

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	13 November 2023
Agenda Item	12

Private session

Safer Streets

The Safer Streets Fund (first round in 20/21) enables PCCs and local authorities to bid for investment in initiatives, such as street lighting and home security, that have been proven to prevent neighbourhood crime.

The fund aims to:

- reduce neighbourhood crime in areas that receive funding, making residents safer and reducing demand on the police
- build evidence to strengthen the case for future investment in targeted crime prevention
- grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving approaches to crime prevention

Witham applied and was successful in 22/23

In July 2023 Halstead Town Council was approached by BDC at very short notice to participate in a bid to apply with the Police and Crime Commissioner for funds from the Home Office, in round 5 of this project. It is aimed at improving a small section of the town where crime and antisocial behaviour have been noted. In Halstead's case this is largely the area of the High Street, surrounding car parks and the public gardens.

BDC have confirmed that the funding has been secured for Halstead, but is awaiting ministerial sign-off. This project is for 18 months only and will finish in March 2025. The Town Clerk has a meeting at BDC on 13 November to discuss the project.

This project will be managed from BDC overall, in collaboration with the Police, the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA), Open Road who run the SOS bus, and Neighbourhood watch. There are specific tasks for HTC, which include the installation of CCTV in Chapel Street and Rosemary Lane car parks, and the employment of 2 streetwardens. Costings have already been carried out for these.

Streetwardens

The Streetwarden jobs have already been advertised with a closing date of 24 November. It would be good to hold interviews in the week beginning 27 November – the hall is free and provisionally booked for 14.00 on Wednesday 29 November. They will have the powers to issue fixed penalty tickets for antisocial behaviour, littering and flytipping, and this process will be managed from BDC. Each will be employed for 15 hours per week for the next 18 months, but decisions need to be made about :

- when those hours should be worked
- whether the 2 wardens should work together or separately
- where they should walk in particular – although from Ramsey school down to the Public gardens would appear to be a good route
- how they will be managed/what reporting back mechanism should be used/
how they should record their activity
- whether they need bodycams to record incidents
- the style of uniforms they should wear

CCTV

Quotes were accepted as part of the bid for CCTV in Rosemary Lane and Chapel Street car parks. The CCTV company has been contacted, and a meeting will be arranged with all contractors involved.

Barrier at Rosemary Lane

The Safer Streets bid application included £2k for the installation of the barrier at Rosemary Lane, which has already been completed. As this is already done, it may be that we cannot accept the funding.

Once we are able to publicise this, we will need a full press release to go in the Gazette and on social media.

Recommendation: that HTC notes the report



Sarah Greateorex
Town Clerk