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cc Local Members

Your Ref:
Date: June 2023

My Ref: HI/12/GEN/DH/KT
Tel No.: 0344 800 8020
Email: ppschemes@norfolk.gov.uk

From the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport

Dear Sir/Madam

Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils

I am delighted to inform you that due to the success of working in partnership with Parish/Town Councils for the last ten years the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative will again be repeated in the financial year 2024/25. Further supporting information, including possible funding sources for your share of the bid, is available on our website (click on [this link](#)).

The County Council has provisionally allocated £300,000 on a 50/50 basis (There is an upper limit on Norfolk County Council funding support of £25,000 per bid) to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. We are particularly keen to encourage and support first-time bids.

This letter provides more information on the process, invites you to submit bids, and explains how the County Council can support you in developing your ideas. The closing date will be the 8th December 2023. Please contact your local Highway Engineer based at the local Area Office for agreement and any advice in developing your ideas, especially around the practicalities and cost estimates.

Once all bids have been received, we will assess them and inform you of our decision in March 2024 following approval by the Norfolk County Council Cabinet.

To encourage bids from Town and Parish Councils with annual incomes (precepts plus any another income) below £2,000, we are offering the following support;

- 75% County Council contribution
- £5,000 maximum bid value
- Offer available only once to any bidder

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We will also accept bids from unparished County Council Wards. Such Wards can always opt to become a formal Parish Council, but otherwise we are offering support on the basis that the Ward raises the required 50% funding. Kings Lynn Borough Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norwich City Council have kindly indicated their willingness to consider proposed schemes and potential funding for them. Further details are in the relevant committee report on our website (click on [this link](#)).

What sort of schemes would be acceptable?

- Small lengths of formal footway
- Trods (a simplified and low-cost footway),
- Improved crossing facilities
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way.
- Flashing signs to tackle speeding. We would encourage you to consider Speed Awareness Mobile Signs (SAM2) - which flash up the driver's actual speed rather than fixed signs (VAS) - which flash up the speed limit. The number of VAS in Norfolk has grown, and checks show that speed reduction benefits can be minimal. Whilst we will still consider bids for fixed VAS, we will only consider these if there is a known and recorded personal Injury accident record. We consider that SAM2 mobile signs, which are moved around on an agreed rota, are better at reducing speed; **SAM2 can be jointly purchased with neighbouring Parishes and would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council.** Please note this type of scheme may be dependent upon NCC securing additional funding from the Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership
- Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights, outside schools. The County Council generally supports these as they do show a moderate reduction in average speeds during peak times.
- "Keep Clear" carriageway markings outside schools. Applications will be considered for new school keep clear carriageway markings (which must be supported by the local school) however, these will not be enforceable without a Traffic Regulation Order which is outside the scope of the Parish Partnership Scheme. If you wish to enforce the Order, it would have to be wholly funded by the Parish or the Local Member.
- New Bus Shelter or Shelter Lighting. A copy of Norfolk County Councils guidance for new bus shelters is available on our web site (click on [this link](#)). **Any new shelter would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council.**
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points. In the first instance we would expect Parish/Town Councils to investigate available grants, for more information please email evehicles@norfolk.gov.uk – A website containing useful information is currently being developed and will be updated with new information regularly. We will be contacting Parish/Town Councils when this available.

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Schemes can be within or immediately adjacent to the highway. If they are off highway the future responsibility for the maintenance will fall to the Parish or Town Council.

Schemes should be self-contained and not require other schemes or works to make them effective.

Schemes that support the Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives will have a higher priority for funding. The LTP can be found on our website (click on [this link](#)).

With the County Council's agreement Parishes can employ private contractors to deliver schemes. However, any works on the highway would be subject to an agreed programme, inspection on completion, and the contractor having £10m public liability insurance.

Schemes which will not be considered

- Bids for minor traffic management changes which require a Traffic Regulation Order for example;-
 - Speed Limits
 - Waiting restrictions
 - Weight restrictions
- Bids for installation of low-energy LED lighting in streetlights to help cut energy bills and maintenance.
- Mirrors in the highway
- Protection of private land from travellers
- Quiet Lane zones

Information you must include in your bid

- The objective of the scheme
- Details of the scheme, its cost and your contribution.
- A plan/map of the extents of the scheme
- Who, and how many people will benefit.
- Local support, particularly from your local Member, frontagers and landowners.
- For 'off highway' schemes, your proposals for future maintenance.

Please find a simple bid application form attached to this letter. When assessing your bid, we will consider the points above, but also:

- The potential for casualty reduction.
- Any ongoing maintenance costs for the County Council.

Your bids should be emailed to ppsschemes@norfolk.gov.uk (or posted for the attention of the County Programme Engineer, Linda McDermott, at the above address). If you need further information on the bid process please contact Linda, by email or by phoning 01603 228905. For advice on the scheme practicalities and/or likely costs, please contact your local Highway Engineer.

Yours sincerely



Graham Plant
Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport

Parish Partnership bid application form 2024/25

Fund applied for:	Parish Partnership Fund		
Applicant details:			
Submitted by/contact:			
Phone Number:			
Email:			
Sum applied for:			
Total project cost:			
Project title:			
Project detail: (please include a plan/map of the extents of the scheme):			
plan/map attached:	Yes / No		
Any other funding:			
Parish Income:	Precept	Other Income	Total Yearly Income
Reason for works:			
Any relevant supporting documents (e.g. supportive correspondence) :			
Discussed with:			



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