

Buckden Parish Council 11 January 2022

District Councillors Report

I recently became aware of a new CCC Grant available from last December, and I summarise it below.

Community Flood Action Programme

This is an initiative by Cambridge County Council to increase community resilience to flooding. Originally set up in March 2021, in practice it was only in December 2021 that the funding to support aspects of the programme was released, allowing applications for funding to be made from December 1.

Riparian Watercourse Maintenance Grant

CCC recognised that a key problem was identifying Riparian Owners and their responsibilities, but where this was not possible or the owner had no funding, then CCC would provide limited funding for essential maintenance work to be undertaken. This Grant became available for application from December 1 2021.

Community Flood Groups

CCC prefers to get applications from Community Flood Groups (CFG's), but where these have not been set up, then CCC will give special consideration to applications from Parish Councils and also Individuals. All applications must have the written support of the local County Councillor.

Application Process

This is relatively simple, comprising an application form supplemented by a guide to the benefits expected from the project. These benefits are set out on a project evaluation scorecard and are given weightings. So if the project will generate volunteers for ongoing maintenance in the future, then it scores 10. If there are no volunteers then the score will be much lower.

Applications are assessed on a number of criteria to include:

Addressing recognised flooding issues

Engaging with the local community

Ecological Benefits

Number of Houses with reduced risk of flooding

Contractual Process

There is a standard CCC contract and any applicant will need to take legal advice. There is an expectation that each project will have a project manager who will take responsibility for the Grant and subject to legal advice the project manager may have individual/personal responsibility. So this needs careful checking or discussion with CCC.

More Information

From the main CCC homepage the links are>Business>Planning and Development>Flood and Water>Riparian watercourse grant. There are three PDF documents for downloading, Riparian Works Funding Application Form. Project Evaluation Scorecard. Draft Riparian Funding Agreement.

Applications should be sent to CFAP@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk and this is also the main route for discussions.

Conclusion

This is a useful and practical initiative which may have applications in Buckden.

Hamish Masson

District Councillor