

Neighbourhood Plan Finance update

Briefing Note

As stated previously, there is a strict timeframe for spending Neighbourhood plan grant funding awards from *Locality*, and this is one of the reasons why we have attempted to get as much as possible done in a very short time, since mid-January – when the £10K funds were finally awarded to us.

We have in fact via Squires managed to get £3.4K's worth of support across the line before the March 31st deadline. {The next monies we were to have covered the costs of, involved Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation work, and we were not near to completing this before 1st April}

What you normally have to do to complete govt funded works, is then return the monies not used and immediately reapply for the same monies once again – in the new financial year – or certainly this has been the case since 2018.

However, seemingly without warning, these funds to assist Neighbourhood planning groups / councils across the country have been withdrawn, so when the SPC Clerk reapplied a couple of weeks back, there was no longer this opportunity available to us.

What this effectively means is henceforth, and unless another means of finance becomes available to us, we as a council would need to fund the remaining costs from Council *General Reserves*.

This is therefore an important discussion point and there will need to be a motion from this committee by way of recommendation, to the main SPC Council – either agreeing to continue to fund the groups work *in-house*, or not to, as the case may be.