

## **Item 8 Potential Projects for Village Improvement Programme (VIP)**

### **Introduction**

As agreed when the budget was set in January 21, £10K was transferred from general reserves at the year end to create an earmarked reserve to fund a village improvement programme.

It was envisaged that this would increase each year to help fund a longer term plan of improvements. It was also envisaged that this would incorporate other potential funding sources so that when funding opportunities for external funding arose, projects requiring funding could be easily identified from demonstrable need/developed projects; rather than, is often the case, having to identify a need and then develop a project at short notice to take advantage of funding opportunities.

Due to the election in May 2021, and the subsequent results when only 3 councillors were elected unopposed, consideration of potential projects has been largely put on hold since March 2021.

### **Potential Projects**

As a starting point to aid discussions required to take this forward, I have prepared Appendix A listing potential projects for consideration.

This has been pulled together to incorporate potential projects from the following sources:

- Potential projects previously discussed at Parish Council
- Potential projects suggested by residents (predominantly via the VP consultation exercise in 2020 in relation to projects ideas for use of AAP funding)
- Feedback from the Village Partnership
- Other suggested projects.

As you will see to help demonstrate need, I have attempted to link all potential project to the previously agreed strategic aims of the council and to improvements areas identified in the Community Led Parish Plan.

It should be noted, that even though a potential project is captured this does not necessarily mean that the Parish Council would be the lead, if approved. i.e. Parish Council may decide to support a project in some other way e.g via grant funding to a community group.

The Community Led Parish Plan Action Plan has also been updated as a reminder of what actions have already been taken and which remain outstanding. This is attached as Appendix B. This action plan is in itself a programme of Village Improvements.

I have also attached the Annual Parish Plan approved for 2019/20 as part of the requirements to achieve the Local Council Award Scheme. This sets out the strategic aims of Council agreed when the plan was approved.

An Annual Plan for the current and future years, and associated budgets, will be informed by approved projects in the VIP.

It must be stressed Appendix A is very much an initial draft/work in progress document. Time and more information will be needed for potential projects to be fully considered; but work on this need to be progressed asap, especially with known funding sources from S106 monies from the Benridge Bank Housing Development likely to become available in the next few months.

It is therefore not proposed to discuss the potential list of projects at this meeting.

**Proposed Next Steps:**

1. An informal workshop session is held with all parish councillor, and the Parish Clerk in support, on the evening of Thursday 19 August to discuss –
  - Potential projects identified in Appendix A, together with any other ones that may be suggested in the meantime and at the workshop itself
  - Identify what other information is considered necessary for the Parish Council to make informed decisions on individual projects and their priority for funding.
2. Feedback from the session and an updated Appendix A is then reported to the September Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Cllr Wallage, in consultation with the Parish Clerk  
July 2021