

<b>Report title</b>	<b>S106 Englefield Green Minor and Major Projects Fund</b>
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<b>Department</b>	Community Development, Community Services
<b>Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Exemption type</b>	Not applicable
<b>Reasons for exemption</b>	Not applicable

**Purpose of report:**

**To resolve**

**Synopsis of report:**

- 1) To provide contextual background information on the S106 funding received by the Council relating to the Runnymede Campus development, at Coopers Hill Lane, Englefield Green; and**
- 2) To set out the proposed allocation of the s106 Englefield Green Minor and Major Projects Fund in relation to the applications received**

**Recommendation that:**

- i) the recommended successful applications to the s106 Minor and Major Projects Fund be approved, noting that a replacement play area at The Green on Englefield Green and how that is funded is subject to the approval of the Englefield Green Committee; and**
- ii) Members agree to ringfence the requested amount for organisations where further discussion or information is required, and that the decision to award a grant be delegated to the Corporate Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Community Services Committee**

**1. Context and background of report**

1.1 In 2018, a planning application was approved by the Council, relating to the development of the Runnymede Campus, at Coopers Hill Lane, Englefield Green (planning ref – RU.17/1649).

1.2 As part of the planning conditions, requirements in relation to Section 106 payments were stipulated and cover expenditure incurred by both Runnymede and Surrey County Council and are summarised as follows:

Scheme	Value
Community Support Facilities	£400,000
Minor Projects Contribution	£85,253
Cycle Lane Link	£100,000
Real Time Bus Information	£15,000
Yellow Bus Scheme	£79,905
Monitoring Fee	£10,000
Travel Plan Audit	£6,125
Travel Vouchers	£100 (for each open market unit or affordable housing unit)

- 1.3 Since the existing Minor Projects grant scheme was launched in 2023, a total of 11 applications have been approved, totalling £48,901. A breakdown of which is set out below: These were considered at the meeting of this Committee on 15 June 2023.

Applying Organisation	Summary of Application	Amount awarded £
St Jude's C of E School	Swimming pool liner	5,000
Englefield Green Cricket Club	Cricket strip	3,402
EGVRA	Items for annual village fair	3,000
Draughtbusters	Draught excluding items	1,000
The Egham Band	Purchase of instruments	5,000
EGVRA	Eco friendly planters	1,650
The Green Team	To develop green spaces	6,749
The Englefield Green Memorial Trust	Renovations to the Memorial	7,000
The Journey Church	Building and utility mapping surveys	7,000
The Journey Church	Health outreach coordinator	7,000
EGVRA	Printed newsletters	2,100

Given the above grant awards, the remaining balance against the Minor Projects contribution is £36,352.

- 1.4 Maximum grants of up to £7,000 were available to resident groups, voluntary and community organisations, both based in or serving residents of Englefield Green, for funding for new projects or expansions to existing projects.
- 1.5 The criteria of the grant scheme focused on how the funding application will contribute to the health and wellbeing of Englefield Green residents following the priority strands of the corporate Health and Wellbeing strategy and Empowering Communities strategy.
- 1.6 Applicants were asked how they had identified the need for the project and how many individuals it would support.
- 1.7 Applicants were asked to confirm how their project will be sustainable in the future, given that there is a limited amount of funding from the s106 Minor Projects Fund.

- 1.8 Three applications were received for the S106 Englefield Green Minor Projects Fund, to the total value of £15,000. This report sets out the Officer recommendations for approval.
- 1.9 The purpose of the Community Support Facilities funding (now called internally The Major Projects Fund), as outlined in the planning conditions is “towards the costs and maintenance of community social and physical infrastructure projects in Englefield Green that benefit new and existing residents”.
- 1.10 Since the funding was received a total of £67,763 has been allocated. A summary of which is set out below:

<b>Recipient Organisation/Project Title</b>	<b>Summary of Project</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
The Village Centre	Kitchen Café refurbishment	£50,712
Kings Lane Bike Ramp	Kings Lane Bike Ramp	£17,051
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£67,763</b>

