Hersham.

- Walton Charity, which was seeking £8,698. The application was in respect of funding for the construction of fencing and the creation of a communal area at Burhill allotment site.

- North East Surrey Short Stay School, which was seeking £10,166. The application was in respect of funding for the creation of a garden area at the school to regenerate a currently unused area.

- Weybridge Beekeepers, which was seeking £20,000. The application was in respect of funding for a bee education centre, training apiary and community hall.
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.

- Hersham Youth Trust, which was seeking £68,483. The application was in respect of funding to replace the defective roofing of the Hersham Young People’s Centre.

- Burwood Preschool, which was seeking £19,204. The application was in respect of funding for the installation of gas central heating for the community building on Vauxmead for Burwood Preschool.

- Hersham Parochial Church Council, which was seeking £1,800. The application was in respect of the shortfall in CIL funding that was allocated in 2017 for the provision of additional toilet facilities at Vauxmead.

- Esher Church of England High School, which was seeking £13,500. The application was in respect of the provision of flooring to protect the sports hall floor for the multi-use of the hall.

- Esher Green Surgery, which was seeking £6,000. The application was in respect of funding to improve the toilets (staff and patient) and to decorate the waiting room.

- 1st Claygate Scout Group, which was seeking £35,000. The application was in respect of funding to extend the Scout Centre.

Members noted that £702,000 was available for the settlement area of Esher and Hersham 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 SCC - Burwood Road

As there was no representation for the application, a Surrey County Councillor provided Members of the Board with background information in respect of the application.

Members noted that the proposed project was to provide electronic vehicle-activated signs to encourage lower speeds and improve safety for road users and amenity for residents. Members also noted that development in the area
had contributed towards greater pressure on the local road network and the proposed project would improve safety measures for drivers and residents.

Members were of the view that the application was in line with the criteria of CIL funding.

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

Resolved that £20,000 be awarded to Surrey County Council in respect of funding to provide electronic vehicle-activated signs on Burwood Road. Members of the Board requested that the Ward Councillors be involved in discussions around location and type of sign.

6/17 Bell Farm Primary School

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Ms. J. Chave and Ms. A. Cooper, of Bell Farm Primary School to the meeting. Ms. Chave presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding to expand office and staff space for the growing school.

Ms. Chave explained that since Bell Farm had become a primary school, they had gained two extra (bulge) classes and the school’s capacity, when full, was now 716 children. Members noted that the number of administration staff that worked in the main office had increased and the space was crowded and there was limited space for storage and shelving. Ms. Chave informed Members that the entrance hall area where parents and visitors arrived was not fit for purpose anymore and they could only communicate to the office staff via a small window. Ms. Chave explained that the proposed expansion of the office would take place over the summer holidays.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Chave and Ms. Cooper 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 £66,659 be awarded to Bell Farm Primary School in respect of funding to expand office and staff space for the growing school.

7/17 Lower Mole Partnership

As there was no representation for the application, the Infrastructure Delivery Co-Ordinator provided Members with background information in respect of funding for surfacing of another section of the circular riverside path in Hersham.

Members were of the view that the application was in line with the criteria of CIL funding.

Members were supportive of the application and on consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board
Resolved that £5,400 be awarded to Lower Mole Partnership in respect of funding for surfacing of another section of the circular riverside path in Hersham.

8/17 Walton-On-Thames Charity

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mrs. J. Lodge and Ms. K. Heynike, representatives of Walton-On-Thames Charity to the meeting. Ms. Heynike presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding for the construction of fencing and the creation of a communal area at Burhill allotment site.

