

6 December 2021

Neighbourhood Development Plan
Proposal for Grant Application to Support NDP development
(for consideration at WPC meeting of 13 December 2021)

The 2011 Localism Act introduced the concept of NDPs. Since then, it has had rolling grant financing programs to help support Parish Councils and Neighbourhood groups undertaking the work of developing NDPs. These grants, currently up to circa £10,000, can be used for very specific purposes and are time bound. For the most part, the grants can be used for the hiring of consultant experts to help the NDP writers with specific issues. In the case of Walberswick, the Steering Group intends to seek out assistance with a Landscape Assessment, a Built Environment Assessment, a Housing Needs assessment, and support for consultation on Safe Space proposals. Part of the grant can also be used for undertaking surveys and day-to-day expenses such as printing but cannot be used to pay staff.

The current funding round ends on 31 March 2022 so the Steering Group is planning to submit the grant request before end December 2021. It is the Steering Group's understanding that the grant program will be rolled over into the new fiscal year beginning 1 April 2022 which will allow adequate time to use the funding in full. However, if not, it may be necessary to return unused funds and reapply in the new fiscal year.

Upon approval of the grant request, the Steering Group will inform the Council. If approved, grant monies will be managed by the RFO through the WPC bank account with funds kept ring-fenced for eligible NDP expenditures.

The NDP Steering Group is seeking approval from the WPC to (i) apply for the grant and (ii) to delegate the Steering Group to finalise the grant request and for Cllr Bassinette and the WPC Clerk to submit the grant request on behalf of the WPC.