

## **TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE GILSTRAP AND WILLIAM EDWARD KNIGHT CHARITIES**

**5 APRIL 2022**

### **NEWARK R&M CRICKET CLUB PROJECT - UPDATE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress made by Newark R&M Cricket Club in respect of their Ground Development Project.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 The Board will be aware that the redevelopment of the former RHP Sports & Social Ground resulted in the loss of the cricket pitch. In order to satisfy Sport England's Planning Policy requirements it was agreed to provide a replacement pitch in a timely manner to mitigate this loss.
- 2.2 The District Council has been working in partnership with Newark R&M Cricket Club (the Club), the English Cricket Board (ECB) and Newark Town Council to develop a phased scheme, which would deliver the replacement pitch and associated infrastructure at the Club's Kelham Road site.
- 2.3 Phase 1 of the project is complete and Phase 2 involves the provision of new changing rooms. The changing rooms have been designed in accordance with the technical requirements of the ECB and Sport England in order to ensure that the building is both accessible and compliant with current regulations.
- 2.4 In terms of funding Phase 2 of the project, the Trustee Board has initially approved grant funding of £100,000 towards this from the WE Knight Charity. The rest of the funds required to deliver Phase 2 is made up of a mix of funding from Newark Town Council, NCC, other funding partners and Club funds.
- 2.5 At its meeting of 2 October 2020 the Trustee Board resolved to approve a request for further funding of £13,134 towards the installation of a platform lift for the changing room building to make it accessible.

#### **3.0 Update**

- 3.1 A verbal update was provided at the last meeting of the Trustee Board in January. Several local companies had been approached to tender for the changing room construction works. The Club had received three responses but all three exceeded the current amount of available funding. The Club advised that it was exploring additional funding sources and cost reductions.
- 3.2 The Club has now provided a further update. Due to the design and siting requirements for the project the cost envelope is significant, and the costs of materials continues to rise. Costs have risen by approximately £20,000 since the last estimate which has in effect nullified the savings identified through the value engineering exercise that has been carried out. The Club therefore considered at a meeting on 23 March whether to continue with the project. The Club has decided that in the interim it will seek to deliver the new pavilion as a shell building, and then seek to secure additional funding to complete the project. The rationale for this is

that costs are only likely to increase in the short to medium term, and that postponing the project will only perpetuate the gap funding challenge. The District Council is working with the Club to identify other options for further funding.

- 3.3 The Club has requested that the Trustee Board contributes additional funding to the project. Its aim is to secure sufficient funding to reduce the funding gap to an amount that can be secured with a manageable loan. The Club's letter dated 23 March 2022 is attached as the **Appendix** to this report.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Trustee Board grants the balance of the unallocated reserve held by the WE Knight Charity to the Club, subject to the retention of a sufficient sum to cover any administrative costs for winding-up the Charity as a result of the whole endowment being spent. In the event the Club was ultimately not able to proceed with the project the grant funding would not be required; therefore action would not be taken to wind-up the Charity until confirmation was received that the project was to commence contractually and accordingly all WE Knight monies would be committed to and spent on progressing phase one of the build to deliver the shell of the changing rooms.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The current unallocated reserve balance for the trust is £27,250.57. It is recommended that £27,000 of the balance is offered to the Club with the remainder, as per para 3.4, be left to cover any administration costs for winding-up the Charity.

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board note the update regarding the Newark R&M Cricket Club project and consider their request for further funding.**

#### **Background Papers**

None

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