Ms. Heynike explained that the Walton-On-Thames Charity owned four allotment sites in the borough of Elmbridge. The Charity proposed to develop and enhance one of the allotment sites at Burhill, in Hersham. Members noted that the proposed project would enhance the allotment site to improve the environment and facilities for the increasing numbers of allotment tenants. Ms. Heynike explained that as one of the allotment site’s bordered with the River Mole, fencing was required around the site to increase the safety of the tenants and their children. In this regard, Ms. Heynike commented that the construction of the fencing would improve the security of the site as well. Members were informed that the creation of a communal area would include a shed, a seating area and the provision of tools. Mrs. Lodge informed Members that the Burhill allotment site was the most active and well-regarded site, with a full tenancy and a waiting list.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Lodge and Ms. Heynike 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 £8,698 be awarded to Walton Charity in respect of funding for the construction of fencing and the creation of a communal area at Burhill allotment site.

9/17 North East Surrey Short Stay School

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. A. Martin and Ms. J. Noble, representatives of North East Surrey Short Stay School to the meeting. Mr. Martin presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding for the creation of a garden area at the school to regenerate a currently unused area.

Mr. Martin explained that currently the school did not have suitable facilities and the proposed project would enable the school to strengthen the students' social and communication skills in preparation for their future. Members noted that the proposed project would also enhance an area in the garden where the students could work on food technology, science and construction skills, which would engage them in a learning experience relevant to their career choice. Ms. J. Noble informed Members that as part of their volunteering element for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, students had attended the Walton Community Allotment project
and enjoyed assisting with digging beds, planting, weeding and other gardening activities. Mr. Martin commented that hands-on practical skills were particularly important for the students as they benefitted greatly from being able to see visible results of their progress.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Martin and Ms. Noble 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 £10,166 be awarded to North East Surrey Short Stay School in respect of funding for the creation of a garden area at the school to regenerate a currently unused area.

10/17 Weybridge Beekeepers

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. D. Parker and Ms. M. Cooper, representatives of Weybridge Beekeepers to the meeting. Mr. Parker presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding for a bee education centre, training apiary and community hall.

Mr. Parker explained that Weybridge Beekeepers were based in Hersham and Elmbridge Borough Council had granted them a 20-year lease. Mr. Parker commented that the objective of the project was to revitalise the property that would otherwise be a derelict piece of land with a building on it. The proposed project was to create a new bee education centre, teaching apiary and a community hall that would be made available for local use. Members noted that the plan was to create a permanent base for the running of school courses and the opportunity for children to experience bees in a safe, controlled environment.

One Member queried whether consent had been given for the change of use from Elmbridge Borough Council as the landowner. Mr. Parker replied that the terms of the lease was in the process of being entered into and Weybridge Beekeepers had gone through the Bronze stage of Planning permission and were now entering into the Platinum stage with Elmbridge Borough Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Parker and Ms. Cooper 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 £20,000 be awarded to Weybridge Beekeepers in respect of funding for a Bee education centre, training apiary and community hall. Allocation of this funding to be subject to: 1) the submission of three quotations; 2) agreed legal consent from Elmbridge Borough Council as the landowner; 3) granting of the required planning permissions; and 4) a time limitation of 1 year for the above to be secured / agreed.
11/17 Hersham Youth Trust

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. M. Wheatley and Mr. J. Sheldon, representatives of the Hersham Youth Trust to the meeting. Mr. Wheatley presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding to replace the defective roofing of the Hersham Young People’s Centre.

Mr. Wheatley explained that the community youth led social enterprise was open seven days a week, including evenings, currently totalling eighty-three hours a week with breakfast club, playgroup, after school club, open access youth work, specialist projects and a Sunday school. Member noted that the Hersham Young People’s Centre attracted over 10,000 local young people. Mr. Wheatley informed Members that the proposed project was to replace the defective roofing to enable a maintenance free, weather resistant and secure environment.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Sheldon 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 £68,483 be awarded to the Hersham Youth Trust in respect of funding to replace the defective roofing of the Hersham Young People’s Centre.

12/17 Burwood Preschool

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Ms. S. Hope and Ms. P. Gray, representatives of Burwood Preschool to the meeting. Ms. Hope presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding for the installation of gas central heating for the community building on Vauxmead for Burwood Preschool.