- 1.11 As a result, a remaining balance of £332,237 was made available through the s106 ‘Major Projects Fund’.
- 1.12 Maximum grants over £7,000 were available to resident groups, voluntary and community organisations, both based in or serving residents of Englefield Green, for funding for new projects or expansions to existing projects.
- 1.13 Organisations were invited to submit an initial expression of interest form which was reviewed by a panel on 20 December 2023. The panel comprised Councillors Abby King, Trevor Gates, Scott Lewis, Vice-Chair of Community Services Committee, four Officers from Community Services, the Corporate Head of Planning, Economy and Built Environment and the Corporate Head of Community Services.
- 1.14 Successful applicants were then asked to submit a full application form.
- 1.15 A panel met on Monday 5 February 2024 to review the applications for the Minor and Major Projects Fund and recommend to Community Services Committee the outcome of each application. The panel comprised Councillors Andrea Berardi, Abby King, Trevor Gates, Scott Lewis, Vice-Chair of Community Services Committee, four Officers from Community Services, the Corporate Head of Planning, Economy and Built Environment and the Corporate Head of Community Services.
- 1.16 A summary of what the panel proposed was circulated to those invited but unable to attend the meeting.

## **2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended**

- 2.1 The panel recommended the following applications to the s106 Minor Projects Fund to be approved:

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount awarded £</b>
St Jude’s Church	Church lighting – lampposts and hanging lanterns	3,500

- 2.2 The application is supported by the panel as there is a strong community safety element to the application that will benefit the residents of Englefield Green.
- 2.3 The panel recommended the following application to the s106 Minor Projects Fund be rejected:

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Browns Community Services	4 E's course (Educate, Empower, Encourage and Employment) for 10 people	6,500

- 2.4 The panel recommends rejecting the application for £6,500 from Browns Community Services as the application lacked detail on project partners, the success of previous projects mentioned. There were also questions around whether it represents good value for money and whether it duplicates employment work done by the Economic Development Team.
- 2.5 The panel recommended ringfencing the following application to the s106 Minor Projects Fund. The panel considers this the best way to address applications which were felt to be viable but require clarification regarding project details and/or details on project sustainability.

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Coopers Hill Tennis Club	To resurface two tennis courts	5,000

- 2.6 The panel recognised that the amount requested was relatively low in comparison to the amount being financed by the Tennis Club (approximately £50,000). Some questions were raised around access for all to this club and whether they could provide subsidised memberships for under-represented groups.
- 2.7 The panel recommended the following applications to the s106 Major Projects Fund be approved:

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Runnymede Borough Council	Replacement Play area on the Englefield Green	£35,899

- 2.8 The panel acknowledged the need for investment in this play area and were satisfied that a replacement would be in the same footprint as the current playground. The Englefield Green Committee will need to approve the refurbishment of the current play area. It is possible that the Members of the Englefield Green Committee could approve the allocation of the Englefield Green ringfenced reserves to fund the play area works.
- 2.9 In the event that the use of the Englefield Green ringfenced reserves are approved by the Englefield Green Committee, there would be no allocation of money for the Englefield Green play area works from this s106 pot. A report requesting authorisation of the play area works and a determination on whether the works are to be funded from the Englefield Green ringfenced reserves will go before Englefield Green Committee on 9 April 2024 for consideration.

- 2.10 The panel recommended the following applications to the s106 Major Projects Fund be rejected:

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Runnymede Borough Council	Cherrywood playground	£38,000

- 2.11 Concerns were raised around the maintenance of this playground and the long term financial commitment from the Council regarding maintenance and replacement costs.
- 2.12 The panel recommended ringfencing the following applications to the s106 Major Projects Fund. The panel consider this the best way to address applications which were felt to be viable but require clarification regarding project details and/or details on project sustainability.

