

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 2nd JUNE 2015

COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION – NEW PITSLIGO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. Recommendation

The Committee is requested to –

- 1.1 consider an award of £424 to New Pitsligo Community Council towards the Forbes Court Sheltered Housing Shed project.**

2. Background/Discussion

- 2.1 A total of £7,337 was made available to the Buchan area for disbursement to Community Councils for administration and project grants for the financial year 2015/2016.
- 2.2 The Committee agreed, on 17th March 2015, that the administration grant paid to each Community Council would be £425 and that an additional £35 would be paid to cover the cost of registration under the Data Protection Act. It was further agreed that the remaining balance of £3,197 would be made available for project grants of up to £1,000 or 80% of the total cost, whichever is the lesser.
- 2.3 New Pitsligo Community Council has applied for £424, towards the overall cost of £530, to assist the sheltered housing complex at Forbes Court Sheltered Accommodation to replace their garden shed. The present shed is very dilapidated and needs to be replaced to allow the residents to enjoy potting up bedding plants and other gardening activities. The new shed will improve the opportunities for outdoor activities for the largely housebound residents and will also give the gardeners amongst them a purpose and an interest, which they may have lost since moving into sheltered housing.
- 2.4 The proposal supports priority 7, 'Our Communities' and the action 'Environmental Improvements' within the Buchan Local Community Plan 2013-2016.
- 2.5 The continuation of a project grant scheme will be of benefit to the area in allowing community sponsored works to proceed. In this particular case the main aims are to support and encourage active lifestyles and enhancement of the local environment.

- 2.6 The grant scheme is in line with Council policy and past practice of the Area Committee.
- 2.7 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer from Business Services have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the report.

3. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report does not propose any change to previous allocation arrangements. There will be a positive impact of the grant on the residents and volunteers who will be involved in the project.
- 3.2 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. Supporting the work of Community Councils helps to sustain communities within Buchan.
- 3.3 The Community Council budget is shown on budget page 62, line 15. The funding scheme proposed is based on the agreed £57,000 budget and therefore no additional financial or staffing implications arise as a result of this report.
- 3.4 If this grant is awarded, a balance of £2,773 will remain available.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Communities Service

Report by Maureen Stephen
13th May 2015