

COMMITTEE: SOUTH EAST AREA **REF NO:** SEAC/19/11
DATE: 4 SEPTEMBER 2019
SUBJECT: RAVENSWOOD COMMUNITY FUND
ADMINISTRATION
REPORT AUTHOR: SIMON LANNING
HEAD OF SERVICE: IAN BLOFIELD

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report ask that the South East Area Committee consider adopting the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund. The Fund was established during the development of the Ravenswood and a balance of £59,797.95 remains. The Ravenswood Steering Group previously managed the Fund but it is no longer in existence. It was previously proposed to the Executive of the Council that the Fund be passed to the South East Area Committee to manage.

List of Appendices included in this report:

None

This report has been prepared by Simon Lanning,

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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)

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)

C/13/11 – Area Committees – New initiatives in terms of delegated powers and taking decision making closer to the people.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report asks that the South East Area Committee consider adopting the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund. The Fund was created during the construction of Ravenswood and the sum of £59,797.95 remains.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Ravenswood Community Fund was created through contributions by the two housing developers contracted for the delivery of the Ravenswood Ashwell's and Bellway Homes.
- 2.2 The contribution from Ashwell's is a planning contribution of £30,000 towards a cricket pavilion, which has never been needed. The Bellway contribution was comprised of donations of £100.00 for every private house completed. The amount remaining, after previous awards, is £29,797.95. The total amount remaining in the fund is £59,797.95

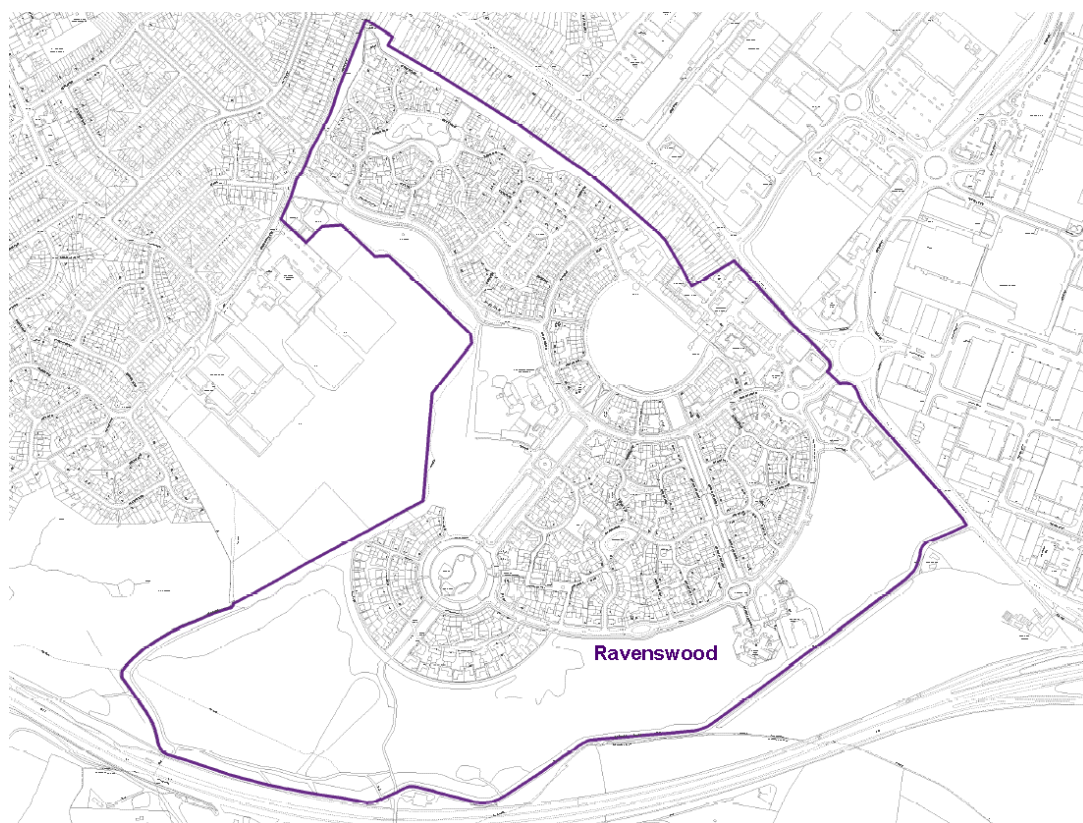


Figure 1 Ravenswood Area

- 2.3 The Fund was initially managed by the Ravenswood Steering Committee. The committee consisted of Directors of Bellway, Councillors and Council management employees. The Ravenswood Steering Committee has not met in recent years and it was previously recommended to the Council that management of the Fund pass to the South East Area Committee ([C/13/11](#)).

