

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25TH NOVEMBER 2004

MATCH FUND APPLICATION FROM DUNLOP AND LUGTON PARK ASSOCIATION

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to the Committee an award from the 2004/05 Match Fund budget in respect of the project to develop and improve facilities at Dunlop Park being carried out by the Dunlop and Lugton Park Association.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Dunlop and Lugton Park Association is a registered charity managed by local people. On 5th February 2004, the Community Services Committee approved the transfer of management responsibility for Dunlop Park to the Association. In August 2004 this transfer took place for part of the park and the Association has now installed new play equipment for young children and teenagers and has also improved paths and landscaping of the park.

- 2.2 In order to draw down external funding, these works had to be completed in October 2004 and the project will now be managed in two phases. Phase Two will include improvements to the football pitch drainage and extension of the path network. Phase One went ahead without Council Match Funding support, however, the project remains incomplete and important works i.e. construction of a car park could not be included in the initial package of works. The Association are requesting funding to support the construction of a car park to support both phases of the project.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The total cost for both phases of the park project is estimated at £270,000. A total of £200,000 has already been raised, and expended, on Phase One of the project. The Association are currently applying for funds for Phase Two of the project. Support from the Council will be valuable, firstly to complete Phase One, and also to show support for Phase Two which will encourage other funders to give financial support to the project.

- 3.2 The Association are applying for £22,900 to provide a 12 space car park, with parking bays for disabled drivers to support activities in the park. This development will enhance the facilities currently available, provide parking for existing and future football pitch users, and reduce the need for on street parking in the village for visitors to the park.
- 3.4 The Department of Neighbourhood Services has carried out an assessment of the Match Fund application and recommends that the Council awards £20,000 to the project as there are insufficient funds available to meet the full request.
- 3.5 It is also recommended that if the project is not able to proceed by 31st Match 2005, for any reason, then this Match Fund award would be withdrawn and a new application would then be submitted to the Match Fund with a revised funding profile.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 The Association are now responsible for the management and maintenance of the whole of Dunlop Park with the exception of the football pitch and pavilion. The Association receive financial support from the Council to maintain their area within the park and will take full responsibility once Phase Two is complete. Voluntary labour and ongoing fundraising will be used to ensure that facilities are maintained effectively and community support for the project will ensure sustainability in future years.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The award detailed in 3.4 above can be met from the Match Fund in 2004/05.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The project to upgrade Dunlop Park and transfer management responsibility to the Association is in line with the Community Plan in the following areas:-

Improving the Environment: Aim 11 – To invest in Culture and Leisure Facilities.

Promoting Community Learning: Aim 1-1 – Support local organisations to manage their own facilities.

Aim 4-2 – Actively promote access to and use of facilities.

Improving Opportunities: Aim 6 – To promote the availability of good quality homes and services including leisure and cultural facilities to attract investment.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) approve an award of £20,000 to the Dunlop and Lugton Park Association, subject to the conditions set out in section 3.5 of this report; and
- ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH
8th November 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application Form dated 9th July 2003.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 01563 576264 and asked for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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