



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Approve application to WLDC NDP Fund

Report to: Full Council 25-02

Report by: Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under:

- Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, Environment Act 2021 s102
- Power to manage open space, Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10:

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets, and wildlife
- Retain and encourage employment and tourism opportunities
- Improve the well-being of residents
- Recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and consider as the basis of decision and policy making

Public Sector Equality Duty

(Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act)

- Grant funding would be for a bio-diversity study, so not directly applicable.
- Westcroft Green consultation will consider the duty to ensure it is accessible to participate (will be included in project brief).
- Where there are any subsequent actions, these would be assessed against the duty as part of the process.

Consideration on carbon reduction:

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Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal¹

It is impossible to list every risk faced by a local council. Risk, in the general sense, means the likelihood of an event happening, and the severity of the negative consequences. The insurance industry regards risk as representing loss or damage. Risk always involves uncertainty. When protecting a local council effectively, it is important to consider if risk is present in the following areas (SLCC AN241)[Tick]

✓Decision making – report will facilitate decision making in relation to the bio-diversity duty
✓Property – survey would take place on parish land

✓Finances – low financial risk as applying for funding for specific activities.
Staff
Events

Legal – if survey proposed non-council land, permission would be sought from landowner first. Legal requirements of consulting to be considered as part of process.
✓Inspections

¹Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register? Any contingency planning needed?

Does the report consider any new activity? If 'Yes', has a risk assessment, including risk management proposals, been included for consideration and adoption by the council?

(Financial Regulation 17b)

Applying for the grant and commissioning the activity, will show the council is taking steps in-line with the bio-diversity duty. As a legal duty, this is something the council must do by law (Environment Act 2021, s102).

REPORT

West Lindsey District Council currently have a [Neighbourhood Development Grant Fund](#) open for applications. The council can apply as an eligible organisation.

Westcroft Green

At November planning and development committee it was resolved to recommend for full council to consider agreeing for a grant application progress a new play area for Westcroft Green.

P24/216 18. WDLC meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Development Fund and agree actions in relation to the item

Having been proposed (Cllr Saunders) and seconded (Cllr J Willox) it was RESOLVED to: Recommend to full council to consider agreeing for a grant application to progress for a new play area for Westcroft Green.

The fund is subject to requirements, one of which is that it is for revenue items only and not capital expenditure items:

“This revenue grant can be spent on:

- Professional fees
- Feasibility costs
- Consultancy costs
- Learning and development costs”²

As such it is understood the fund is unable to be used to progress a play area on Westcroft Green in relation to capital expenditure items e.g. play equipment, but could be used for consultation to take place.

The council has some ring-fenced funds which can facilitate the capital expenditure of the project (£11,920 RFF as of 31/12/2024). This could either be used for a compact trail (e.g. [wooden trail](#) or [a trail package](#)) or be used to seek match funding for grant applications if a larger project was decided upon.

Public consultation was undertaken some time ago, which fed back a preference for natural play/fitness equipment, including climbing. This fits well with the more natural environment of

² www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/communities-safety/grants-funding/neighbourhood-development-fund

Westcroft. It would also offer more variety for residents – having access to a traditional play area at the Recreation Ground and then a natural play offering at Westcroft.

However, due to the length of time that has elapsed, it is recommended that further consultation takes place.

Council would be eligible to apply for WLDC funding for consultants to undertake this consultation process to facilitate moving the project forward.

If successful, council would agree the consultant's exact remit prior to commencing the project, based on good practice (e.g. [LGAs Consulting Residents Guidance](#)) and legal precedents.

The clerk has approached consultants to gain quotes for the work for consideration to facilitate the progression of the project.

Bio-diversity

In 2024, new legislation came into force placing a duty on local authorities, including parish councils, to conserve and enhance bio-diversity. This includes completing a consideration of what action to take for biodiversity.

In order to effectively meet the duty, a baseline needs to be determined, in a manner which is proportionate to the size of the local authority.

It is therefore proposed that an application is made to the WLDC NDP fund for an ecologist to:

- Carry out a baseline bio-diversity assessment. This will provide an overview of the biodiversity in the parish.
- Provide an Enhancement Plan, presenting the findings of the surveys and to provide ideas for future management and enhancement of each site, to maximise the benefits for biodiversity and the community.

This will provide a baseline from which bio-diversity changes can be assessed in the parish and enable the council, with interested parties, to develop an action plan, to implement actions to increase bio-diversity. Changes will then be able to be tracked over time.

Council green spaces are the proposed areas to focus upon.

Proposals

That Full Council notes the report and agrees to

1) Apply to WLDC NDP grant fund for:

- a. **An ecologist to undertake a bio-diversity assessment and provide a plan (with ideas for future management and enhancement of sites assessed)**
- b. **A consultancy to undertake public consultation on Westcroft Green Space play/fitness equipment**

2) For the clerk to bring to council:

- a. **Consultant quotes for consideration (see 1b)**
- b. **A consultation brief for council consideration (see 1b)**

Appendix I: Further guidance

- <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%20Gunning%20Principles.pdf>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/703564/Consultation_principles_.pdf