

Review of Earmarked Reserve funds and associated projects 2023/24

The Parish Council already has a number of identified projects from plans made in 2018 and further reviewed in October 2022:

- Provision of Christmas lights in Great Denham – an annual charge for installation, removal and storage paid to Bedford Borough Council.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing on Anglia Way – costed at £40,000
- Landlord responsibilities for Great Denham Community Hall – to cover annual servicing of gas boilers/central heating and required maintenance costs. A fund of £10,000 has been agreed as contingency.
- Great Denham Youth Club – a 3-year contract is in place with Bedford Borough Council, with annual charge of £6250.
- Entrance feature to Great Denham for King Alfred Way – provision of a gateway feature.
- Measures to address traffic/parking etc, including double yellow lines, parking restrictions and implementation of 20mph zone across Great Denham. In addition to the pedestrian crossing on Anglia Way.
- Election costs – provision must be made should the Local Council elections in May 2023 result in a contested election for the Parish Council.
- Defibrillator maintenance including consumables – replacement batteries and pads for the 3 defibrillators in Great Denham.
- CCTV costs, including camera changes/new cameras and cost of monitoring centre services provided by Bedford Borough Council.

New projects have been identified through discussion at Parish Council meetings and Neighbourhood Plan work; funds to meet the costs of these projects should be considered for earmarked funds:

- Provision of a pedestrian crossing on Greenkeepers Road – initial feasibility study of £4,000, with total cost estimated as £40,000.
- Provision of a “memorial” feature to mark the history of Great Denham, in association with Great Denham Primary School Years 3 and 4 projects – initial conversations with Bedford Borough Council are progressing and an estimated cost of £4,000 and £6,000 received for a statue (this does not include cost of installation).
- Upgrade to paths in Country Park, in partnership with Bedford Borough Council – a contribution to costs for this work, with initial estimate of £95,000 received.
- Provision of 2 additional benches in Country Park, with permission of Bedford Borough Council – an estimate of £2100 is required (based on cost for benches purchased in 2021).

Current earmarked reserves include funds previously allocated to projects but no longer required: these are available for reallocation.

Recommendation: Council is invited to review and approve proposed level of earmarked reserves for 2023/24 and projects identified.

Summary and recommended earmarked reserves

Project	2022/23 remaining funds	2023/24 budget provision	Total earmarked funds	Recommended funding level for 2023/24	Comments
Existing projects					
Christmas Lights	4758.10	2500	8579.74	3000	Charge from Bedford Borough Council for installation, removal and storage, plus any required repairs.
Pedestrian Crossing – Anglia Way	0	0	0	40,000	To be paid from CIL money
Great Denham Community Hall – Landlord responsibilities	7271.97	3600	10871.97	10871.97	Annual Boiler and Heating service and maintenance, plus contingency for repair
Great Denham Youth Club	6750	6250	13000	13000	Commitment to 3-year contract
Entrance feature, King Alfred Way	4450	0	4450	4450	To be paid from CIL money
Traffic/Parking measures	30025	0	30025	30025	Double yellow TROs, 20mph zoning costs
Election costs	1960.29	0	1960.29	1960.29	Where election is contested
CCTV costs	4768	4472.50	9240.50	9000.00	Costs for CCTV monitoring service, plus annual maintenance and any repair/replacement
Defibrillator maintenance	1062	200	1262	1500	Batteries and pads for 3 defibrillators
New Projects					
Pedestrian Crossing – Greenkeepers Road	0	0	0	40,000	Feasibility study £4,000; total cost based on estimate for Anglia Way Crossing
Great Denham History Memorial	0	0	0	8,000	Years 3 and 4 project to mark GD archaeology.
Upgrade to paths in Country Park	0	0	0	30,000	Contribution to costs in association with BBC
Provision of 2 additional benches in Country Park	0	0	0	2100	With permission of BBC, includes purchase of benches and installation.
CIL funds available				58330.33	
Balance required to be earmarked as reserves				135,576.93	
Total funding required				193,907.26	