

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 14/04/2022

Members Bid

Agenda item 21/144 4: To receive the information on the next round of Members' Bids' and consider suitable projects for consideration by the Ward Councillors.

Members' Community Bids

Application Criteria

(Last reviewed 23/9/19)

- This scheme is for capital bids (i.e. tangible assets) and does not fund revenue spend (e.g. running costs, hiring costs, consultant fees, etc.)
- Each Member can only apply for a maximum £5k under this scheme in any one financial year. (Note, it's possible to apply for several different projects providing the total grant sought does not exceed £5k).
- For higher value schemes, Members in two and three Member wards, can combine their allocations and make a joint submission (i.e. up to £15k bid for a three Member ward).
- Matched funding is required – a minimum of 50% must be obtained from other non-WBC sources (e.g. grants, community fundraising activities, local town or parish councils, etc.) and details supplied within the application.
- Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding can be considered matched funding on those occasions where the money has been allocated to a particular town or parish council.
- Grant applications should be submitted excluding VAT where the organisation/parish council is registered for VAT or can otherwise reclaim it.
- A project will be looked on more favourably if it also has the full backing and financial support from the relevant parish or town council.
- The application should describe the links to priorities in the Council Strategy (2019-23) and articulate any Parish Plan evidence which supports the bid.
- All bids must contain an officer comment or they will be considered ineligible for consideration by the Panel. It's the Members' responsibility to contact the relevant officer and request this comment. (If you are unsure of the relevant Officer please contact Jo Naylor, jo.naylor@westberks.gov.uk - 01635 503019 for advice.)
- All forms must be submitted electronically to be considered.

- The Members' Community Bids process is not intended to be for proposals for major schemes e.g. school extensions or provision of new WBC leisure facilities. The proper route for these would be the Capital Strategy Group with applications supported by a full business case.
- Members have 12 months to spend the grant award. If the project has not been delivered within this initial timescale, there will be one chance to apply for a 6-month extension. After this, the grant award offer will be cancelled and monies automatically returned for redistribution.
- Renewal Requests will need to be submitted if a 6-month extension to grant spend is required. This will provide an explanation of the reasons for any delays.
- For projects that are also listed on the Good Exchange website it's possible to have any approved grant paid through this mechanism to help increase your overall fundraising effort.
- To help publicise the community benefit of the grant award, a press release of all successful grant awards will be issued after a funding round.

Devolution of Services to Parishes

- The Members' Community Bid scheme is keen to support parish councils taking over and running services traditionally commissioned or delivered by WBC. To assist with this aim, a bid made on behalf of a parish council will not be subject to the normal 50% match funding rule (outlined above) but a grant application for the full amount of any capital purchase (e.g. specialist equipment, tools, etc.) will be considered.

For any further advice on Members' Community Bids please contact Jo Naylor, Principal Policy Officer, Building Community Together (BCT) Team – Email: jo.naylor@westberks.gov.uk or Tel: (01635) 503019