Ms. Hope explained that although work had been done to improve the facilities at the building, the heating remained an issue. Members noted that the building was currently heated by wall mounted electric fan heaters. Ms. Gray explained that having spent a full winter operating the preschool at the site, it was clear that the heating system was inadequate to maintain a suitable temperature within the building during cold weather. Ms. Hope informed Members that the proposed project was to install a gas central heating system to the building.

One Member queried whether the project would be completed over the Easter break, if the funding was to be granted. Ms. Hope replied that if the funding was granted, the work would take place over the Easter break or over the Summer and would be completed prior to the children returning to school.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Hope and Ms. Gray 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 £19,204 be awarded to Burwood Preschool in respect of funding for the installation of gas central heating for the community building on Vauxmead for Burwood Preschool.

13/17 Hersham Parochial Church Council

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. R. Welford, representative of Hersham Parochial Church Council to the meeting. Mr. Welford presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of the shortfall in CIL funding that was allocated in 2017 for the provision of additional toilet facilities at Vauxmead.

Mr. Welford explained that the purpose of the application was to seek to recover the £1,800 funds shortfall that was currently being borne by the Parochial Church Council (a registered charity). The previous CIL application (January 2017) was for £14,500. Following the presentation to the Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board on 28 April 2017, this amount was increased to £19,500 as Members of the Board had added an additional £5,000 contingency estimate to cover the cost of a disabled toilet which the Council required as part of the project, in line with Elmbridge Borough Council policy. In this regard, the total cost of the project, including installing the disabled toilet was £21,300. The balance between the actual spend of £21,300 and the £19,500 estimate was an additional £1,800.

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

On consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board

Resolved that £1,800 be awarded to Hersham Parochial Church Council in respect of the shortfall in CIL funding that was allocated in 2017 for the provision of additional toilet facilities at Vauxmead.

14/17 Esher Church of England High School

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mrs. J. Woodley, a representative of Esher Church of England High School to the meeting. Mrs. Woodley presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding for the provision of flooring to protect the sports hall floor for the multi-use of the hall.

Mrs. Woodley explained that Esher Church of England High School had recently expanded to meet the needs of a growing student population. This had resulted in the sports hall being used more frequently for multi activities for both students and the community. Members noted that the current vinyl flooring did not remain flat and there had been an incident where an exam invigilator had tripped and fallen.
One Member queried whether an application for funding had been submitted to Surrey County Council. Mrs. Woodley replied that the school would not receive funding from Surrey County Council for flooring.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Woodley 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 £13,500 be awarded to Esher Church of England High School in respect of funding for the provision of flooring to protect the sports hall floor for the multi-use of the hall.

15/17 Esher Green Surgery

As there was no representation for the application, a Member provided Members of the Board with background information in respect of funding to improve the toilets (staff and patient) and to decorate the waiting room.

Members of the Board were of the view that the application was not in line with the criteria of CIL funding.

On consideration of the application, the Local Spending Board were unable to fund the application on this occasion.

Resolved that no funding to be awarded on this occasion to Esher Green Surgery in respect of funding to improve the toilets (staff and patient) and to decorate the waiting room.

16/17 1st Claygate Scout Group

The Esher and Hersham Local Spending Board welcomed Mr. H. Gostling and Mr. G. Ernest, representatives of 1st Claygate Scouts to the meeting. Mr. Gostling presented the application and provided Members with background information in respect of funding to extend the Scout Centre.

Mr. Gostling explained that the proposed project was to extend the Scout Centre by doubling the size of the upstairs meeting room and creating an independent entrance. Mr. Gostling informed Members that extending the centre would allow the Scout Group to add a new beaver colony and a new cub pack, thus enabling them to offer at least another 30 places each year. Members noted that there was no scout group in Esher, however any young person from the Esher area who wished to undertake scouting could join one of the ‘surrounding’ groups - primarily Claygate, but also Weston Green, Molesey and Cobham.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Gostling and Mr. Ernest 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 £35,000 be awarded to 1st Claygate Scout Group in respect of funding to extend the Scout Centre. Allocation of this funding to be subject to the commencement of the project by September 2019.

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The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.23 pm

D.J. Archer
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