

Agenda for New Homes Bonus Panel

Monday, 29 January 2018; 11.00am



Date: 22 January 2018
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To: Members of the New Home Bonus Panel

Councillors:

Iain Chubb (Portfolio Holder – Corporate Business)
Phil Twiss (Portfolio Holder – Strategic Development and Partnerships)

Michael Allen
David Barratt
Simon Grundy
Geoff Jung
Christopher Pepper

Community Engagement and Funding Officer
DCC Ali Eastland

New Homes Bonus Panel
Monday 29 January 2018 at 11.00am

The above meeting will be held in the Room 1, Knowle, Sidmouth, to consider the matters detailed on the agenda below.

AGENDA

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| 1 To confirm the notes of the New Homes Bonus Panel held on 13 December 2017. | 3 - 5 |
| 2 To receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 3 To receive any declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda. | |
| 4 Changes to Devon County Councils Parishes Together Fund guidance principles for 2018/2019 – for reference as these have been sent out previously to Members | 6 |
| 5 Possible options for East Devon's future Parishes Together Fund rules for 2018 / 2019 – for discussion and decision | 7-10 |
| 6 Date of next meeting
To agree a date for a meeting at the end of March 2018. Preferably Tuesday 27 th March | |

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notes of a Meeting of the New Homes Bonus Panel held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday 13 December 2017

Present: Councillors:
Phil Twiss (Chairman)
David Barratt
Iain Chubb
Simon Grundy
Geoff Jung

Apologies: Councillors:
Mike Allen
Douglas Hull

Officers: Ali Eastland, Locality Development Officer, DCC
Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement and Funding Officer
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting started at 10:00am and finished at 11.05am.

*8 Minutes

The notes of the previous meeting of the New Homes Bonus Panel held on 19 July 2017 were confirmed as a true record.

*9 Declarations of interest

Councillor Geoff Jung declared a personal interest in Minute *12 as a member of Woodbury Speke Parish Council and Councillor Iain Chubb as a Devon County Councillor he had contributed part of his locality fund to the All Saints helipad project.

*10 Documentation

The Parishes Together Fund guidance notes and application form, circulated with the agenda, were noted. The Chairman, Councillor Phil Twiss reported that he would be looking to improve the Towns and Parish Fund in 2018 along the new guidelines issued by Devon County Council for the funding.

11 West Hill Parish Council

The Community and Engagement Officer reported that West Hill Parish Council had requested that they be granted £1,757.80 from the Ottery St Mary Parish Councils allocation of funding for 2017/18. West Hill Parish Council were only formed in May 2017, so have no allocation as yet of their own. Cllr Phil Twiss reported that Ottery St Mary Town Council had taken the view that West Hill should be allowed this funding, which was their share of the fund based on the number of electors within the West Hill parish.

RECOMMENDED: that the West Hill Parish Council be granted £1,700 funding from the Towns and Parishes Together fund for 2017/18.

12 Applications for decision:

a) All Saints Christmas Lights - £2,500

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for Christmas lights in Axminster. This was a joint project between, All Saints and Chardstock Parish councils and Axminster Town Council.

RECOMMENDED: that the All Saints Parish Councils application for £2,500 for Christmas Lights, be supported.

b) All Saints Community heli-pad - £5,171.40

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for 4 community heli-pads within the parishes of All Saints, Chardstock, Axminster and Kilmington.

RECOMMENDED: that All Saints Parish Councils application for £5,171.40, be supported.

c) Colyton cycle racks- £340

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for cycle racks wanted in Colyton and Northleigh. The Chairman, Councillor Phil Twiss, requested that the possibility of a publicity opportunity with Andrew Ennis, Service Lead – Environmental Health and Car Park, for this project be investigated.

RECOMMENDED: that the Colyton Parish Councils application for £340 for cycle racks required in Colyton and Northleigh, be supported.

d) Cranbrook great trees -£1,370.50

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to go towards paying for a great trees project in the Clyst Valley. This was a joint application from Cranbrook, Broadclyst, Clyst Honiton, Poltimore and Whimple.

RECOMMENDED: that the Cranbrook Town Councils application for £1,370.50 for a great trees project in the Clyst Valley, be supported.

e) Hawkchurch drainage £464

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for ditching and drainage work required in the parish. Members noted that this would be the last year that the fund could pay for drainage and ditching work in towns and parishes and that in future they would have to precept for them.

RECOMMENDED: that the Hawkchurch Parish Councils application for £464 for ditching and drainage work required in the parish, be supported.

f) Newton Poppleford defibrillators - £6,799

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for defibrillators in Newton Poppleford, East Budleigh with Bicton, Bishops Clyst and Woodbury Parish Councils.

