



5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Councillor FitzHerbert,

I am writing to ask the District Council to consider releasing the reserve funding of £175,000, on an 'as required' basis which was considered at the Council meeting on 27 August 2020 for the Pavilion project in Ashbourne.

The reason for my request is that the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has recently stated that it is prepared to increase significantly its investment in the project to £250,000 provided that all spend can be made by 31 January 2020. In order to achieve this, a contract would need to be awarded by the Ashbourne Recreation Ground Sport & Community Partnership (ARGSCP) to its preferred contractor by late December 2020. The loss of this significant funding by the ECB would mean that the new Ashbourne Pavilion project would not be able to be taken forward meaning that the District Council would have to provide modern sporting facilities fit for purpose on the Ashbourne Recreation Ground at considerable financial cost to the Council.

It is currently anticipated that the ARGSCP will have confirmed funding for the project by mid December amounting to £615,000 from Derbyshire Dales District Council, the Football Foundation and the English and Wales Cricket Board. In addition there are several other grant applications currently being considered by other funders totalling over £250,000. If all these funding applications are successful then the ARGSCP will have £865,000 for the Pavilion project. This will enable a contract to be let to the preferred contractor to start the work in late December and achieve the required ECB spend by the end of January 2021.

However if one or more of these applications are unsuccessful then there will be a need to draw down, as required over the length of the construction contract, the reserve funding of £175,000 that was previously considered by the District Council on 27 August 2020. This is not to say that the total £175,000 would be required since this would depend on the success of outstanding external funding applications made by ARGSCP. Of particular importance is a funding application to the Garfield Weston Foundation which requires 50% of the capital funding for the project to be secured before the application can be considered. If the District Council agreed to allocate the reserve funding of £175,000, as requested, this would trigger the Garfield Weston Application for £50,000 to be considered.

---

Correspondence address: 7 Northwood Rise, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1BF

Chairman  
John Lake  
07970 716004  
johnlake@aol.com

Vice-Chairman  
Julian Burton  
07889 932464  
jburton07@btinternet.com

Secretary  
David Wood  
07917 071520  
melaniewood65@gmail.com

Treasurer  
Michael Hulme  
07840 912563  
mickfish@hulmeshop.co.uk

I am asking therefore for the District Council to consider further the request for an additional £175,000 for the project at the earliest opportunity; this to be drawn down on an 'as required' basis subject to the success or otherwise of ARGSCP current funding applications for the Pavilion project.

The implementation of the new Pavilion project on the Ashbourne Recreation Ground is at a critical stage. As was stated at the Council's meeting on 27 August when the Council gave unanimous support to the project, the efforts of the ARGSCP in securing significant external investment from a variety of local and national funding bodies is impressive. This is entirely down to the hardwork of local volunteers with support from the District Council's officers. It means that the District Council will be securing a £850,000 freehold investment in the new sports and community pavilion at a maximum investment, if all the reserve funding is eventually used, of £254,000. This is an external funding gearing ratio of 3.3:1. There are not many community led projects which will be able to achieve such an impressive external funding success rate. Clearly if less of the reserve funding of £175,000 is required then the external funding ratio increases.

I trust that this matter can be considered as an urgent item for the Council meeting in November 2020.

Yours sincerely,

John Lake

Chairman ARGSCP