

## **West of England Rural Network - Village Agents for Bath**

West of England Rural Network (WERN) has submitted a funding request of £46,764 for Year 1 and £47,887 for Year 2 to support the provision of Village Agents in Bath.

The application indicated that most ward councillors had been approached; however, four members of the Advisory Board representing the relevant wards did not recall any discussions taking place with them.

This application has been brought back to the board, having been unanimously rejected in the previous meeting. It was determined that there had been no significant changes in the rationale for funding since the last submission.

The board noted that existing core primary care networks are already delivering some of the services proposed by this project. Additionally, new funding opportunities will soon be available through the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

While the board acknowledges the value of this service to residents, particularly in rural areas and during the COVID-19 pandemic when demand for delivery services increased, concerns remain.

Councillor Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, advised that if the board were to commit to this funding, it is uncertain how all services would sustain themselves once the one-time funding concludes.

This request pertains to funding a service rather than infrastructure, and there are no clear connections to ongoing developments. Furthermore, it is believed that some of the requested funding could be allocated to service areas beyond Bath.

The Advisory Board deliberated on whether to recommend funding for Bath Village Agents, resulting in a vote of 6 against and 1 abstention

## **Percy Centre Lighting Upgrade**

The Percy Centre requested funding for an LED lighting upgrade for their MUGA costing £6,661.

It was felt that this request was an extension to the previous award to resurface the MUGA and the community would benefit from the improvements. Introducing LED lighting will result in better energy efficiency.

The improvement to the existing infrastructure will be funded as a one-off capital project.

The Advisory Board took the unanimous decision that they will recommend this project for the full amount of funding requested.

The Percy Centre must be clear about any need for planning permission. This will need to be

agreed and evidenced before any funds can be paid.

\*This recommendation has not been taken forward due to no planning permission evidence being provided.

### **Ride to work by Bike, Transition Bath**

The initiative aims to motivate Bath residents to transition from car commuting to using electric bikes for their daily work journeys. This shift is intended to assist both commuters and local businesses in alleviating traffic congestion, reducing carbon emissions, and improving air quality.

A funding request of £49,905 has been submitted for implementation over a five-year timeframe.

The Advisory Board expressed strong support for this proposal, noting its clear structure and alignment with several of our corporate priorities. The connections to community development are evident, and the focus on attracting new residents is a commendable aspect.

The Advisory Board reached a unanimous decision to recommend the project for the full funding amount requested.

It was emphasised that the project should not conflict with any other upcoming initiatives. Prior to making the recommendation, consultations with Councillor Sarah Warren are necessary.