

## Agenda Item 24.130

Report to	<b>Findon Parish Council</b>
Meeting Date	<b>2 December 2024</b>
From	<b>Fiona MacLeod, Clerk</b>
Title of Report	<b>Clerk report</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>For information/consideration</b>

### **1. For information/action**

#### **1.1 Public Consultation Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting (lasts 8 weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024)**

All local councillors are currently required by law to attend Parish and Town Council meetings in person. As you are probably already aware from various briefing documents and press releases, the Government is now consulting on introducing powers for Parish and Town Councils to apply to the relevant authority for a dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances. FPC can either agree to submit an agreed response on behalf of the Council to this consultation or all Councillors can also submit a response individually. Full details on the consultation can be found here:

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](#)

1.2 An email has recently been received from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Recycling and Waste Management Team who, in partnership with BIFFA, are launching the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund. Applications open on 13 January 2025 and full details can be found at [Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund - West Sussex County Council](#) and in the briefing note at the end of the report. Details of the new Fund will also be available on the FPC and Community websites in due course, however please feel free to share this information with relevant organisations.

### **2. Issues for consideration/ratification by full Council**

2.1 Do councillors wish to respond individually to the consultation outlined in para 1.1 to the report?

## **West Sussex County Council Community Grant Fund Opening in January 2025**

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) in partnership with Biffa is pleased to announce the launch of a new Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund, opening 13 January 2025.

The primary objective of the grant fund is to empower community-led initiatives focused on reducing waste and promoting waste prevention across West Sussex. This aligns with WSSCC's ongoing commitment to supporting sustainability, tackling waste, and encouraging community action in regard to waste prevention.

Community-based projects that tackle categories of waste such as food, furniture, plastics, textiles and electricals will be considered. The fund aims to support activities that help local people conserve resources, prevent household waste and reduce dependency on single use products and packaging.

The fund will be open to applications from local community groups, schools, charities, non-profit organisations, community interest companies (CICs) and social enterprises proposing innovative and impactful waste prevention projects.

Applications to the fund should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Reducing waste at its source: Encouraging practices that minimise the production of waste.
- Reusing and repairing: Supporting projects that facilitate the reuse or repair of items to extend their lifespan.
- Recycling education: Raising awareness and knowledge around recycling best practices.
- Food waste reduction: Initiatives to prevent food waste, in alignment with existing surplus food rescue services and education campaigns.
- Community engagement: Empowering residents to take part in waste prevention activities and promoting a culture of sustainability.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be available for eligible projects delivered across West Sussex in 2025-26. Funding can be used for materials, equipment, or operational costs necessary to deliver waste prevention outcomes.

Projects must:

- support local community activity to improve waste prevention behaviours through reuse and/or waste prevention projects reducing household waste
- make a difference to the wider community and to people's lives in West Sussex

The grant fund will open for applications 13 January 2025, for six weeks. Details on eligibility criteria, the application process, and resources that might be helpful to your application can be found on WSSCC website.

A communications campaign will be launched at the end of November 2024, to promote the grant fund, using WSSCC's digital platforms, local community networks, and partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Support and guidance will also be offered to applicants through online resources, and a webinar in January 2025.

For more information on the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund, please visit the WSCC website.

Further information and FAQs:

A full list of FAQs can be found on the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund webpage.

Email address for eligible applicants who have further questions:  
[wasteprevention.fund@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention.fund@westsussex.gov.uk)

Key dates:

Communications start: Tuesday 26 November 2024

Applications open: 10:00am Monday 13 January 2025

Webinar: 6:00pm Tuesday 21 January 2025

Applications close: 11:59pm Sunday 2 March 2025