Purpose

To seek Council’s approval to proceed with formal quotes and planning consents for an electrical connection on the village green, based on the outlined plan and budget below.

Background

Currently, the Codfather, a “fish and chippy” which visits Leafield once a week, uses a petrol generator due to the absence of an electrical connection, which is noisy and polluting. They would be very keen on an electrical connection. In some other villages they have access to power, for example they pay a nominal amount for electricity when they visit Charlbury, using a connection from the village hall.

Technical considerations and costs

A 3kW single phase generator is currently used by the Codfather, so a similar rated connection should be sufficient (they pay about £15 a week for the petrol). I envisage installing a “campsite type” connection mounted close to the existing pole (see attached site plan). A small amount of trenching would be required. The capital costs are estimated as follows:

Network connection: budget estimate from SSE networks £365-440 excluding VAT

Smart meter installation: should be free from electricity company

Tamper proof housing for meter (with combination lock for access) and plug installation - £500-1,000, still to be quoted.

Operating costs from a typical utility would be a standing charge of 21p/day, and energy at about 20p/kWh. So if the Codfather used 3kW for four hours a week we would need to charge £3.90 a week to cover the operating costs – or perhaps £5 a week if we decide to include a small capital recovery component.

Pros and cons/factors to consider

I think such a connection would be an amenity to the village, not only because of the elimination of noise and pollution but also because other food suppliers could be attracted to attend. We would need planning permission which may take time but is unlikely to be opposed. We’d have to administer the account, and we’d be taking some payment/non-attendance risk. We’d have to insist that the Codfather used a suitably robust connection cord and took measures to reduce trip risk.

Action requested

Council are requested to advise:

1. If there are any other issues to consider?
2. Whether Council approves in principle on the basis that the overall costs will not exceed those outlined above (to be drawn from reserves); in which case I’d proceed to get detailed quotes, continue to seek a grant to offset some of the costs, and initiate planning consent.

Attachment: see outline design from SSE-Networks, who manage the low voltage network