**Lytchett Matravers Parish Council**

**Prioritisation of Elements of the Village Centre Project**

# Introduction

The Village Centre Project is one of 14 projects which have been developed from the Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan. The project is being developed by a Working Group under the oversight of the Parish Council.

To provide a basis for allocating project resources, and making decisions on financing requirements, an exercise has been carried out by the Working Group to prioritise the various elements of the project. This exercise was in 3 stages, firstly a consideration of the age groups in the community that might benefit from each element of the project, secondly a consideration of the level of benefit that the community might derive from each element of the project, and thirdly an assessment of the relative importance of each element of the 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

7 members of the Working Group 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 elements of the Village Centre project are listed in Table 1 in the order of their rank determined from the exercise, from the element considered the highest priority at the top, through to the lowest priority element at the bottom of the list.

The scores in the section of Table 1 for “Age Groups that Benefit” are the number of Working Group members who considered that each element of the project would benefit each age group. Since 7 Working Group members took part, a score of 4 or more in this section means that the majority of Working Group members considered that an element of the 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 Working Group members who considered that each element of the project would deliver a Low, Medium, or High benefit to the community.

The third section of Table 1 shows the Ranking allocated by each Working Group member to each element of the project, where a ranking of 1 means that element is considered the highest priority through to 15 being the lowest priority. The Rankings allocated by each Working Group member have been added together to determine the Overall Ranking as determined by the Working Group.

The final section of Table 1 shows the Preliminary Cost Estimates for each element of the Village Centre project, 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

* Only 2 elements were considered to benefit all age groups by the majority of Working Group members, namely the High Street Crossing, and Extending the Library Path to Ancott Close.
* The age group considered to benefit from the largest number of elements was 20 to 45, benefitting from 11 out of 15 elements.
* The age group considered to benefit from the least number of elements was 13 to 20, benefitting from only 7 out of 15 elements, followed closely by the age groups 45 to 65 and 65 & Over, both benefitting from only 8 out of 15 elements.

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 6 of the 15 elements were considered to have a High level of Benefit to the Community by the majority of Working Group members, all of which were subsequently ranked in the top 7. The High Street Crossing was considered to have a High level of Benefit by 6 out of the 7 Working Group members involved.
* 3 of the elements were considered to have a Medium level of Benefit to the Community.
* The remaining 6 elements were considered to have a Low level of Benefit to the Community.

## Ranking and Overall Ranking

* The High Street Crossing was ranked first by 5 out of the 7 Working Group members involved.
* There is a good correlation between the ranking allocated by members of the Working Group and their assessments of the Age Groups benefitting from each element of the project and also their assessment of the overall level of benefit to the Community.
* The Overall ranking arising from this exercise is clear

## Preliminary Cost Estimates

The Working Group intends to seek whole or part funding for the High Street Crossing from the Dorset Council, for the Tesco Parking Area from Tesco, and for the Ballcourt from Sport England. However, insufficient progress has been made to provide estimates of how much such funding might be secured.

# Recommendations

The Parish Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:

* The Village Centre Working Group should proceed with planning and implementing the various elements of this project in the priority order set out in Table 1, taking into account the monies available each year, and also taking into account where there are linkages between some of the elements (primarily around the Library walk and High Street Crossing).
* The Working Group should consider whether the elements ranked in the bottom 6 with only Low Benefit to the Community, should be postponed or cancelled to allow the limited resources and finances available to the Parish Council to be deployed on other Neighbourhood Plan projects. If all 6 of these elements were cancelled, it would allow about £62,000 to be deployed on other projects.
* The Working Group should consider whether the project can be designed to deliver greater levels of benefit to members of the community in the 13 to 20, 45 to 65, and 65 & Over age groups.

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Ralph Watts

May 2019

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Element | Age Groups that Benefit (see Note 1) |  | Overall Community Benefit (see Note 2) |  | Ranking Allocated by Each Member of the Working Group |  | Overall Rank |  | Preliminary Cost Estimate (£) | Cumulative Cost (£) |
| 1 to 12 | 13 to 20 | 20 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 & Over |  | L | M | H |  |  |  |
| High Street Crossing | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 |  |   | 1 | 6 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 4 |  | 1 |  | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Rearrange Tesco Parking Area | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 |  |   | 2 | 5 |  | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 7.5 | 2 | 1 |  | 2 |  | 65,000 | 90,000 |
| Ease Pharmacy Steps | 2 |  | 1 | 4 | 7 |  | 1 | 2 | 4 |  | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 3 |  | 3 |  | 2,000 | 92,000 |
| Regrade Land down to Eldons Drove and Constuct new Path down from Play Area | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 |  |   | 4 | 3 |  | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 |  | 4 |  | 8,000 | 100,000 |
| Widen Lower Rec Parking Area by 7m and redo Layout |   | 1 | 7 | 7 | 4 |  |   | 2 | 5 |  | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 5 | 6 |  | 5 |  | 40,000 | 140,000 |
| Introduce Road Markings along Eldons Drove to Improve Safety for Walk to School | 7 | 2 | 6 |  | 1 |  |   | 2 | 5 |  | 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 7 |  | 6 |  | 1,500 | 141,500 |
| Construct Path from Eldons Drove to Rear of School | 6 | 2 | 6 |  |   |  | 1 | 1 | 5 |  | 8 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 2 |  | 7 |  | 30,000 | 171,500 |
| Construct new Ball Court next to Play Area | 5 | 7 | 1 |  |   |  | 1 | 4 | 2 |  | 14 | 13 | 10 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 9 |  | 8 |  | 50,000 | 221,500 |
| Extend Library Path to Ancott Close | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 |  | 5 | 2 |   |  | 11 | 6 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 14 |  | 9 |  | 6,000 | 227,500 |
| Replace Boarded Fence with Post & Rail & Grade Ground | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |  | 5 | 1 | 1 |  | 4 | 8 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 15 |  | 10 |  | 300 | 227,800 |
| Re-Align Path Around North Side of Play Area | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |  | 3 | 4 |   |  | 7 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 11 |  | 11 |  | 14,000 | 241,800 |
| Re-Align Library Path to Meet High Street Crossing | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  | 2 | 3 | 2 |  | 10 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 9 | 13 |  | 12 |  | 3,000 | 244,800 |
| Widen Path Along East Side of Rec | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 |  | 6 | 1 |   |  | 15 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 10 |  | 12 |  | 38,000 | 282,800 |
| Create Informal Seating/Gathering Area at Path Crossing | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 |  | 3 | 3 | 1 |  | 15 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 8 |  | 14 |  | 2,000 | 284,800 |
| Improve Surface Water Capture in Pond Area, Install Post & Rail Fence to Improve Safety | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 |  | 4 | 3 |   |  | 13 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 14 | 12 |  | 15 |  | 5,000 | 289,800 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note 1 - Scores of 4, 5, 6, and 7 highlighted in Shades of Brown |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note 2 - Scores of 4, 5, and 6 highlighted in Shades of Brown (High), Blue (Moderate), and Green (Low) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |