

**REPORT FROM:** Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager

**TO:** West Craven Committee

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## **West Craven Town Centre Re-openings**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To report to the committee on the RHSSF (Re-opening the High Streets Safely Fund) grant funding for Re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby Town Centres.
2. To report to the Committee on the Welcome Back Fund (WBF)

### **Recommendations**

1. To update the committee on the spending for re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby high streets
2. To suggest spending for the Welcome Back Fund

### **Reasons for recommendations**

1. In order that the Committee remains apprised of developments concerning the spending on the Re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby Town Centres
2. In order that the Committee decides on further spending on its allocation from the Welcome Back Fund

### **Update on spending**

#### **1. ERDF Grant Funding for West Craven**

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to West Craven: £11,320

Non ERDF Grant (Council funding) allocated to West Craven: £6,480

Spending approved so far by West Craven Committee is as follows:

| Place & Allocation   | Item  | Actual Spend Exc VAT | Planned Spend (EX VAT) | Total             | Remainder       |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>West Craven</b>   | Barlick - 14 x Hand Sanitisers/ Earby x 4 Sanitisers & liquid | £6,894.50            | £0                     |                   |                 |
|                      | Mesh banners x 20   | £1,202.20            | £0                     |                   |                 |
| <b>ERDF 4705</b>     | Facemasks   | £1,289.95            | £0                     |                   |                 |
|                      | Additional facemasks needed                                   |                      | £1,210                 |                   |                 |
|                      | Final Footfall Count for barnoldswick & Earby in 2022         |                      | £380                   |                   |                 |
| <b>£11,320</b>       | <b>Total</b>  | <b>£9,386.65</b>     | <b>£1,590</b>          | <b>£10,976.65</b> | <b>£343.35</b>  |
| <b>NON ERDF 4706</b> |   |                      |                        |                   |                 |
|                      | 3 x non branded sanitiser stations                            | £672.00              | 0.00                   |                   |                 |
|                      | Tables & Chairs bought by BTC                                 | £2,556.66            | 0.00                   |                   |                 |
| <b>£6,480.00</b>     | <b>Total</b>  | <b>£3,228.66</b>     | <b>0.00</b>            | <b>3,228.66</b>   | <b>3,251.34</b> |

At the time of this report the following progress on these projects is as follows:

- Hand sanitiser stations have been supplied to 18 businesses in Barnoldswick and Earby town centres
- An extra three non-branded sanitisers was supplied to the Square in Barnoldswick
- Twenty mesh banners have been placed around the works on the Square in Barnoldswick
- 8,000 facemasks were given to all businesses in Earby and Barnoldswick. These have now run out and another order has been placed for a further 8,000
- Tables and chairs were supplied to the Square in Barnoldswick from the non-grant Area Committee monies

As can be seen from the table above the remaining monies are as follows:

**RHSSF - £343**

### **Non-grant Area Committee funding**

After the Committee confirms that it wishes the budget for this be carried over, the remaining monies are £3,251.

## **2. Welcome Back Fund**

The Welcome Back Fund is a continuation of RHSSF. Pendle Council as a whole has been allocated a further £81,195 for 2021/22 to ensure the safe re-opening of its town centres. This is still ERDF/Government grant spending but the terms by which the money can be spent has been widened and these can be seen in APPENDIX 1 (Guidelines for spending under WBF). As can be seen from these guidelines the existing four strands from RHSSF have been added to by two new strands, which are as follows:

1. Place-based marketing and providing for safer/nicer green spaces/public realm improvements, such as better seating/beautification projects
2. Trial new ideas in relation to planning for the future – pilot projects and strategies which mitigate against the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

The following is “Out of Scope” for the grant:

1. Projects which provide no additionality
2. Capital spend (apart from seating)
3. Projects that directly benefit individual businesses

The money must be spent and evidenced by the end of March 2022.

### **The allocation for West Craven is £15,427**

Based on an exact proportioning of wards from population data this can be split as follows:

Barnoldswick Ward £8,120

Earby & Coates Ward £7,307

### **3. Current Position**

Remaining grant funding from RHSSF for West Craven is £343 which could be divided equally between Barnoldswick and Earby.

Any unspent monies from RHSSF can be carried over into WBF as long as they are spent and evidenced by the end of March 2022.

In addition the new WBF Allocation for West Craven is £15,427. Split down by wards, this is Barnoldswick £8,120 and Earby & Coates £7,307.

### **Non-grant funds**

**There is a further £3,251.34 for West Craven to spend of Area Committee monies if carried over. This is not tied to grant regulations.**

- a. **Recommendation** It is recommended that an online meeting of all West Craven members is set up discuss how each town wishes to spend its funding with a designated officer from the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Department and then approves that spend at Committee at their earliest convenience.
- b. **Reason for recommendation** Stringent procurement procedures are in force with this funding and therefore once ALL area committees have decided on their spend then an overall procurement plan will be put in place for the whole of Pendle. This will also ensure a proper Co-ordinated Spending Plan for Pendle is put in place – this is also a requirement of the grant funding

### **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from this report

**Financial:** As detailed in this 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:** None arising directly from this report

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from this report

APPENDIX 1 – Guidelines for spending for the Welcome Back Fund (WBF)