RECOMMENDED: that the Newton Poppleford Parish Councils application for £6,799 for defibrillators in the four parishes, be supported.

g) Southleigh Drainage - £202

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for ditching and drainage work required in the parish.

RECOMMENDED: that the Southleigh Parish Councils application for £202 for ditching and drainage work required in the parish, be supported.

h) Stoke Canon footpath - £951.50

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for footpath work required in Stoke Canon and Rewe parishes.

RECOMMENDED: that the Stoke Canon Parish Councils application for £951.50 be increased to £1,250, for footpath work required in the parishes, be supported. This increase was given as it was felt that the project fitted in with the Council's Health and Well-being agenda.

i) Uplyme Drainage - £1,555.40

The Community Engagement and Funding Officer outlined the project which was to pay for ditching and drainage work required in the parish.

RECOMMENDED: that the Uplyme Parish Councils application for £1,555.40 for ditching and drainage work required in the parish, be supported.

Fund Scheme 2018-19 Guidance Principles

Whilst Devon County Council (DCC) acknowledges that each District experiences different demand from applicants and have differing processes for managing the fund in place, decisions on grants from the joint fund **MUST** be made having regard to the following guidance principles:

1. The Fund exists to encourage communities to work together; identifying new ideas for their mutual benefit. Applications are welcome from community projects benefiting, enhancing and making a difference to communities.
2. Match funding is encouraged. Demonstrating match funding (which can be in the form of own fundraising and/or other funding sources secured), or equivalent benefits in kind (such as commitments of labour, time or expertise), will increase the chance of an application being approved.
3. Applicants need to demonstrate to Fund decision-makers (which includes the relevant District /DCC Members) that :
 - a. they have explored opportunities to work with other voluntary and community groups to either identify and/or carry out the proposed project.
 - b. the project proposal benefits more than one Town or Parish (or the equivalent in Exeter City).
4. Funded projects will clearly acknowledge, in any related publicity, the Fund Scheme as a Devon County Council and District / City Council joint initiative.
5. For openness and accountability, all funded applications and the funding allocated will be published on the respective District / City Council website; alongside the total Fund Budget for the year, any unallocated/underspent funds remaining and information on how that will be managed. Any post project evaluations conducted will be made available on request.
6. Repeat funding should not be awarded unless there is a compelling business case proving transition to sustainability.
7. As the fund exists to help identify new ideas to benefit communities, regular activity such as grass cutting, ditch and drainage work and any other associated 'lengthsman' duties, are no longer eligible for funding.
8. Funds should not be used to support projects that are the direct responsibility or statutory obligation of another organisation.
9. Funds cannot be used for on-going staff costs or the day to day running of a project, unless this is during a transition phase with documented evidence of how the project will become sustainable post-transition.
10. Funds cannot be allocated to benefit individuals or private/for profit enterprises.
11. Funds must not be allocated retrospectively.

Options for the future of the Parishes Together Fund from 2018 2019

Devon County Council as the main funder has changed the guidance rules for the Parishes Together Fund from 2018/2019 onwards. Councillors on the NHBP wanted to take this opportunity to look at other options for the process of the fund. Here are some examples of options for the New Homes Bonus Panel (NHBP) to discuss / amend / add to, this is by no means exhaustive or complete, but is a starting point:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>The whole amount of funding available being put into a central pot that voluntary and community groups as well as town and parish councils can bid for. Decisions on successful applications being made by the NHBP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -May well encourage more innovative, creative projects. -Town and parish councils don't have to act as middleman for voluntary and community group project applications and funding, reducing difficulties and time for them. -A competitive application process will lead to more worthwhile community based projects. -Already done very effectively in other districts, not throughout the whole district but in already established cluster groups around main towns. -Would allow for all the funding to be used for worthy projects, no underspend. -Currently towns and parishes can only apply for their own individual allocations which can be very small. This idea would enable community projects to ask for the amount of funding they need, potentially enabling more worthwhile projects to happen. -Would work well with the option of doing some Dragon's Den / Participatory Budgeting style events (see below). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not sure how the working together aspect would work? Projects need to demonstrate working together somehow. Could be if the voluntary or community group benefits more than one parish or town area? -Town and parish councils are used to having the funding available to just them. -Application form and evidence required from applicants would get more in depth. There is knowledge that town and parish councils meet a certain standard, we would need to be assured that voluntary and community groups also meet a certain standard. -Would take a lot longer to manage and administer the funding. -Not geographical. When making decisions on projects Councillors would have to keep in mind the geographical location of the projects so that the benefits are spread out.
<p>Continue as it has been done, with following new Devon County Council rules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Status quo, town and parish councils get the benefit of the funding directly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Part of new rules is that town and parish councils need to talk to voluntary and community groups. Danger is that this won't happen, or could

