

REPORT FROM: Housing, Health and Economic Development Manager

TO: West Craven Committee

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West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2016/17

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of the West Craven Committee on the achievements of the Premises Improvement Grant scheme in the 2016/17 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the Premises Improvement Grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £8,000. (Separate capital programme bid).
 - £5,000 for Barnoldswick.
 - £3,000 for Earby.
- (3) It is requested that the West Craven Committee nominates four Members to a Premises Improvement Grant Panel

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grant scheme in the 2016/17 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to continue.
- (3) To allow Members to have a greater involvement in the allocation of Premises Improvement Grants.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement Grant scheme: Background

1. All business premises within the defined town centre boundary are eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £1,500, for improvements to their premises. Premises Improvement

Grants are promoted, targeted and administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicants throughout the application process.

2. The Premises Improvement Grant scheme allows businesses to make physical and aesthetic improvements to their businesses, creating a more attractive town centre street scene, and adding vibrancy to the town centre.
3. As well as encouraging additional investment into the area the grants scheme assists new businesses either setting up or moving into the area and helps to bring previously vacant units back into use, and in turn creating a more vibrant town centre.

Barnoldswick - Premises Improvement Grants 2016/17

4. The total budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2016/17 financial was £7,826. This included a new allocation of £3,500 and unallocated funding from previous years of £4,326.
5. In total two businesses have been allocated Premises Improvement Grants with total spend of £946.89. This leaves an unallocated budget of £6,879. Although take up of the Premises Improvement Grant programme in Barnoldswick has received limited applications, a further 17 businesses have expressed an interest in applying for grant funding. It is hoped that a number of these expressions of interest will result in applications in the coming financial year.
6. Pendleside Hospice, 31-31 Church Street. The business received a grant of £774.89 to replace the signage and repaint the existing shop front. The signage was replaced to fit the new branding for the charity.
7. Full Worx, 14 Rainhall Road. A small grant of £172 was received to add vinyl signage to the windows of the property.

Earby – Premises Improvement Grants 2016/17

8. The total budget allocation in Earby for the 2016/17 financial was £4,527.
9. In total 3 businesses have received funding with a total budget allocation of £2,842.44. This spend leaves an unallocated budget of £1,685.
10. One vacant property has been brought back into use, with one new business locating into Earby town centre. The grants funded have also assisted in creating 60sqm of new business floor space, and created 2 new jobs in the town centre.
11. Ryan Waine Plumbing and Heating, 1 Colne Road. This business has taken on a formerly vacant property in the town centre and expanded their existing business to create a new showroom. A grant of £1,500 was received to install illuminated signage to the exterior of the building.
12. West Craven Insurance, 51 Victoria Road. The business was allocated a grant of £868.05 to repaint the existing shop front and replace the old signage to the business premises.
13. Pendleside Hospice, 38 Victoria Road. The charity has received grant funding of £474.39 to replace the signage to the business premises to fit with the new branding for the charity.

Premises Improvement Grant programme 2017/18

14. It is requested that the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £8,000. (Separate capital programme bid). £5,000 for Barnoldswick. £3,000 for Earby to allow the continuation of the Premises Improvement Grant programme. Any new allocated budget will accommodate the current high level of expressions of interest from businesses in both Barnoldswick and Earby.
15. The West Craven Committee is requested to nominate four Members (two Barnoldswick and two Earby) to sit on the Premises Improvement Grant panel. The Premises Improvement Grants Panel provide comment and make approval decisions prior to a Premises Improvement Grant being formally offered to a business. It is requested that the Committee nominate two Members from Barnoldswick and Earby to be on the panel for the 2017/18 financial year.
16. The West Craven Area Committee has previously nominated members to sit on a Premises Improvement Grant Panels for both Barnoldswick and Earby:
 - Barnoldswick – Councillor D.Whipp and Councillor M.Adams
 - Earby - Councillor M. Horsfield and Councillor M. Goulthorp

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: None arising directly from the report.

Legal: None arising directly from this report

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report

Sustainability: Successful delivery of this scheme will enhance the image and appearance of Barnoldswick and Earby town centre and in turn encourage the use of local town centres.

Community Safety: None directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: Grants are accessible to all businesses within the town centres.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS