

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Fund Application – Fareham Heathens Rugby FC
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Community Fund Programme.

Executive Summary:

An application for community funding has been received from Dave Green, Honorary Secretary of Fareham Heathens Rugby FC, for the sum of £1,889.80 to completely replace a set of steel rugby posts for the floodlit pitch at the Club's grounds at Cams Alders Recreation Ground. The current rugby posts and their underground sockets have become eroded due to their age and exposure to rain, and as a result are no longer safe to use.

The application specifies that the rugby club will contribute to the project by erecting the new posts once the replacement sockets have been installed.

The Fareham Heathens is a private limited company. Its Articles of Association states that its Object is 'to provide rugby union, social and other activities and generally to encourage and facilitate the playing of rugby...' In addition, it specifies that 'income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its Objects...'

The Club has a strong membership, with approximately 300 players regularly participating in rugby on the site each year. The Club has thriving youth, senior men's and ladies' teams and competes successfully in the Hampshire Rugby League and Solent Rugby League. In addition to this use of the facilities by Club members, the pitch is widely used by the community, with regular use by a number of local schools for sports activities.

The Club, at the end of the last financial year, had £1,787 in reserves. The Heathens last applied for funding from Fareham Borough Council in 2008, when

they successfully secured £20,000 in matched funding for the purpose of improving the site's drainage.

Both Ward Councillors, Cllr Barton and Cllr Steadman, are strongly supportive of this application.

Recommendation:

That Fareham Heathens Rugby FC is awarded £1,889.80 for the purpose of replacing the set of steel rugby posts at Cams Alders Recreation Ground.

Reason:

This application meets the agreed Community Funding Programme criteria for financial support for community projects.

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards this project will be £1,889.80 which can be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this report.