**Lytchett Matravers Parish Council**

**Prioritisation of Neighbourhood Plan Projects**

# Introduction

The Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan set out a number of projects to strengthen and improve the village infrastructure and facilities.

In December 2018 a Preliminary Financial Plan for Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan Projects was presented to the Parish Council which set out cost estimates for all of the projects, together with estimates of the various sources of funding which might be available. As at May 2019 the Parish Council currently has only very limited resources and monies available to implement the Neighbourhood Plan projects, but may secure various funding over the next 10 years or so to allow it to carry out more of the projects.

To provide a basis for allocating project resources and funding in the short to medium term, an exercise has been carried out by the Parish Council at a meeting on 22nd May 2019 to prioritise the Neighbourhood Plan Projects. This exercise was in 3 stages, firstly a consideration of the age groups in the community that might benefit from each project, secondly a consideration of the level of benefit that the community might derive from each project, and thirdly an assessment of the relative importance of each project expressed as a ranking order.

This paper presents the results of this exercise, together with a summary of key points arising from the results, and recommendations on decisions to reflect these.

# Results

At its meeting on 22nd May 2019, 9 members of the Parish Council took part in the exercise, with each member being asked to complete all 3 stages of the exercise described in section 1 above. The results are presented in Table 1.

The Neighbourhood Plan Projects are listed in Table 1 in the order of their rank determined from the exercise, from the project considered the highest priority at the top, through to the lowest priority project at the bottom of the list.

The scores in the section of Table 1 for “Age Groups that Benefit” are the number of Parish Council members who considered that each project would benefit each age group. Since 9 Working Group members took part, a score of 5 or more in this section means that the majority of Parish Council members considered that a project was of benefit to the age group concerned.

The scores in the section of Table 1 for “Overall Community Benefit” are the number of Parish Council members who considered that each project would deliver a Low, Medium, or High benefit to the community.

The third section of Table 1 shows the Ranking allocated by each Parish Council member to each project, where a ranking of 1 means that the project is considered the highest priority through to 14 being the lowest priority. The Rankings allocated by each Parish Council member have been added together to determine the Overall Ranking determined by collectively by the Parish Council.

The final section of Table 1 shows the Preliminary Cost Estimates for each of the Neighbourhood Plan projects, taken from the Preliminary Financial Plan for Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan presented to the Parish Council in December 2018.

# Key Points Arising

## Age Groups that Benefit

* The Village Centre Project was considered to benefit all age groups in Lytchett Matravers by an overwhelming majority of Parish Council members
* Only 2 other projects were considered to benefit all age groups by the majority of Parish Council members, namely the Cyclepath, and Development of the Area Around the Sports Pavilion and Scout Hut.
* The 20 to 45 age group was considered to benefit from all of the Neighbourhood Plan projects.
* The age group considered to benefit from the least number of elements was 65 and Over, benefitting from only 7 out of 14 of the projects.

To put these points into perspective, the demographics for Lytchett Matravers presented to the Parish Council in May 2018 show the following distribution

1 to 12 - 13%

13 to 20 - 9%

20 to 45 - 25%

45 to 65 - 31%

65 & Over - 22%

This shows that just over 50% of the population are in the 45 to 65 and 65 & Over age groups. Forecasts for the next 20 to 30 years suggest that the proportion of the population in these age groups will increase.

## Overall Community Benefit

* Only 3 of the 14 projects were considered to have a High level of Benefit to the Community by the majority of Parish Council members, all of which were subsequently ranked in the top 5. These were the Village Centre project, the Village Hall Remodelling, and the Cyclepath.
* 8 of the projects were considered to have a Medium level of Benefit to the Community.
* 2 of the projects were considered to only have a Low level of Benefit to the Community.

## Ranking and Overall Ranking

* The Village Centre project was ranked first by 7 out of the 9 Parish Council members involved.
* There is a reasonable correlation between the ranking allocated by members of the Parish Council and their assessments of the Age Groups benefitting from each project and also their assessment of the overall level of benefit to the Community.
* It is noticeable that the ranking allocated to Construction of an Astro Multi Use Car Park at third in the list is at first sight anomalous since 3 of the main uses for this Car Park are themselves ranked at number 10, 11, and 14 in the list. This needs to be considered further as planning for these projects progresses, taking into account when funding is expected to be available.
* The Overall ranking arising from this exercise is clear.

# Recommendations

The Parish Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:

* The Parish Council should consider the allocation of CIL funding to the Village Centre project, since the overwhelming majority of Parish Council members considered this to be the top priority.
* The various work programmes being undertaken to plan for and then implement the Neighbourhood Plan projects should address these projects in the priority order set out in Table 1, taking into account the monies forecast to be available each year.
* The Parish Council should consider whether additional projects should be developed that will benefit members of the community in the 65 and Over age group.

