

COMMITTEE: NORTH EAST AREA **REF NO:** NEAC/17/20
DATE: 11 JANUARY 2018
SUBJECT: WALDRINGFIELD BOWLS CLUB
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CLLR SOPHIE MEUDEC
HEAD OF SERVICE: MARTYN FULCHER

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the North East Area Committee determine the allocation of funding £871.80 to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes sports ground in the North East of Ipswich.

Ward(s) affected:

Rushmere, Bixley and St John's

List of Appendices included in this report:

None

This report has been prepared by Alice Firbank Tel: 01473 432224

Email: alice.firbank@ipswich.gov.uk

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

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

The North East Area Committee Action Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests that the North East Area Committee determine the allocation of funding £871.80 to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes sports ground, situated in the North East of Ipswich.
- 1.2 The primary aim of carrying out this work is to improve the safety for players and visitors. Secondly, the project will increase use of the bowling facilities throughout the season and increase the integration of the Club into the local area for the benefit of the whole community.

2. Background

- 2.1 After losing its own bowls green to the building of a new village hall in 2000, Waldringfield & District Bowls Club leased space to play at other bowls clubs in Suffolk. Significant efforts in the intervening years to find land for their own green proved unsuccessful. Despite this, the Club grew from strength to strength with membership numbers increasing, and with continuing success at local, county and National level.
- 2.2 The bowls green at Ransomes sports ground had not been used for over 6 years and had become overgrown. The clubhouse and other buildings were also dilapidated. Waldringfield & District Bowls Club has taken on a 5-year lease with the opportunity to extend. Members of the Club (and their friends and families) have already completed a significant amount of work to recover the bowls green and make the buildings safe, watertight and functional again. The Club raised just over £10,000 towards the new green – and almost all of this has been spent on materials, with member's labour, of at least equal sum, being provided voluntarily. Their hard work enabled bowling to take place last season.
- 2.3 Since taking over the bowls green at Ransomes Pavilion in September 2016, Waldringfield Bowls Club has provided opportunities for members to play bowls both competitively and socially. The Club has made efforts to attract increased local membership by running taster and coaching sessions, and by offering the community chance to 'have a go' at the opening of Ransomes Pavilion in May 2017. As a result, the Club has been pleased to see substantial interest in bowling from local residents of all ages.
- 2.4 During the bowls season (April to September) the Club will offer bowls taster and coaching sessions again to local residents and encourage them to take up the sport and become active members. As bowling provides a gentle way into exercise from an inactive lifestyle, this will benefit people's physical health by building up strength and stability, thereby improving balance and reducing potential falls or injury. Sport can also aid mental wellbeing by encouraging people to meet and socialise with other like-minded people in the community. Members will

also have the opportunity to develop their bowling skills by playing competitively in league matches and competitions.

- 2.5 The Club is keen to work with other organisations already established in the local community. They aim to offer bowls coaching to local schools, to work in collaboration with the cricket and football clubs based at Ransomes sports ground, and they would welcome the opportunity to work with people engaged with other voluntary and community sector organisations, such as ActivLives.
- 2.6 In April 2018, the Club plan to re-lay the concrete path (pictured) besides the bowls green to remove the unevenness and trip hazards thus allowing safe access to the clubhouse, toilets and changing areas. Carrying out this work will make it safer and more attractive to all users.



- 2.7 Several members voluntarily meet at the green to carry out routine maintenance and other tasks. As well as taking part in physical activity, this provides an opportunity to be with others and fosters a sense of community and belonging. Volunteers will re-lay the path and carry out other small projects to improve safety and accessibility at the site (not funded by the Committee). Uneven areas of land will be levelled and grass sown, the metal steps used to access the green will be cleaned, weatherproofed and stored, and the green will be fertilised and dewormed in the winter months ready for cutting in February.
- 2.8 Currently, the Club enters 7 teams in 6 leagues with an increased number of teams being proposed for next season. The Club entered 5 County and League Cup competitions last season and plan to enter an additional 3 competitions, including 2 Benevolent Fund Competitions in 2018.

- 2.9 The organisation is made up of a Management Committee, Greens Committee and Social Committee. In total, there are 65 members; 16 of whom live in the North East Area of Ipswich. The Club hope this number will increase following further improvements being made and as they become better known in the local area.

3. Relevant Policies

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich 2017:
- Priority 4: A Healthy Community
 - Priority 6: Safe Communities
- 3.2 North East Area Committee Action Plan – aims to alleviate deprivation in the following domains:
- Health and Disability
 - Education, Skills and Training

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the request to allocate funding of £871.80 to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes sports ground.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Approve the allocation of an amount less than £871.80.
- 4.3 **Option 3** – Do not fund.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Members of the Club have identified, investigated and discussed at Committee meetings the ways in which to tackle these projects. Committee members have listened to suggestions and sought estimated costs of materials from suppliers.
- 5.2 In the formulation of the funding application, the Club has received advice from local Councillors and Council Officers in both the Community Engagement and Sport and Leisure service areas. The Club has also been in contact with the landlord (IBC) regarding an extension of the current lease and in relation to the wider promotion of the Club.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible;	Actions to mitigate risk

			impossible 6 – very high	4 – catastrophic)	
Accident sustained in carrying out works	Physical injury	Training, supervision and maintenance	2	2	Club to supervise works and carry out maintenance as necessary Tools and materials to be kept securely when not in use Electrical tools to be PAT tested Appropriate PPE and safety aids to be supplied by Club
Risks relating to specific activities e.g. physical exercise	Physical harm to a player, spectator or volunteer	Health and safety checks and appropriate supervision of activities	2	2	Club to carry out risk assessment and follow Health and Safety policy and procedure
Activities not well attended or well run	Public funds not well used	Consultation with participants and stakeholders Ongoing monitoring			Consultation in the development of the programme Club to provide monitoring reports

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

7.1 There are minimal negative environmental impacts identified.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The project does not conflict with the fair treatment of any protected group. Relaying the concrete path will increase the opportunity for people with physical disabilities in particular to access the bowling green safely.

9. Financial Considerations

Expenditure Description	Cost
<u>Re-lay concrete path</u>	
5.3 cubic metres of concrete	£686.88
26 x 3.6m gravel boards with delivery	£145.92
26 x wooden stakes	£14.00
Wood preservative	£25.00
Total	£871.80

- 9.1 The Committee sourced a number of quotes from different suppliers to ensure that the project materials provide best value for money.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to award 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 liability for carrying out the works will be the responsibility of Waldringfield Bowls Club. The Club is responsible for ensuring the safety of its members, players and volunteers. Permission to carry out this work has been sought from the Council.
- 10.4 Waldringfield Bowls Club is a constituted group with a named committee, named bank account, 2-year work plan and year-end accounts. As such, the group meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Area Committee funding Protocol.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 Success of the project will be measured by the safe completion of the works and by the number of local residents engaging with the Club

following completion of the works.

- 11.2 Regular feedback and evaluation conducted by the Club will inform performance monitoring. This evaluation and documentation of the activity programme, demographics of attendees etc. will provide evidence for the monitoring report to the Area Committee.
- 11.3 Community Engagement Officers and Ward Councillors will have the opportunity to visit the bowling green by arrangement with the Club.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 This project will improve the safety for players and visitors wanting to participate in activities at the bowling green. The project will increase use of the bowling facilities throughout the season and increase the integration of the Club into the local area for the benefit of the whole community.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That the North East Area Committee considers the options set out in Section 4 and determines the merit of allocating funding.**

Reason: To determine the allocation of funding £871.80 to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes sports ground in the North East of Ipswich.