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COMMITTEE: SOUTH EAST **REF NO:** SEAC/17/17
DATE: 10 JANUARY 2018
SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: HOLYWELLS BOWLS
CLUB GREEN IMPROVEMENTS
REPORT AUTHOR: SIMON LANNING
HEAD OF SERVICE: IAN BLOFIELD

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests funding for the Holywells Bowls Club for improvements to the green. The improvements are to the fencing surrounding the green, the grass slope adjoining the play area and the ditches that edge the green. The improvements are intended to preserve the green, make the area safer to use, and aid the bowls play. The amount requested from the South East Area Committee is £1,290.

List of Appendices included in this report:

N/A

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

Valerie Reeder, Club Secretary Holywells Bowls Club

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Building a Better Ipswich 2017

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests funding for the Holywells Bowls Club for improvements to the green. The improvements are to the fencing surrounding the green, the grass slope adjoining the play area and the ditches that edge the green. The improvements are intended to preserve the green, make the area safer to use, and aid the bowls play.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Holywells Bowls Club is an outdoor bowling green next door to Holywells Park on Cliff Lane. The club has 45 members, the majority of who live within 3 miles. Two of the players are under-15, which is unusual for the sport. The players participate in 4 different leagues and some members play socially.
- 2.2 The Club is keen to broaden the appeal of the sport and engages in park events and the local community where it is able. In the summer of 2017 the club participated in the St Elizabeth Hospice Tea Party and the Bangladeshi Community Fun-day.
- 2.3 Fifty children from year 6 of Cliff Lane Primary school are supported by the club coach and members to play lawn bowls at the club once a week during the summer term.



Figure 1 Bowls green

- 2.4 The green is maintained by 7 volunteers from among the members. This includes fertilising, treating & mowing the green and maintaining the surrounding area. The members would like to make several

improvements and the Club is seeking funding from the area committee to pay for the materials required.

- 2.5 One of the banks of the green has a steep grass slope onto the green that is not ideal for less mobile members. The club plans to put in a retaining wall using gravel boards and install paving slabs along the length of the bank. This would provide a safe and even surface for players. The edges of the green would need to be build up with topsoil.
- 2.6 Deer and foxes from the park sometimes get in past the railings and can cause damage to the green. The members have fixed wire mesh to sections of the railing to make the green more secure. The club is seeking funding to extend the wire mesh.
- 2.7 The last improvement is to the ditches that surround the playing green for drainage. The club wishes to purchase shredded rubber to fill the ditches. This will still allow drainage but protect the bowls balls from being damaged.
- 2.8 The total amount requested from the South East Area Committee is £1,290.00.

3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 13.1 **Option 1** – Approve the allocation of £1,290.00 funding to the Holywells Bowls Club for the cost of improvements to the green area.
- 13.2 **Option 2** - Approve the allocation of an amount less than £1,290.00 funding to the Holywells Bowls Club for the cost of improvements to the green area.
- 13.3 **Option 3** - Do not fund

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Holywells Bowls Club membership participate fully in the running of the club and the maintenance. The development of this proposal has been made in consultation with local councillors.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 The risks associated with the works and use of the green are owned by the Holywells Bowls Club.

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1 almost impossible - 6 very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1 negligible- 4 catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
Slip, trip or fall accessing the green	Harm or injury to participant	Surface material and incline	2	3	The proposed improvements to the slope would help reduce the risk

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The impact on the environment from the proposed works is not expected to be of major significance. There will be materials used in the proposed works that, in the case of the shredded rubber, is partly mitigated.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The proposed project is not anticipated to have a negative impact on any individual in respect of any of the protected characteristics as set out under the Equality Act 2010. The improvements to the slope will be of some benefit to people with reduced mobility through age or disability.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 The improvement works at the club will be undertaken by volunteers so incur no extra cost.

Core Project costs*	
50 concrete slabs (600x600mm)	£250.00
35 gravel boards (6'x2'x2")	£490.00
Sharp sand for base	£50.00
40 bags of topsoil	£100.00
1 ton shredded rubber tyres	£200.00
10 wire netting, stakes & ties	£200.00
Total Costs	£1,290.00

- 9.2 The Holywells Bowls Club had a financial reserve of £11,709.79 at the 24th September 2017. £6,000 of this amount is identified as a replacement fund for the specialised lawn mower necessary to maintain the green. The remaining £5,709.79 is identified for running costs in the case of reduced income and security against contingencies.
- 9.3 The total amount requested of the South East Area Committee budget is £1,290.00.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 The Holywells Bowls Club is a constituted group with named posts, named bank account, basic business plan and year-end accounts.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 The Holywells Bowls Club will complete the Area Committee funding submission before January 2019, reporting the spending of the allocation against the budget set out in Section 9.
- 11.2 During 2018-19, the Holywells Bowls Club will report to the Area Committees on the progress of the works. This may be either by short report or by presentation.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 The Holywells Bowls Club wishes to make improvements to its facilities for the benefit of its members, who are largely local residents, and for the children of Cliff Lane Primary School.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That the South East Area Committee consider the options set out in section 4 and determines the allocation of funding to the Holywells Bowls Club for improvements to its facilities.**

Reason: To determine the merit of providing Area Committee funding to the Holywells Bowls Club to improve the facilities for leisure and exercise offered by the Holywells Bowls Club to residents of South East Ipswich.