

Appendix T.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF029/T2

Further development of a 'family-friendly' area in the courtyard of Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre.

This application has been developed to 'assist Voluntary Sector providers', and builds upon an earlier investment made by the Members Fund in 2018.

The bid is to purchase items that will complete the development of the 'family-friendly' area, including picnic tables, chairs, a wheelchair accessible picnic bench, information display boards, safety signage and a wooden 'Canal Boat' for creative and imaginative play. The aim of the project is for children to absorb their local heritage through play, and to make Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre family friendly and accessible to all.

The need for this initiative has come to the attention of Councillor Anthony Richards, one of the two Ward Members for Pontardawe. Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre opened in July 2018 and has since received many hundreds of visitors. However due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and ensuing lockdowns, the development of the 'family-friendly' area was effectively mothballed. Inflationary increases during the subsequent months have rendered aspects of the proposal unaffordable. An award from the Members Community Fund would equip the Heritage Centre with the financial means to finally complete the project.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include an increase in visitor numbers, better provision for children and teachers visiting from schools nearby, a greater understanding of local heritage and culture and helping to secure the future sustainability of the Centre through increased sales of items and refreshments in the Gift Shop.

The Management Committee of Pontardawe Heritage and Visitor Centre are the Leaseholders of the building owned by NPTCBC. They have committed to ensuring that the Centre is appropriately insured and maintained for the next 25 years - this is achieved using income

from membership fees, room hire, community events and the onsite sale of gifts and refreshments.

This project places no additional revenue or financial burden on NPTCBC.

Recommendations

The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for £1,729.70, which is the total remaining project cost. This is the second proposal received to the Members Fund from Cllr Anthony Richards, and if it prevails he will have £3,550.71 available in his Member Fund allocation to develop further priority projects in the Ward of Pontardawe.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.