

Report from Finance Advisory Group Chairman

PROPOSAL TO FUND SIGNAGE AROUND BUCKDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The full application is included as an Appendix to this Report.

The Chairman of the PTA at Buckden Primary School has submitted a formal request for a donation from the Parish Council towards the purchase child-friendly signs to help address concerns about air quality and road safety in the area around the school.

- Their application identified increased traffic sitting with engine running, with the effect this has on air quality and on pedestrian safety due to the large number of cars parked around the school.
- These are similar to concerns that were raised previously and led to the school street trial, as well as feedback through the recent BPC open evening on Highways and Sustainable Transport as well as in the Buckden Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP)
- The donation request is for 8 signs with the following messages”
 - Do Not Park Here
 - Do not park on the zig-zags
 - Turn off your engine - no idling
 - Slow down
- If funded by BPC the PTA proposes that the signs would be purchased from a specialist provider:
 - <https://signs2schools.co.uk/products/school-safety/kiddie-road-signs/>
 - See page 2 for image
 - The wording and sign type would be selected by the PTA

The stated aim of the signs will be to give a visual reminder to drivers, to improve air quality and road safety for children and potentially to prompt more parents to leave their cars at home.

Routinely donation and grant requests are only considered in year where they are for sums less than £200, but that is flexible, if agreed by Council.

If we treat the School PTA’s application as being for a grant for a larger sum then the Council has the right, under our policy, to make any funding approved conditional upon the applicants agreeing to account for the spending, no later than at the end of the BPC financial year of the award, and add other conditions if agreed by Council.

- It has been suggested that we ask the school/PTA to report on the outcome of this intervention after 6 months from putting the signs into action.
- How the outcome(s) would be measured would be agreed in advance between BPC and those involved in the school/PTA

The application requests that BPC considers funding 6 of the 8 proposed signs – each £175 - with PTA funding 2 signs. Total cost £1,4000 for all eight signs.

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In budget-setting for 2021-22 BPC Council included £1,400 agreed a contribution to a sports programme for parish residents of school age.

- That funding was not drawn down by the applicants

The proposal put forward here reflects the current availability of this resource intended to benefit school-age children in our 2021-22 revenue budget.

Proposal: That Buckden Parish Council funds up to the full £1,400 for eight signs of the type requested by the Buckden Primary School PTA, and that payment of the agreed sum is made promptly to the PTA to enable the signs to be purchased ASAP.

