COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION – NEW PITSLIGO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1 Reason for Report

1.1 A Community Council Project Grant application has been submitted by New Pitsligo Community Council seeking funding towards the Millennium Garden Project.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

2.1 agree an award of up to £665 towards the cost of improvements to New Pitsligo’s Millennium Garden.

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

3.1 A total of £7,801 was made available to the Buchan area for disbursement to Community Councils for administration and project grants for the financial year 2019/2020.

3.2 The Buchan Area Committee, on 23rd April 2019 (Item 9), agreed that a sum of £3,661 would be made available for Project Grant applications.

3.3 The Buchan Area Committee, on 25th June, 2019 (Item 8), agreed £1,000 to Buchan East Community Council towards the creation of a path with information lecterns at St Combs Beach, £400 to Peterhead Community Council towards the Dual Peterhead campaign along with £200 towards the installation of a defibrillator at Buchan House Peterhead and £396 to Boddam Community Council towards the Boddam Pitches Project. At the Buchan Area Committee on 8th October, 2019 (Item 11) an award of £1,000 was agreed to Buchan East Community Council towards the St Fergus Community Pitch Project.

3.4 A balance of £665 remains available for Community Council project grants.

4 Discussion

4.1 New Pitsligo Community Council plan to enhance the Millennium Garden at the Village Square by removing existing shrubs, which will be replanted elsewhere in the Village, reposition existing slabs to provide a low maintenance area as well as purchasing two self-watering fountain planters and two half-barrel planters which will be placed on the slabbed area.

4.2 The project will also include the installation of two LED lighting units, which will light up the Millennium monument and will be controlled by a timer switch.
4.3 The majority of the work will be undertaken by volunteers, engaging residents with the project. The work will commence in the Spring of 2020 and will be completed by 31st March 2020.

4.4 The total cost of the project is £1,514 and the Community Council are seeking £1,211 towards this cost. Quotes for the various elements of the project were submitted along with the application. The Community Council has submitted an application to the Shell Small Grants scheme for £750, but this has yet to be confirmed and have also retained a balance of their Brighter Villages grant to assist with the project cost.

4.5 The Millennium Garden and Monument is located in the Square, a focal point of the village, and the proposed improvements will enhance the area and make it more accessible to the wider community. The project will also increase community involvement as well as providing volunteering opportunities.

4.5 The applicants are aware that the project must be completed within this financial year and have confirmed that this will be possible.

4.6 The request for £1,211 cannot be met, as the remaining balance in the Community Council Project Grant budget is £665. It is therefore recommended that the Committee agree an award of £665, thereby fully utilizing the budget available for 2019/20.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priority 5 – Encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus on obesity and mental health and Priority 11 Protecting our Special Environment.

5.2 Supporting the work of Community Councils helps to sustain communities within Buchan and supports the Empowered Communities theme in the Buchan Local Community Plan around increasing opportunities for participation in community life. The project also helps deliver on the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) Priority “Connected and Cohesive Communities” by supporting the community to build their own capacity to deliver projects and encourage integration and a sense of belonging.

5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

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<th>Subject</th>
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<td>Financial</td>
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5.4 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because the report does not propose any change to previous allocation arrangements and therefore does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

5.5 A Fairer Scotland Duty Equality Impact Assessment is not required because this report does not involve making any strategic decisions.

5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP001 Budget Pressures; working with another organisation

No risks have been identified as relevant to this report on a Strategic Level

5.7 The grant will be covered from the Community Council project grant element of the Community Council funding budget.

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. Both are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.3.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the Buchan Area Committee considering a request for and approval of an award of grant to the Community Council within its approved budget for a special project.

Ritchie Johnson  
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Maureen Stephen, Area Committee Officer  
Date 18th November 2019