

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Executive

6 August 2020

TITLE:	Request for match funding from the Outdoor Sports and Recreation Capital Fund to support Furness COGS Pavilion Project
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Greenhalgh - Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sally Curley (Project Officer)
WARDS INVOLVED:	Furness Vale

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate £20,000 from the Outdoor Sports and Recreation Capital Fund to provide match funding to Furness COGS (Community Organising Green Space) for the development of a Community Pavilion at Furness Vale Community Field.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Executive approve the allocation of £20,000 from the Outdoor Sports and Recreation Capital Fund as the Council's contribution to support the development of a Community Pavilion at the Community Field in Furness Vale, on the basis that the full project costs are secured by COGS.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 Furness COGS are a not for profit community group whose remit is to enhance and improve access to local green spaces in Furness Vale for the local community and surrounding towns and villages.
- 3.2 Since their formation in 2007, COGS have engaged with the local community on a ongoing basis to determine how people would like to see the community field off Park Road in Furness Vale, enhanced and developed as a quality community space.
- 3.3 The field, which is owned by HPBC, was leased to COGS in 2015 who now

have responsibility for its maintenance and development. Since this time COGS have secured various external funding grants to make significant improvements to the field for the community.

- 3.4 Whilst the use of the community field has increased greatly, some activities are limited due to the lack of any indoor provision for shelter, toilets, storage and power. COGS are looking to provide a community pavilion on the field which will allow a variety of uses including changing facilities with showers and toilets for the Football Club, a community meeting and function space, kitchen, storage area as well as disabled, male and female toilets.
- 3.5 Planning approval for the building has already been secured and indicative total projects costs are in the region of £207,000. To date COGS have secured £125,000 towards this from several funding sources.
- 3.6 There is, however, still a shortfall of £82,000 and an application to Sport England's Community Asset Fund for £60,000 has been prepared. Although currently this fund is on hold due to COVID recovery funding taking precedence, it is hoped that the Community Asset Fund will re-open in July. If this application is successful the shortfall would reduce to £22,000.
- 3.7 COGS are continuing to look for further funding to support this project, particularly if the application to Sport England is unsuccessful. Funding from Tarmac for approximately £20,000 could be applied for through the Derbyshire Environmental Trust, but all other project match funding must be secured in order for Tarmac to consider the application at their project board.
- 3.8 The council has assigned £100,000 of capital funds for the provision of outdoor sports facilities, as detailed in the Executive report dated 13th February 2020. It is proposed that the £20,000 for this project be funded from this capital pot.
- 3.9 A tender for the work is being developed by COGS and this will be sent to local contractors in July so that exact costs can be obtained, and the project can be progressed once the shortfall is secured.
- 3.10 This project is integral to the delivery of the Council's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, supporting communities and clubs to be more active. It demonstrates a clear link to place based working with strategic partners, a number of whom are already fully involved. It also focuses on maximising physical activity and sporting opportunities using the outdoor and natural environment as the facility will be located at Furness community field, allowing increased use of the open space for physical activity.

4. How this report links to Corporate Prioritis

- 4.1 This report relates to Aim 1: Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak through the provision of a community facility on an open space which will increase physical activity and participation leading to healthier lifestyles. It clearly integrates communities and sports clubs into the

delivery of the existing Physical Activity and Sport Strategy objectives, and will continue to do so as the strategy is reviewed.

- 4.2 It also links to Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency. The community field at Furness Vale is an extremely important green space and through the existing work of COGS is protected as a QEII Field in perpetuity. The site also benefits from the creation of a wildflower meadow and other planted areas, for biodiversity. The creation of a community pavilion will enhance this important green resource, increase usage and allow for further developments.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The council has two options available to it:
1. To provide funding of £20,000 from the Outdoor Sports and Recreation Capital Fund in support of this key project. This will be funded from the £100,000 capital pot assigned for outdoor sports facilities. **(Recommended)**
 2. To do nothing – This will place the project in jeopardy of not progressing and will leave a large and possibly unachievable funding shortfall for COGS. (not recommended)
- 5.2 If the application to Sport England is successful, but for a lesser amount, then there may be an opportunity for COGS to apply to Tarmac for funding but this would rely on the Council providing the £20,000 match funding to enable Tarmac to assess the application. This funding is not guaranteed.
- 5.3 If the Sport England application is unsuccessful in its entirety, but the £20,000 from the Council is committed and the application to Tarmac for £20,000 is successful, this will still leave a shortfall of £42,000. COGS would have to continue to fund raise through external grants.
- 5.4 It is hoped that if £20,000 is committed from the Council, it will demonstrate to Sport England with the Community Asset Fund Application, that their contribution of £60,000 would allow the delivery of this project in its entirety, and could provide a much needed community facility on an already important community green space.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The provision of a community building will greatly increase the quality and use of this key community asset within Furness Vale, thus helping to create a safe and welcoming environment. The project is being driven and led by the community leading to a firm sense of ownership and respect for the open space and its associated facilities. Increased usage of the site will also help deter any anti-social behaviour.

6.2 Workforce

None

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

The new community pavilion will be fully accessible to all users. It will include disabled toilet and changing facilities.

The building will be inclusive and open to all providing a valuable meeting space, to be used by a variety of local clubs, organisations and individuals.

6.4 Financial Considerations

As detailed within the report.

If approved the Council's contribution will be met from £100,000 allocated towards Outdoor Sports Facilities within the latest approved Capital Programme.

6.5 Legal

In addition to general powers of competence, the Council is specifically empowered to contribute by way of grant or loan towards the expenses incurred, or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities. Any grant funds should be released conditionally upon the community organisation being able to demonstrate its ability to fund and deliver the entire development.

6.6 Climate Change

This community pavilion project will benefit and enhance an important and protected green space. COGS are fully committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and have already created new habitats on site. The provision of this building will mean that clubs, groups and organisations from the village who travel to neighbouring towns to partake in physical activity or other sessions, can now stay local thus reducing car use and encouraging walking and cycling to the facility.

6.7 Consultation

Extensive consultation has been conducted by COGS with the local community and there is a clear need identified for such a facility to support the local football club, the local primary school and various groups and organisations who currently use the community field for activities.

6.8 Risk Assessment

COGS will have responsibility for any new building under the lease agreement, so insurance for this facility must be provided by COGS. There is still a shortfall for this project which COGS need to secure to allow delivery. The contribution requested from the Council is only part of this shortfall, and is conditional on COGS securing the full project costs.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People)

Web Links and

Background Papers

[Executive report MTFP 20/21-23/24 18.2.20](#)

Contact details

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7. **Detail**

- 7.1 Furness COGS (Community Organising Green Space) are a not for profit community group whose remit is to enhance and improve access to local greenspaces in Furness Vale for the local community and surrounding towns and villages.
- 7.2 The group were formed in 2007 around the identified need to make significant improvements to the field and football pitch off Park Road in Furness Vale. A site which is owned by High Peak Borough Council.
- 7.3 At that time the group undertook significant consultation with the local community to gauge current usage of the field and to understand how use could be increased in the future. It was clear that the field was highly valued by the community but a lack of facilities and a poorly maintained football pitch, meant that this important local greenspace was very underused.
- 7.4 The first priority for the group was to make improvements to the existing football pitch to support Furness Vale Football Club who were no longer playing any matches there due to the poor quality of the pitch. Sport England's Protecting Playing Pitch Fund was identified as an opportunity to enhance the pitch and COGS were successfully awarded £50,000 towards this project in 2013. The improvements were delivered the following year, and now the pitch is of a standard for league matches and Furness Vale Football Club now play their home games there.
- 7.5 It became clear that the group would have increased opportunities to enhance and improve the field through external funding if they were to lease it from the Council, and therefore negotiations took place with officers and COGS to agree the lease for a term of 40 years and which was signed in 2015.
- 7.6 During the last 5 years COGS have raised over £180,000 towards

improvements at the community field from external grants, donations, local fundraising and in-kind support. This has enabled the group to provide the following facilities which are all maintained by COGS under the lease :

- A level and well drained football pitch for league matches
- Installation of accessible circular pathway
- Installation of outdoor fitness equipment located along the pathway
- Picnic tables
- Welcome boards at entrances
- Creation of a wildflower meadow and other planted areas
- Mosaic trail working with High Peak Community Arts
- A table tennis table

- 7.7 COGS continue to hold fund raising events to support these facilities as well as their extremely popular annual Field Day in the summer. This event was initiated by the dedication of the Community Field as a protected QEII Field through an initiative run by Fields in Trust. Through working with the Council the community field received this protection in 2013, which means it is protected from development in perpetuity.
- 7.8 Whilst the use of the community field has increased greatly with the developments achieved by COGS, some activities are limited due to the lack of any indoor provision for shelter, toilets, storage and power. The local primary school use the community field regularly as they have no onsite playing pitches, but the length of time they can spend there is limited due to lack of toilet facilities and shelter in bad weather. Furness Vale Football Club who now play all their home matches on the newly enhanced football pitch, still have no suitable changing facilities.
- 7.9 COGS are now looking to provide a community pavilion on the field which will provide a variety of uses to include changing facilities with showers and toilets for the Football Club, a community meeting and function space, kitchen, storage area as well as disabled, male and female toilets.
- 7.10 There is widespread support from the community for such a facility on the field and COGS have received letters of support from organisations promoting physical activity, as well as the local school, detailing how the provision of a community building would greatly enhance their use of the field.
- 7.11 To date, COGS have received planning approval for the building, are currently in the process of securing the connection of services to the proposed building location including water, electric and sewage and are drafting a tender to send to local building contractors.
- 7.12 Indicative project costs for the whole construction are in the region of £207,000 and to date COGS have secured £125,000 towards this from the following funding sources:-
- £88,000 – Derbyshire County Council
 - £25,000 – Football Foundation
 - £10,000 – Whaley Bridge Town Council
 - £2,000 – COGS

- 7.13 This leaves a shortfall of £82,000. An application to Sport England Community Asset Fund for £60,000 has been prepared, although currently this fund is on hold due to COVID recovery funding taking precedence. It is hoped that the Community Asset Fund will re-open in July. If this application is successful the shortfall amount would reduce to £22,000.
- 7.14 The council has assigned £100,000 of capital funds for the provision of outdoor sports facilities, as detailed in the Executive report dated 13th February 2020. It is proposed that the £20,000 funding required for this project be funded from this capital pot.
- 7.15 COGS are still looking at other funding sources and an application for £20,000 to Tarmac through the Derbyshire Environmental Trust would be a possibility, however, Tarmac require all match funding to be in place before they will consider the application, as well as not being guaranteed.
- 7.16 This project is integral to the delivery of the Council's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, supporting communities and clubs to make improvements which will encourage people to be more active. It demonstrates a clear link to place based working with strategic partners, a number of whom are already fully involved and supportive. It also focuses on maximising physical activity and sporting opportunities using the outdoor and natural environment, as the facility will be located at Furness Community Field, allowing increased use of the open space for physical activities.