

Item: 4

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 3 December 2018.

Application number 0/5/8/62.

Evie and Rendall Community Park Group.

Creation of a New Community Park, Evie.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Evie and Rendall Community Park Group for assistance towards the creation of a new community park in Evie.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Evie and Rendall Community Park Group has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards creation of a new community park in Evie, for use by the local community and visitors to the area, at a total estimated eligible cost of £146,400.

2.2.

That Evie and Rendall Community Park Group is contributing £7,320 of its own resources towards the project.

2.3.

That Evie and Rendall Community Park Group has already secured match funding, amounting to £97,000, towards the project from Evie and Rendall Community Council, Hammars Hill Energy Fund, Awards for All (National Lottery) and Tesco Community Bags of Help.

2.4.

That messages of support have been received from the undernoted groups:

- Costa Scottish Women's Institute.
- Evie Community Association.
- Evie Community School.
- Evie Mums and Toddlers Group.

- West Adventure Group.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a grant amounting to 28.40% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £41,580, to be met from the Community Development Fund, should be offered to Evie and Rendall Community Park Group towards creation of a new community park in Evie, subject to the full funding package being secured to enable the project to be completed.

2.6.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Solicitor of the Council, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Evie and Rendall Community Park Group in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraph 2.5 above.

3. Background

3.1.

Evie and Rendall Community Park Group, which was established in 2017, is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC048088) whose main objective is the development and maintenance of an inclusive community park situated at Evie Community School. The group is a Sub-committee of Evie and Rendall Community Council and is run by 16 volunteers local to the parishes of Evie and Rendall.

3.2.

In March 2015, work began on building a replacement school next to the existing park in Evie. By Autumn 2016 the pupils had moved into the new school. However, in building the new school the existing play park was compromised and now sits with tonnes of rubble left over from the build (see Appendix 1 for more detail).

3.3.

During construction of the new school and since its completion, the community began to explore different options for new facilities within the former play park area. An open meeting to consider developing a new park was held in March 2016. The meeting heard details of Orkney's Play Strategy including the benefits of natural play and promotion of open-ended creative play opportunities and challenges.

3.4.

Following the meeting, Evie School pupils were asked for their input into the new park and what features they would like to see incorporated. As a result of the open meeting and consultation, a design brief was produced and plans were drawn up by an architect and planning permission was subsequently granted.

3.5.

Evie and Rendall Community Park Group has successfully raised money for the project through various fundraising events. This, coupled with the additional financial pledges made from Evie and Rendall Community Council, Hammars Hill Energy Limited and Tesco Bags of Help, have enabled the group to progress to the stage of applying for the final funds required to deliver the project.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Evie and Rendall Community Park Group wish to create a new community park next to the Evie School. The project will improve the sustainability of the area's facilities for the years ahead through increasing the community and visitor offering.

4.2.

Works include the following:

- Setting up and clearing of the site.
- Erecting new fencing.
- Drainage works.
- Creation of topography to form playscape.
- Screen with topsoil to allow medium for vegetation.
- Seeding of grass and wildflowers.
- Planting of native trees.
- Delivery and installation of equipment, including snagging works.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below (inclusive of VAT as Evie and Rendall Community Park Group is not VAT registered):

Project Details.	Cost.
Site set up including fencing, welfare and health and safety.	£8,580.
Associated earthworks, excavating and machine work.	£61,327.
Play equipment supplied and fitted.	£60,674.
Grass, wildflower and native tree planting throughout site.	£4,841.
Professional fees.	£6,178.
Haulage and delivery.	£4,800.
Total.	£146,400.

Project Financing.	Amount.
Community Development Fund (28.40%).	£41,580.
Awards for All (National Lottery) (3.42%)*.	£5,000.
Cooke Aquaculture (0.34%).	£500.
Evie and Rendall Community Council (Wind Energy Funds) (27.32%)*.	£40,000.
Hammars Hill Energy Fund (34.16%)*.	£50,000.
Tesco Community Bags Scheme (1.36%)*	£2,000.
Own Resources (5.00%)*.	£7,320.
Total.	£146,400.

* Confirmed.

4.4.

Community Development Fund, and Cooke Aquaculture are the two remaining funders to be confirmed. A decision on Cooke Aquaculture is anticipated in December 2018. In addition, the project is being underwritten by the Evie and Rendall Community Council with the provision of contingency funding to address short term cashflow requirements.

4.5.

The new community park will be maintained by Evie and Rendall Community Park Group once the project is complete. This will include the costs of annual inspections, maintenance and insurance for 15 years. As such, the new community park will not present any additional burden to the Council.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan outline the intention to create a public space which is welcoming and accessible to all members of the local communities, as well as visitors to the area.

5.2.

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from the following groups:

- Costa Scottish Women's Institute.
- Evie Community Association.
- Evie Community School.
- Evie Mums and Toddlers Group.
- West Adventure Group.

5.3.

Given that Evie and Rendall Community Park Group will insure, maintain and repair the proposed facility, the project poses no additional burden to the Council.

5.4.

The Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, have supported a wide range of development projects at community parks, including the following:

- Birsay Community Hall towards the creation of a new play park and community area.
- Burray Community Association towards the creation of a trim track course, 12-hole crazy golf course and public barbecue.
- Papdale Primary School Parent Council towards the creation of a new bouldering park and a multi-use games area.

5.5.

With regard to Evie and Rendall Community Park Group's application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria:

5.5.1. Evidence of need

- Evie and Rendall Community Park Group undertook consultation with the local community. Evie School staff and representatives from local groups were invited for their input into development of the new facility. Approximately 50% of the parents of pupils from the school attended the meetings, with members of the local Community Association also being represented. The numerous users of the Community Hall also participated at meetings.
- Also, school pupils were asked to create wish lists and build miniature parks to demonstrate what they would like to be included in the new facility. This has subsequently been incorporated into the proposed project.

5.5.2. Achievability

- Evie and Rendall Community Park Group is run by a volunteer committee of 16 people who have a wide range of skills and experience to carry through the project. This includes social care, accounts, clerical and the building trade. These skills and experience will ensure that the scale of the project does not impact on its successful completion.

5.5.3. Sustainability

- The preferred contractor for development of the new park has highlighted in their quote that, where feasible, recycled materials will be used to ensure longevity.
- Stone and rubble left over from the new school build will be incorporated into forming the topography of the park.

- The project will improve the sustainability of the area's facilities for the years ahead, with Evie and Rendall Community Park Group maintaining the facility for a minimum of 15 years.

5.5.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- The proposals will see a new local facility created, allowing wider use by the whole community. The community consultation identified that a significant number of people were supportive of the new facilities being provided.
- The element of physical activity, creative play, leisure and social interaction will provide lasting benefits for the community and its visitors for many years to come.

5.5.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The proposals seek to extend and enhance the existing community asset (Evie Community School) through provision of new innovative facilities which have been designed to be as accessible as possible for diverse abilities. The enhancements will ensure their future use to other associated community groups.

5.5.6. Enriching quality of life

- Creation of the community park with seating and barbecue area will have a positive impact on the quality of life and provide a safe and stimulating environment. The park will also provide new social opportunities for individuals and families in Orkney.
- Active play strengthens bones, muscles and the brain and establishes connections between all of them.

5.5.7. Value for money

- Project costs have been carefully identified through completion of a competitive tendering exercise, ensuring best value for money.
- The successful contractor has developed, project managed and delivered all elements for other community parks have in the past, and purchased the relevant equipment from reputable companies whom they have confidence in.

5.5.8. Partnership funding

- Evie and Rendall Community Park Group has been proactive in fundraising towards the cost of the project. These include the organisation of a number of events throughout the year where volunteers have committed time to ensure their success.
- A substantial amount of match funding has already been secured from the Hammars Hill Energy Fund, Evie and Rendall Community Council (Wind Energy Funds) and Tesco Community Bags.
- Additional funding has been applied for from the Lottery (Awards for All) and Cooke Aquaculture, demonstrating a strong effort to secure a variety of match funding prior to approaching the Community Development Fund.

6. Links to Council Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority themes of Thriving Communities and Quality of Life.

7. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and A Vibrant Economy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In July 2016, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils, leaving £900,000 remaining in the new allocation.

8.2.

A total of £207,596 has been allocated from the 2016 tranche of funding to date.

8.3.

Any award to Evie and Rendall Community Park Group in respect of this project would be met from within the Fund, referred to at section 8.1 above, of which a budget of £333,000 per annum has been agreed for the period 2016 to 2019.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

There are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in (Scotland) Act 2003.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

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11. Appendix

Appendix 1: Images of proposed site for community park.

Appendix

Images of the area proposed for development by Evie and Rendall Community Park Group during the project.



View of South East corner of proposed site.



View of proposed site from the front of the Evie School.



South of proposed site looking upwards.



Distant view of proposed site.