- 2.4 In the past, the fund has been used to support various community activities in southeast Ipswich, including the Ravenswood Resident Association, the Gymnastics Centre, a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, children's activities and community fun-days.
- 2.5 The Fund has not been accessed for several years and the mechanism for its use remains to be resolved, as the Ravenswood Steering Committee no longer meets.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the South East Area Committee take on the management of the Fund. If the Fund were adopted, applications would follow the same process as Area Committee Funding Requests and Spending Proposals, save for 2 conditions.
- 2.7 First that the projects applying to the Fund must show significant benefit to Ravenswood Residents. For projects not within the estate but nearby or otherwise serving a wider catchment of people, the proportion of funding sought or awarded through the Fund should be in keeping with the benefit given to Ravenswood Residents.
- 2.8 Second, those projects must meet the objectives of the Ravenswood Community Fund, rather than be required to meet the aims of the South Area Committee Action Plan.
- 2.9 The aims of the Fund are;
- **Community** – To support single project (rather than revenue) initiatives for groups & organisations supporting the wellbeing of the local community.
 - **Educational** – To support local young people who have special educational needs and are unable to access other sources of funding.
 - **Special Needs** – To support members of the local community with disability or special needs, that they would not otherwise be able to access – e.g. equipment or apparatus which would improve the quality of life of individuals, or groups in the area.
 - **Environmental** – to support initiatives that reduce waste, encourage recycling, reduce pollution or improve the local environment to the benefit of the community.
 - **Wildlife** – To support projects protecting local wildlife, encouraging biodiversity or enriching animal habitats.
- 2.10 The Committee is asked to consider options for the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund and decide its preferred Option.

3. Relevant Policies and considerations

- 3.1 The adoption of the Ravenswood Community Fund, proposed in this report, would be governed by part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution. In particular, Part 6 - Area Committees, Constitution and Terms of Reference.

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – Adopt the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund in line with process for Area Committee Funding Applications and Spending Proposals but specifically for uses benefitting residents of Ravenswood.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Refer options for the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund to the Executive of the Council.
- 4.3 **Option 3** – Take no action.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Ravenswood Steering Group used to include consultation on the use of the fund with the directors of Bellway Homes, local Councillors and council officers. The Group no longer exists and cannot therefore be consulted.
- 5.2 Subsequent to the last meeting of the Group, the Council was consulted on this proposal, amongst others, and they were agreed. For more details, see the Council report - C/13/11 – Area Committees – New initiatives in terms of delegated powers and taking decision making closer to the people.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 The risks outlined here relate to the Committee decision to adopt or not adopt the Ravenswood Community Fund.

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1-6 almost impossible - very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1-4 negligible - catastrophic)
More items for the committee to consider if the fund is adopted	Pressure on agenda and meeting length More preparation by officers	Chairing of meeting Exploration of issues ahead of meetings Meeting frequency	4	1

Actions to mitigate risk	The Chair, supported by officers, is able to programme the Committee agenda to ensure all business can be considered. If necessary, the Committee is able to hold additional meetings.			
Status of the fund is not resolved if the fund is not adopted	Funds established for the benefit of residents remain unavailable	Options before the committee Alternative options developed.	2	1
Actions to mitigate risk	Alternative options for the management of the fund may be referred to the Executive Committee of the Council should the Area Committee choose not to adopt it.			

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 There is no additional impact associated directly with the proposal. Applications to the fund will be assessed for environmental impact or benefit, as is currently the case with applications to the Area Committee budget.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 There is no negative impact associated directly with the proposal. If adopted, applications to the fund will be assessed individually as is currently the case with applications to the Area Committee budget.
- 8.2 One of the aims of the fund is to support residents with a disability or special need, and applications on this basis ought to have a positive benefit people with a disability.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 The Ravenswood Community Fund currently stands at £59,797.95. If adopted by the Committee, the fund would be held separately to the South East Area Committee budget.
- 9.2 Allocations & spending from the fund and balance would be reported to the Area Committee in the same manner as its own budget. Updates on the fund would form part of the Financial Report that is presented at each Area Committee meeting.
- 9.3 The same information, for each year as a whole, would be included in the reporting to the Executive of the Council on the activities of the Area Committee.

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 If adopted, grants from the fund would be decided and awarded under the same powers and terms, save that in place of meeting the Area Committee Action Plan Aims the applications should meet at least one of the Aims of the Ravenswood Community Fund (Para 2.9).

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 The South East Area Committee is asked to consider the benefit of adopting the Ravenswood Community Fund and taking on its management so that the use of the fund may be resolved and that it may be used to benefit the residents of the Ravenswood Area.

12. Recommendation

- 12.1 That the South East Area Committee consider the options in Section 4 and determines whether to adopt the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund.**

Reasons: To resolve the status of the Ravenswood Community Fund and to benefit the residents of the Ravenswood Area.