

Chichester District Council

Grants and Concessions Panel

22 September 2016

New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) – Requests for variation

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Panel consider a request for variation and extension from Lynchmere Parish Council in respect of New Homes Bonus funding awarded for a new Pavilion at Camelsdale in 2013.**

3. Lynchmere Parish Council

- 3.1. At the special meeting of the Grants and Concessions Panel on 31st October 2013, a bid for New Homes Bonus was considered from Lynchmere Parish Council (reference NHB31/13 – see Appendix 1) in respect of a new Pavilion for Camelsdale Recreation Ground. Recommendations were made and £30,000 was awarded, subject to confirmation of the sources of additional funding required to complete the project, and a full tendering exercise.
- 3.2. Since the decision, Lynchmere Parish Council (LPC) have subsequently been faced with a protracted attempt to secure the long term future of St Michaels Hall at Hammer, and had considered requesting a variation towards that project. A Community Right to Bid was ultimately unsuccessful, and attention has returned to the Pavilion at Camelsdale. While LPC has accumulated some reserves towards the project, major external funding needed to be identified (estimated to be in the region of £40-50,000) and this has been unsuccessful. With the time limit on the New Homes Bonus approaching, LPC have reconsidered extension and refurbishment of the existing Pavilion as a cheaper option.
- 3.3. In connection with their application this year for funding (NHB24/16) LPC formally request a variation to the original award in 2013, to enable the £30,000 to be used for refurbishment rather than replacement of the Pavilion. The proposed works include the provision of a new veranda, meeting room and storage facilities. Internal refurbishment will also update catering facilities, showers and changing facilities and security features.
- 3.4. LPC hope that with a timely decision the works can be initiated as soon as possible. It should be noted that in 2013, Agreements issued to Parishes

stated that monies should be spent within three years of receipt. In subsequent years this was changed to within three years of the date of the Agreement. As LPC had not met the specific conditions set (see 4.1 above) the money had not been released. While not binding, LPC have been encouraged to see the third anniversary of the agreement (11th November 2013) as a deadline to work towards.