Dear villagers

The topic of how the Parish Council allocates funds towards projects in the village has been the subject of recent interest.  In order to maintain community awareness and to capture any relevant input we are providing this update on progress.

As background, the Parish Council receives money from a “precept” – a local levy which is collected via council tax – and from money it raises from events or receives from grants.  One form of grant is a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) passed to the Parish Council from developers granted new build planning permission.  The recent development at Six Acres generated circa £160,000 of CIL income and we all want to ensure it is spent wisely for the benefit of the villages.

There is inevitably more opportunity for spend than funds available and so the Parish Council gathered a list of all potential projects, combining known demand and seeking new ideas from the broader community.  It has sorted these into categories that test the viability of the projects in open meetings and has sought sponsorship for those which are best owned by community groups.

The next stage is to score these projects in a manner which is transparent and robust.  In order to do this we’ve taken best practise from SODC, drawing on the framework for assessing Capital Grant Applications.  This framework provides a foundation for our scoring approach but it is not a complete fit for a small Parish Council. In order to provide local relevance we’ve added further criteria: enhancing existing content and adding sections to test viability and also alignment with the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan.

We’re now seeking feedback from villagers who may have useful ideas which can make the scoring mechanism more robust.  We are holding an open meeting to capture feedback at the Church of St Laurence at 6.30PM on Tuesday 14th September and can also receive input by email, sent to the Parish Clerk, until Monday 20th September at 5PM.  We also expect to hold another Meeting the following week and will communicate the date and location by the 14th.

Please find attached a document with 7 separate “tabs” containing the scoring system and the categories tested. Text in black is a direct lift from the SODC process, text in red contains the additions proposed. Copies are also available on the Parish web site and at the Greet Hall.

After this feedback process the document will be presented for approval at the October Parish Council Meeting.  We also hope to evaluate projects with advanced proposals at this date.

Kind Regards

Your Parish Council