

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme

Summary of applications received for the December 2021 meeting

Area Committee's allocation for 2021-22 - £40,000.00

There have been no previously agreed allocations by Western Area Committee

Available to allocate at the December 2021 meeting - £40,000.00

The following applications have been checked by officers to ensure that there is no cross over with other work being carried out by Swale Borough Council (SBC) or other organisations and to check that there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications.

The applications have also demonstrated they comply with the criteria set by the Western Area Committee to improve the appearance, environment and facilities of the area and benefit residents across the area and to contribute to Swale's strategic priorities 2 and 3.

Reference:	WAC007
Organisation:	Newington History Group
Applicant Name:	Sue Flipping – Committee Member
Status of organisation:	Unincorporated Association (Community Group)
Details of project/activity:	<p>The project is to design, print and install three lectern-frame interpretation boards on footpaths at key points south of the A2 to attract walkers and visitors to the unique historic remains of military defences built to protect London had the Axis powers invaded in World War I.</p> <p>The extensive defence line included trenches, gun emplacements, barbed wire fences and look-out posts. This would be the first time they have been clearly marked for identification by non-experts.</p> <p>We see this as the first stage of a longer-term proposal by NHG to develop facilities that will discourage private car use and promote the area of Newington and surrounding villages as a heritage walking and cycling destination. This further proposal would mean working with community stakeholders in villages within a five-mile radius to develop off-road routes that encourage people to walk and cycle from place to place rather than drive. However, we believe it is not enough to make those routes available, we need to give people reasons to use them and that making sense of the heritage and environment through interpretation boards is one way to do that.</p>

Location

Board 1 will be sited on footpath ZR63 (Standard Hill overlooking Wormdale Farm), Board 2 on ZR64 (which runs to the paintball activity centre at Wormdale Farm) and Board 3 at the junction of ZR65 and ZR66B at Cranbrook Wood.

Each of the boards interprets a different part of the landscape and heritage and the contribution each played to the defence of the country in 1914-1918.

Strategic priorities

The project supports the following Swale Borough priorities:

2.2: Encourage active travel and reduced car use, including through the permeability of new developments and work with partners to address air quality issues

The project is intended to encourage active travel by giving local people and visitors a reason to use footpaths south of the A2. The additional foot traffic will help keep the footpaths clearer for all users, particularly by helping keep undergrowth down during the summer months.

Promotion will identify the public transport links (rail and bus) that bring visitors within a mile's walk of the boards.

Interpretation boards 2 and 3 are accessible from Callaways Lane and the A2 respectively along mainly wide, generally flat footpaths. Board 1 overlooking the beacon is accessed via gently inclined and well signed footpaths from Wormdale Hill or Bull Lane. We feel they are accessible to most people who are mobile with no or with minimal assistance.

2.4: Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

The project identifies and interprets an important part of Newington's heritage that, until recently, has been known only to academics and people with a specialist interest. Through the interpretation boards, walkers will be able to identify both the WWI defences of a century ago and the commemorative beacon erected on the site of a WWI gun emplacement by NHG in 2018, itself a heritage project.

The boards open up a new visitor attraction in Newington by revealing how the landscape would have looked 1914-1918. While military historians are aware of the general location of the defences, this is the first project to make them easily accessible and clearly identifiable both to those with a specialist interest and to the general public.

We will enhance the visitor experience by directing them to additional information via our website address and a QR code on the boards. A choice of audio and video opportunities on the

website will make the information accessible and engaging for different ages and abilities.

The boards use a mix of text and images to make the information accessible.

Feedback from NHG's many 2014-2018 WWI commemorative projects shows that local people felt more pride about living in Newington after attending the community events. It also showed that visitors were surprised about the amount of history associated with Newington. We believe that people will always be drawn to areas that they can learn something about.

We expect the interpretation board project to attract additional visitors to Newington because of its unique and specialist interest and because it takes people through attractive countryside. We anticipate repeat visits, particularly as we extend our walking and cycling heritage and nature routes.