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No change to the level of time taken to manage and administer the fund. -Filtering of community group projects done by the parish and town councils. 	<p>significantly increase the workload of town and parish clerks / councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More town and parish councils are likely to struggle to find projects to apply to the Parishes Together Fund for due to new rules. This means less of the funding is likely to be applied for, leading to a larger underspend when we know there are a lot of projects out there that could do with funding. -Risk of parish and town councils acting as gatekeepers for the funding and worthy community projects not getting through. -Towns and parishes can't apply for more than their number of electors X £1.10. This limits the scope of their projects, maybe the money doesn't go to the most worthy projects. -Limited scope of projects funded.
<p>Selected towns and parishes being invited to run Participatory Budgeting / Dragon's Den events. This would be where voluntary and community groups and town and parish councils would be invited to put forward their projects. An event would be held where members of the community can come along, hear a short presentation on each projects and vote for the projects they think should receive the funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To a certain extent events organisation could be handed over to relevant town and parish clerks, where they are willing. However, EDDC would need to remain in control as we are responsible for the money. -Gets residents really involved in the grassroots of their community. -The projects that are most popular within their community will be funded, the people within the town / parish who know it well are making the decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How would we ensure the people voting are representative of the town or parish community so it doesn't become tokenistic? -Any event would have to be as accessible and inclusive as possible. This could be done but with some effort. -Would take a lot longer to do than any other proposed process as applications need to be assessed beforehand, projects co-ordinated and events organised. -Not sure how the 'working together' element would be achieved? Could it be fulfilled by the event itself and the community groups networking?
<p>Same as now, allocate set amounts of funding to each town or parish area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -May well encourage more innovative, creative projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Could be difficult for voluntary and community groups to understand.

<p>However, all voluntary and community groups to apply directly to us as well as town and parish councils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Town and parish councils don't have to act as middleman for voluntary and community group project applications and funding, reducing difficulties for them. -A competitive application process will lead to more worthwhile community based projects. -Would allow for all the funding to be used for worthy projects, no underspend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Quite restrictive. Community and voluntary groups may well not exist in the same area boundaries as town and parish councils. Would make it really difficult / impossible. - People can't apply for more than their number of electors X £1.10. This limits the scope of projects, maybe the money doesn't go to the most worthy projects. -Would take a lot longer to administer and manage than the current system. -Hasn't as yet been done in other Districts. -Town and parish councils are used to having the funding available to just them. Would be reputational issues. -Application form and evidence required from applicants would get more in depth. There is knowledge that town and parish councils meet a certain standard, we would need to be assured that voluntary and community groups also meet a certain standard.
<p>Add together funds from specific areas and have several larger geographically based pots of funding that people within that area can bid for. For example, have a larger pot available within each County Councillor Ward boundary or East Devon market town area (towns and their hinterlands). Both parish and town councils and voluntary and community groups can apply directly to us. Decisions made by the NHBP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -May well encourage more innovative, creative projects. -Town and parish councils don't have to act as middleman for voluntary and community group project applications and funding, reducing difficulties and time for them. -A competitive application process will lead to more worthwhile community based projects. -Already done very effectively in other districts, not throughout the whole district but in already established cluster groups around main towns. -Would allow for all the funding to be used for worthy projects, no underspend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wouldn't work so well with the option of doing some Dragon's Den / Participatory Budgeting style events (see above) as then you'd potentially be removing vast amount of funding from each geographical area, whereas in other areas you wouldn't be. -Not sure how the working together aspect would work? Projects need to demonstrate working together somehow. Could be if the voluntary or community group benefits more than one parish or town area? -Town and parish councils are used to having the funding available to just them.

	<p>-Currently towns and parishes can only apply for their own individual allocations which can be very small. This idea would enable projects to ask for a larger amount of funding, potentially enabling more worthwhile projects to happen.</p> <p>-Would mean that the benefits are spread over the geographical area of East Devon.</p>	<p>-Application form and evidence required from applicants would get more in depth. There is knowledge that town and parish councils meet a certain standard, we would need to be assured that voluntary and community groups also meet a certain standard.</p> <p>-Would take a lot longer to manage and administer the funding.</p>
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