
**Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and
Cabinet Member for Residents' Services**

May 2013

**Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund
Applications – April/May 2013**

**Report by Director of Communities Commissioning
and Head of Highways and Transport**

HT02(13/14)

**Key Decision:
No**

Part I

**Electoral
Division(s):**

Chichester West /
Warnham &
Rusper /
Angmering &
Findon/
Billingshurst

Executive Summary

The purpose of Operation Watershed is to support people in their local communities who want to work with the County Council to become more prepared for, or to reduce the risk of, flooding.

Local groups are encouraged to apply for funding to finance schemes and projects of all sizes as a way of achieving this. The Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport allocated £1.25 million from Operation Watershed to establish the 'Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund' (DLC34(12/13), March 2013).

Appendix A sets out the most recent applications from community groups or parish councils to fund their projects.

Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Members determine the applications from the community groups or parish councils set out in Appendix A.

1 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of Operation Watershed is to support people in their local communities who want to work with the County Council to become more prepared for floods and help reduce the likelihood of highways or neighbouring land flooding.
 - 1.2 Local groups are encouraged to apply for funding to finance schemes and projects of all sizes as a way of achieving this. £1.25 million has been allocated from Operation Watershed to establish the 'Operation Watershed
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Active Communities Fund’.

- 1.3 The funding is to support communities who are willing to develop, support and sustain partnerships that bring together local people, businesses and landowners to ensure that those who suffer from the effects of flooding and those responsible for a huge network of drainage systems and ditches, that must be fully maintained to avoid flooding, are working together to minimise the risk of local impacts in the future. Examples include:
- Projects requiring funding are identified by communities and may include:
 - start-up costs to support the clearing of neglected ditches
 - Pump prime funds to support initial clearing of private ditches that have been neglected
 - Buying or hiring equipment such as shovels, waders or diggers for communities to use
 - Developing of community flood plans
 - Localised ‘find and fix’ improvements within the highway - small scale improvements required to support a local partnership
- 1.4 Officers will work with local members, parish representatives and other appropriate community leads to understand local pressures and concerns and help ensure that any proposed funding bid does demonstrate a long term community benefit.
- 1.5 5 full applications have been received and evaluated totalling £21,127.49 and they are set out in Appendix A.

2. **Alternative Options Considered**

- 2.1 The County Council could attempt to do all the work itself. However it is considered that in many cases local communities are best placed to carry out smaller scale works that are needed to help either assess the flood risk or reduce the risk of flooding in their area. In some cases the County Council will have already undertaken larger scale works to alleviate a flood risk and the funding can then be used for maintenance.

3. **Consultation**

- 3.1 The applications listed in Appendix A are promoted by the local communities and supported by the respective local Member. They have been considered by the Operation Watershed Steering Group, comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and Cabinet Member Residents’ Services.

4. **Equality - Customer Focus Appraisal**

No CFA will be required but the panel considering any application will be alert to the need to consider any equality implications arising from the bid or the way the money is to be used if any are indicated in the bid information.

5. **Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 5.1 £1.25m in total is available over the two financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15. Expressions of Interest and full applications totalling £365,957.49 have been received. This is the first tranche of applications presented for approval.
- 5.2 Funding community groups and parish councils is considered to be an effective and efficient means of alleviating local flooding problems in their area.

6. **Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 There is a risk that the funding does not cover all the anticipated costs of a project and community groups bear the risk of under-budgeting. However, this can be mitigated by working closely with officers and the local Member to identify potential problems before any funding is allocated.
- 6.2 Any under spending on a project has to be returned to the County Council.
- 6.3 A full risk register has been developed and the risks profile is being managed as part of the project governance.

7. **Crime and Disorder Act Implications**

There are no implications arising from funding these applications.

8. **Human Rights Act Implications**

- 8.1 There are no human rights implications arising from these applications.

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Background Papers

Supporting Application forms reference;
0041 - Angmering Parish Council
0042 - Angmering Village Hall
0004 - Fishbourne and Parklands Flood Action Group
0047 - Warnham Parish Council
0055 - Shipley Parish Council

Appendix A

The following applications are recommended for approval:

Application No.	Community Group or Parish Council	Brief Description of Project	£ Requested
0041	Angmering Parish Council	Supply & installation of web camera as an early warning system	£ 3,863.00
0042	Angmering Village Hall	Flood prevention works	£13,753.49
0004	Fishbourne and Parklands FAG	Development of asset register	£ 1,000.00
0047	Warnham Parish Council	Works to prevent future flooding of church yard and cemetery.	£ 1,995.00
0055	Shipley Parish Council	Digging of ditches on Bakers Lane, Dragons Green to relieve on-going flooding issues to surrounding properties	£ 516.00
		Total Funding Requests	£21,127.49

The following applications are recommended to be declined:

Application No.	Community Group or Parish Council	Brief Description of Project	£ Requested
			£
			£
			£
		Total Funding Requests	£