NHG will use social media and our website blog to promote the locations throughout Kent and run occasional interactive projects to engage visitors.

3.3: Develop a communitarian approach to partnership working based on shared objectives with like-minded agencies in the voluntary and community sectors.

An interpretation board off ZR54 at the solar farm in Bobbing has been erected by a separate organisation to mark a different section of the WWI defence. If we are successful in getting funding for our project, we intend to approach communities along other sections of the defence line to share our application and design experience and encourage them to install similar boards. This would ensure the continued recognition of a vital part of British and military history, not just in Newington but across the south-east.

If successful with this project, our next will be to provide interpretation way markers along those routes and to work with community groups in other villages to create connected walking and cycling routes.

3.5: Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural and other leisure activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

An NHG member has run occasional guided walks along the routes where the interpretation boards will be with children as young as five and adults into their 70s. The walks have demonstrated an interest from all age groups in learning about the history of the area, a curiosity about the defences themselves and an appreciation of the countryside as it looks now. The footpaths on which the boards will be located are, for

	<p>the most part, flat, wide and easily accessible from paved areas and therefore an excellent introduction to walking for those who are not regular walkers.</p> <p>Additional information The boards will give information in text and images about the important role Newington played in preparations for the protection of the country during WWI. The inland defence line is the only place in Great Britain where genuine, rather than training, trenches were dug. They were complemented by pill boxes, observation posts and gun emplacements. NHG will be using a local construction firm for the installation and a local artist to provide images.</p> <p>This current project brings benefits to local people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising the profile of the village • encouraging inward investment and property sales • increasing villagers' pride in their heritage, particularly among younger people • positioning Newington as an interesting and desirable place to live • encouraging people to walk more in their local area and appreciate the countryside <p>It brings benefits to visitors by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a new visitor attraction • engaging them in history and heritage in an easily accessible way • promoting footpath routes that they might not have considered before and using them to walk between villages rather than taking to their cars <p>As the projects unfold, we hope there will be benefits for other local organisations and marginalised groups by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opening learning opportunities under the guidance of experienced professionals • comparing different histories and heritages • adding walks that are accessible to all • using art and creativity to develop understanding of history and heritage • involving other specialist groups in future projects <p>Approval for installation of the boards has been granted by Kent County Council and relevant landowners.</p>
Supporting papers	No
Quote provided	Yes apart from artwork and installation estimates
Total project expenditure:	3 x Aluminium lecturn frame interpretation boards - £2,430.00 3 x Artwork - £500.00 (estimate) 3 x Installation of boards - £500.00 (estimate) 1 x Delivery - £125.00 VAT - £486.00

	Total Project Expenditure - £4,041.00
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	None
Funding request:	£4,041.00

The following applications have been checked by officers to ensure that there is no cross over with other work being carried out by Swale Borough Council (SBC) or other organisations and to check that there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications.

However, the applications have not provided evidence that they comply with the criteria set by the Western Area Committee or that they will contribute to Swale's strategic priorities 2 and 3.

Reference:	WAC006
Organisation:	Iwade at the Barn
Applicant Name:	Kelvin Rivers-Simpson - Treasurer
Status of organisation:	Registered Charity
Details of project/activity:	Timber storage shed to be erected adjacent to the Barn. This will allow the hire space to be clear of unused equipment and allow different types of equipment to be stored away from other items thus allowing for greater flexibility to types of hiring.
Supporting papers attached?	No
Quote provided	No
Total project expenditure:	Storage timber shed complete build - £22,550.00 + VAT
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	Grant - £10,000.00 Barn Hire various hire events - £4,514.54 Visiting micro-put hire - £1652.39 Fundraising activities - £100.00 Misc - £8.99 Total Project Income - £16,275.92
Funding request:	£5,000.00

Reference:	WAC008
Organisation:	Borden Parish Council
Applicant Name:	Julie Miller – Clerk and RFO
Status of organisation:	Parish Council
Details of project/activity:	<p>The parish council leases a derelict landfill site from KCC that is now a nature reserve. The nature reserve is exposed due to the lack of adequate fencing and the council is looking to erect fencing around the site to ensure it is not exposed to illegal encampments and is safe for residents to visit. The fencing will also ensure dog walkers can be confident their dogs are safe within the boundary.</p> <p>It also protects the area from illegal encampments etc.</p>
Supporting papers	No
Quote provided	Yes
Total project expenditure:	Fencing to boundary of Nature Reserve - £10,000.00
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	None
Funding request:	£10,000.00

Reference:	WAC009
Organisation:	Newington Parish Council
Applicant Name:	Mrs Wendy Licence
Status of organisation:	Parish Council
Details of project/activity:	<p>The Council would like to improve and add to the adult exercise equipment at its Recreation Ground to encourage residents to get outdoors more and improve their well-being. The current equipment is need of refurbishment and one piece needs replacing. Since the pandemic more people have been going to the Recreation Ground and there has been a greater usage of the equipment. A ladies fitness club meets at the Pavilion and uses the equipment. Local teenagers also enjoy using the equipment. This facility is important to residents across the generations and helps promote a healthier lifestyle</p> <p>The Council has recently invested heavily in improving the play area and this has sparked a new interest in the Recreation Ground which also has a MUGA, a teen shelter and five-a-side goals. There are allotments and a community woodland next to the Recreation Ground and a junior football club also plays on the playing field. The Council has also refurbished the car park and track so people come from a wide area to use the facilities. The Recreation Ground is used by people of all ages.</p>

	<p>The respondents of the 2011 Census were asked to rate their health. These are the results for Newington: the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average. Also the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Newington is generally worse than in the average person in England. The pandemic has affected people's mental health and physical health so the provision of the additional equipment would be extremely beneficial to everyone in the local community as well as those outside the area.</p> <p>This project will improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground and will benefit residents across the area and is a much needed investment in the open space. It will help promote a healthy lifestyle to residents. People from outside the parish use the Recreation Ground. Furthermore, it will also help disadvantaged people who are unable to afford membership to a gym or sports club enabling them to take greater responsibility for their own physical health and enhance their quality of life. It will promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by encouraging a wide range of accessible leisure activities to everyone.</p> <p>The Council will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the outdoor gym equipment.</p>
Supporting papers	No
Quote provided	Yes
Total project expenditure:	Adult Gym Equipment £16,590.00 VAT £3,313.18 Total Project Expenditure - £19,908
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	None
Funding request:	£10,000.00

Reference:	WAC010
Organisation:	Upchurch Parish Council
Applicant Name:	Mrs Wendy Licence – Clerk to the Council
Status of organisation:	Parish Council
Details of project/activity:	Following requests from parents and carers for more equipment at its play area, Upchurch Parish Council is seeking to install a nature trail in the nearby wooded area. This will improve the appearance, environment and facilities of the area and benefit residents across the area.

	<p>The Council added play equipment in December 2018 and in 2020 added adult gym equipment to the Recreation Ground and this has been very well used. During the pandemic, the Council saw a significant increase in families using the play area as the initial lockdown meant that people were not permitted to travel and they looked closer to home for recreation. This increased usage has continued and the Council wants to further enhance the facilities in the area for the benefit of residents in Upchurch and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>This is a much needed investment in the open space and will encourage families to spend more time outdoors. This will be beneficial both mentally and physically to residents, as well as encouraging physical activity it also encourages social interaction. The Council will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the woodland trail.</p>
Supporting papers	Yes
Quote provided	Yes
Total project expenditure:	Woodland Trail - £4,699.20
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	None
Funding request:	£4,699.20

Compiled by Janet Dart, Interim Area Committees Coordinator
 November 2021