

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER	Cllr Crossley, Leader, Cllr Dixon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cllr Bellotti, Cabinet Member for Resources	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 21st March 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2753
TITLE:	Contribution to Improvement of Sports Facilities – Wellow	
WARD:	Bathavon South	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant aid application		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 An application has been received from Wellow Sports for funding to support a project by Wellow Parish Council to provide a range of sports facilities in the village.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve a contribution of £15,000 towards the cost of providing two floodlit tennis courts and a netball court to be provided in Wellow by Wellow Sports.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The Council will contribute £15,000 capital grant, funded by Revenue Budget Contingency reserve to Wellow Sports; a further £111,000 has been raised from, amongst others, Sport England, the Lawn Tennis Association, Medlock Trust and Awards for All.
- 3.2 There will not be any subsequent revenue implications for the Council.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 An opportunity to apply for funding was openly advertised for one week around the playing fields in Wellow in February 2015 through a number of signs posted in the area.
- 4.2 Wellow Sports are proposing a sports development which provides local facilities accessible to older people, young people and families in an area where the

current provision is poor. They have Planning Permission for the development which will be run by Wellow Parish Council. The application for funding required details of the contribution this proposal would make to delivering on a number of the ambitions of the Fit for Life Strategy.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Wellow Sports is a project to build two all-weather floodlit tennis courts, a netball court, a boule court, a 7 a-side football pitch, cricket nets, jogging track and outdoor gym. Clubs have been formed for each activity so as to bring the community and the surrounding villages together as a result of competitive sport, social engagement and keeping fit. The facilities will encourage sports participation and develop skills through a mixture of play-in-the-park recreational fun, coaching and competitive tournaments.
- 5.2 The new sports facilities and a pavilion will be situated on the playing fields in the centre of the village. Planning permission has been obtained (13/02919/FUL) and Wellow Parish Council, the land owner, will award a peppercorn lease for a minimum of 25 years.
- 5.3 The group have secured funding from, amongst others, Sport England, the Lawn Tennis Association, Medlock Trust, Awards for All. Funding is being sought to help towards the capital cost of creating the sports enhancements – in this case - two floodlit tennis courts plus a netball court
- 5.4 Local consultation showed that 47% of residents would use community tennis facilities on a regular basis and a further 5% said they would play netball regularly.
- 5.5 To ascertain whether this interest would translate into actual usage once the tennis facility had been built villagers were asked to join Wellow Village Tennis and encouragingly over 200 people signed up, paid their membership subscriptions, and have become British Tennis Members.
- 5.6 Despite the lack of facilities, local parents organised regular daily games of pop up tennis through the summer 2014 and these proved extremely popular amongst the youngsters of the village on the existing playing field. This was allied to coaching for children and adults both locally and at distant facilities, including the University of Bath, with great success.
- 5.7 The local primary school, St Julian's is also very supportive of the plans, as this proposal offers the children enhanced facilities for sport, which the school site does not have the space to provide.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The application is specifically for funding to support the installation of 2 tennis courts and a netball court. The approved funding will contribute £15,000 of the required £126,000 to deliver this part of the development.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with various stakeholders or internal colleagues including Divisional Director – Finance, Strategic Director - Place, Legal Services.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Marc Higgins – Business Development Manager, Environmental Services – 01225 396423 Sue Green - Group Manager – Public Protection and Health Improvement – 01225 477562
Background papers	Fit for Life Strategy 2014 - Available on Council Website.
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	