

**Grounds and Environmental Services Committee**

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**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**Title:** Leighton-Linslade Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group Funding Request

**Purpose of the Report:** To consider a request of direct funding to deliver on the aims of the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group

**Contact Officer:** Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

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<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>		
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	√	£20,000 to be funded by 9024/950 with available funds of £149,458
<b>Human Resources</b>		None
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>		None
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>		None
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>		None

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 To note the report.**
- 1.2 To consider and endorse that £20,000 be made available to directly fund projects to deliver on the aims of the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group recognises the need to help support the development of an improved Green Infrastructure provision in Leighton-Linslade to meet the needs of existing and new residents and help create sustainable communities (See Supporting Information 1 – For the Groups TOR).
- 2.2** The Leighton-Linslade Parish Green Infrastructure Plan (2015) (See Supporting Information 2 for a copy), identifies a number of key projects for protecting, enhancing, linking and interpreting Green Infrastructure (GI).

- 2.3 The Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group has requested funding that the group needs in order to continue addressing its GI priority projects.

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 A strong and healthy GI network correlates directly with the Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel, which has been embedded in the recently approved Town Council objectives. The Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel is seen as GI and the recent request from the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group, can be funded by using Earmarked Reserves held by the Grounds and Environmental Services committee.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Whilst some of the priority projects are not directly associated or even deliverable by the Town Council, it is considered that partnership working with the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group will benefit residents and visitors alike.

### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Should Members be minded to support this project, the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group, will feed back regular information on the projects and how the money has been used.
- 5.2 The Chair of Leighton-Linslade Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group and Town Council Officers will ensure that clear processes will be in place to ensure that intended funds will be used on the chosen projects linked to the priority schemes.