

Environmental Fund Management Board

Meeting – 20 Feb 2017

MINUTES

- 1 **Apologies** - None
- 2 **Minutes of Meeting 16 October 2016** – As distributed and approved by Exec Board
- 3 **Present:** Cllr Wharton – Chair (MW), Cllr Woolfall (BW), Cllr Hignett (RH)
Mick Noone (MN) Andrew Plant (AP)
- 4 **Update on actions from the previous meeting** Discussed:

MN – Dukesfield garages – we had asked what would be done to prevent reoccurrence of dumping. AP to seek reassurance that site will be protected.

MN - Air Quality Monitoring. Discussions AP/Isobel Mason as to who will implement the scheme.

MN - Walking/Running Track Runcorn Hill Park – AP will speak to Paul Wright.

Also discussed the running of the Environmental Scheme and the impact on AP. MN to look at whether the scheme itself could fund support to administer the scheme.

MN – Raised question whether minutes would be reported to Development Control Cttee. Agreed that as the ones agreed so far have been in EB minutes this would only be for future minutes as an information item.
- 5 The budget (Income/Expenditure) as produced to the meeting was discussed and the possible outcomes if all schemes before the committee were to be approved. AP noted that although funds have been approved for expenditure so far none have been drawn down. We do receive enquiries regarding expenditure and how funds are being spent. The meeting agreed that all approved schemes should report back to the Board to show progress – this will be arranged by AP for the next meeting.

6 Grant Fund Requests

Runcorn Locks Restoration £30,000

MW introduced. AP provided background. Members discussed. Including prospect of project proceeding. Problems may include provision of water. Show locks would be the first physical element to be constructed. Committee supports the application. The cost (as clarified by email is £30,000).

Wood Lane Pond £17,279.33

MW introduced. Members discussed. BW supported application. MW notes need for Ward Cllrs to be kept advised. Committee supports the application.

Runcorn TH/Boston Ave Boundary Improvements £118,159.28

MW introduced. Members discussed. Committee supports the application.

Park Boundary to Highlands Rd Improvements £56,043.40

MW Introduced. MN notes that a note is included in the application re footway resurfacing. Discussed this element and possible uncertainty this raises. RH – we could agree subject to further information. AP emailed applicant for clarification. Speaks to Martin, who advises it is an element for Highways to consider but not essential for bid. MW suggests to MN that Highways provide cost figure. MN suggests providing info to BW. MN to provide further info to Cllrs re the Highway aspect. Committee supports application.

Beechwood Playground Implementation £37,327.16

MW Introduced. Discussed. Committee supports the application. MN notes subject to Open Spaces maintaining the facility.

Town Park Ski Slope/Railway Access Improvements £130,000

MW Introduced Members discussed MN questions need for use of external consultant. BW questions contribution from Ski Slope owner/operator as this is not evidenced. AP provides background. BW is it beneficial to Ski Slope or to community in general? RH explains the benefits to the community. MW suggests asking if other funding in place. Committee supports the application.

Renewable Energy CIF**£250,000**

Jim Yates (JY) joined for this item to provide information to the Committee. Talked re financial analysis. Govt subsidies alone would not make scheme attractive. There are other grants available which would potentially make the scheme viable. Direct sale of the electricity (e.g to Stadium or Alstrom) would make scheme viable. 3 potential Income streams: RDF grant, Sale of electricity and Feed in Tarriff. Profit from the scheme would come back into the Environmental Fund (not to Council). Committee discussed the proposal. AP notes proposal subject to planning permission. AP asks does bid include professional costs? JY expands on this. Explains logic behind size of scheme which could be unviable if larger (unable to sell all electricity produced). Discussed ongoing maintenance JY advises this would be covered by income from scheme. Committee supports the application.

Weston Point Layby Permanent Closure**£17,200**

MW introduced. Committee supports the application

Creation of Town Park Scheme (5yrs @ £70,000pa)**£350000**

MW introduced. Committee discussed, Cttee questioned the ability to support this on a 5 yr basis. MN outlines employment rules which may lead to costs of laying off/redundancy at end of scheme. Do costs include end of scheme costs? BW questions possibility of 12 month contracts. RH suggests approval in principle. MN – we could approve but highlight possibilities to applicant. RH will get in touch with Paul Wright to discuss (in particular possible layoff/redundancy costs) MN questions if vehicle leasing is included in costings – to be clarified. RH suggests that for large apps in future we could ask applicants to be present to answer questions. MN – any redundancy costs would not be met from scheme – agreed by Committee. Committee supports the application.

Major Routeways Team (5 years @ £60,000 pa)**£300,000**

MW introduced – AP advises this is similar scheme to above and above comments apply. Committee supports the application.

7 Statement of Funds Received and Committed

	Received	Committed	Balance with all commitments	Balance on annualised basis
20/3/15	£154027.35		154027.35	154027.35
19/5/16	£510092.82		664120.17	664120.17
October Meeting:				
Runcorn Hill Park		160,000	504120.17	504120.17
Dukesfield Garages		2,500	501620.17	501620.17
Community Payback		193,746 (This is a 5 year contribution if spread evenly £38750 pa)	307874.17	462870.97
Weston Point Layby		12,000	295874.17	450870.97
Community Garden Runcorn Town Ctre		24,000 (This is a 2 year contribution if spread evenly £12000 pa)	271874.17	438870.97
Runcorn Hill Park Running/Walking Route		7,239.60	264634.57	431631.37
Air Quality Monitoring		27,600	237034.57	404031.37

6 Any other Business

MN - Deadline for applications to be 14 days before meeting.

MN - suggests that we seek assurance from all applicants that if costs are exceeded on any application then they will be responsible for covering shortfall to complete the project. Committee discussed and considered if the fund would pick up the shortfall. Potentially applications could be received to cover shortfalls. AP to advise applicants of requirement as shown in actions below.

Date of next meeting: 11th September 2017. 09:30 MN Office

ACTIONS:

AP – arrange for updates for next meeting on progress of approved schemes.

AP – Dukesfield Scheme – seek reassurance from applicant re prevention of reoccurrence.

AP – Implementation of Air quality Scheme – speak with Isobel Mason

AP – speak to Paul Wright re running track at Runcorn Hill Park

AP – Advise Local Ward Cllrs of decisions made at the Board and seek their opinions. This will give them chance to comment

AP – when confirming availability of funds applicants would be advised that any apparent shortfall in project actual costs would be quickly reported back to the Committee.

AP – In future pre meeting MW to indicate where he requires applicant to be present at meeting.