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Summary of Application</b>	<b>Amount</b>
The Journey Church	Building renovation	£200,000
The Village Centre	Kitchen refurb	£29,940
Runnymede Borough Council	Kings Lane Community Garden	£31,962

- 2.13 The panel agreed to ringfence the money (a sum of up to £200,000) for the Journey Church to allow The Forest Estate Community Hub to apply for Your Fund Surrey funding with agreement in principle from The Major Projects Fund. Approval of any grant to Journey Church would be subject to submission of further project plans and associated business cases (as would be required by Your Fund Surrey), to enable this Committee to make a final decision, and subject to other funding being secured in order to deliver the project. This money would be ringfenced for 18 months.
- 2.14 The panel acknowledged the valuable work of the Village Centre and its positive impact on the community. However, queries were raised around the lack of detailed quotes provided. It is proposed that the money be ringfenced and made available upon receipt of three quotes for the kitchen refurbishment, with one deemed acceptable.
- 2.15 Due to ongoing dialogue with Egham Hollowegians Rugby Club, the amount allocated to the community garden has been ringfenced as it is subject to discussion and agreement with the club and their lease.
- 2.16 Should the recommendations be accepted, the balance in the Minor Projects Fund would be £27,852 and the balance in the Major Projects Fund would be £34,436.
- 2.17 It was agreed by the panel to pause the minor projects fund for one year to allow for us to see the social return on investment for these projects and allow more organisations to apply before the pot runs out.
- 2.18 It was also agreed by the panel to not meet for the Major Projects Fund review in May due to the elections and meet again on 5 August to review submissions to the Fund in time for September Committee.

### **3. Policy framework implications**

- 3.1 The approval of panel-recommended successful applications will support the themes of the Council's Corporate Business Plan, specifically the themes of Empowering

Communities and Health and Wellbeing, and their associated strategies due to the successful applications' strong link to supporting children and young people.

#### **4. Resource implications/Value for Money**

- 4.1 The funding that will be allocated through both schemes has been received as part of the Section 106 contributions relating to the Runnymede Campus development. No additional funding, either one-off or ongoing, will be added to the process by the Council.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 With Section 106 funding being specific to location and type of funding, the monies provided by the developer and held by the Planning department needs to be spent and allocated as per the agreed requirements. Any amounts un-allocated within the relevant period will be reimbursed to the payer.
- 5.2 The full legal implications with regard to replacement of the play equipment at Englefield Green will be set out in the report to the Englefield Green Committee at its meeting in April alongside funding options.

#### **6. Equality implications**

- 6.1 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010. Section 149 of the Act provides that we must have due regard to the need to;
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - b) advance equality of opportunity
  - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share protected characteristics
- 6.2 We should at all times act in a way that is non-discriminatory through our policies and procedures and interactions with people.
- 6.3 Whilst this report in itself has no direct impact on equalities the projects recommended for approval do. A number of these projects are focussed on supporting residents in the areas of relative deprivation in the borough and the projects recommended for approval are likely to have a positive impact on people with the protected characteristics of age, sex, religion and belief.
- 6.4 If the panel recommendations are not approved by Community Services Committee it is possible that this could result in negative equality implications due to the lack of financial support to take forward some of these projects.
- 6.5 An Equalities Impact Screening Assessment was previously carried out to approve the process of the S106 Minor and Major Projects Fund to ensure that all within the Englefield Green community are both able to apply for funding or contribute to the engagement process, identifying possible infrastructure spend for the area.

#### **7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 7.1 Applicants to the fund are asked to state whether their project links to objectives within the Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy and Climate Change strategy.

**8. Risk Implications**

8.1 As identified in sections 5 and 6 above.

**9. Timetable for Implementation**

9.1 Should the recommendations be approved, Officers will begin to process the successful applications and distribute memorandums of understanding (MOU) to the successful applicants. Grant monies will then be distributed upon return of these MOUs.

**10. Conclusions**

10.1 The recommendations on the applications to the S106 Englefield Green Minor and Major Projects Fund grant scheme outlined in the report have been proposed by the panel following the review of applications.

10.2 Awarding these grants will enable community organisations and individuals to support the residents of Englefield Green.

**11. Background papers**

None.

**12. Appendices**

None.