.Ralph Watts

May 2019

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Project | Age Group that Benefits | | | | | | | | |  | Overall Community Benefit | | | | |  | Ranking Allocated by Each Member of the Parish Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | Overall Rank |  | Preliminary Cost Estimate (£) | Cumulative Cost (£) |
| 1 to 12 | | 13 to 20 | | 20 to 45 | | 45 to 65 | | 65 & Over |  | L | | M | | H |  |  |  |
| Village Centre Project | 8 | | 9 | | 8 | | 8 | | 9 |  |  | | 2 | | 7 |  | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | | 1 | | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | |  | 1 |  | 285,000 | 285,000 |
| Library Extension | 6 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 8 |  | 1 | | 5 | | 3 |  | 5 | 2 | | 2 | | 4 | | 11 | | 3 | | 12 | | 3 | | 2 | |  | 2 |  | 120,000 | 405,000 |
| Construction of Astro Multi Use Car Park | 7 | | 7 | | 9 | | 3 | | 1 |  | 1 | | 5 | | 3 |  | 11 | 4 | | 4 | | 2 | | 1 | | 10 | | 2 | | 13 | | 5 | |  | 3 |  | 50,000 | 455,000 |
| Village Hall Remodelling | 2 | | 4 | | 6 | | 8 | | 9 |  | 2 | | 2 | | 5 |  | 3 | 7 | | 11 | | 9 | | 4 | | 4 | | 11 | | 4 | | 3 | |  | 4 |  | 220,000 | 675,000 |
| Cyclepath | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 6 | | 5 |  | 1 | | 3 | | 5 |  | 8 | 3 | | 14 | | 5 | | 2 | | 7 | | 1 | | 5 | | 14 | |  | 5 |  | 500,000 | 1,175,000 |
| Enhancements to Rec Ground Play & Leisure Facilities | 8 | | 8 | | 7 | | 4 | | 4 |  |  | | 8 | | 1 |  | 4 | 10 | | 3 | | 6 | | 9 | | 13 | | 5 | | 2 | | 9 | |  | 6 |  | 15,000 | 1,190,000 |
| Development of Area Around the Sports Pavilion and Scout Hut | 5 | | 5 | | 8 | | 7 | | 5 |  | 2 | | 3 | | 4 |  | 2 | 6 | | 10 | | 3 | | 13 | | 6 | | 9 | | 10 | | 4 | |  | 7 |  | 220,000 | 1,410,000 |
| Improvements to Football & Cricket Pitches | 8 | | 9 | | 7 | | 3 | |  |  |  | | 7 | | 2 |  | 10 | 5 | | 8 | | 14 | | 6 | | 2 | | 10 | | 6 | | 6 | |  | 8 |  | 20,000 | 1,430,000 |
| Village Gateways | 3 | | 5 | | 8 | | 7 | | 5 |  | 5 | | 3 | | 1 |  | 7 | 12 | | 9 | | 8 | | 12 | | 5 | | 3 | | 8 | | 7 | |  | 9 |  | 10,000 | 1,440,000 |
| Refurbishment/Repurposing of Astro | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | | 3 | | 1 |  | 1 | | 6 | | 2 |  | 14 | 9 | | 5 | | 11 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 12 | | 12 | |  | 10 |  | 70,000 | 1,510,000 |
| Relocation of Football Pitches to Field Behind the School | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | | 4 | | 2 |  | 1 | | 8 | |  |  | 12 | 8 | | 13 | | 12 | | 7 | | 11 | | 7 | | 9 | | 10 | |  | 11 |  | 120,000 | 1,630,000 |
| Improve/Complete Circular Pathway Network | 2 | | 4 | | 6 | | 7 | | 5 |  | 2 | | 5 | | 2 |  | 6 | 13 | | 7 | | 7 | | 10 | | 14 | | 14 | | 7 | | 13 | |  | 12 |  | 60,000 | 1,690,000 |
| Build Commercial/Residential Units at West End of Rec Ground Car Park | 2 | | 2 | | 8 | | 9 | | 4 |  | 3 | | 2 | | 4 |  | 9 | 14 | | 6 | | 10 | | 14 | | 8 | | 13 | | 11 | | 8 | |  | 13 |  | 250,000 | 1,940,000 |
| Construction of New Sports Pavilion on Field Behind the School | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | | 5 | | 3 |  | 2 | | 6 | | 1 |  | 13 | 11 | | 12 | | 13 | | 8 | | 12 | | 8 | | 14 | | 11 | |  | 14 |  | 220,000 | 2,160,000 |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note 1 - Scores of 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 highlighted in shades of brown | | | | | |  | |  | |  |  |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note 2 - Scores of 5, 6, 7, and 8 highlighted in Shades of Brown (High) or Blue (Moderate) or Green (Low) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |