

Date of Meeting	13th February 2008			
Title of Report	Area 2 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2007/2008			
Link to Corporate Priorities	To put customers at the heart of everything we do – Support Community Area Partnerships and Community Plans			
Public Report	YES			
Summary of Report				
To ask Members to consider 8 applications with recommendations for funding from the 2007/8 Community Area Award Scheme.				
Officer Recommendations				
To agree funding distribution of the Area 2 Community Area Awards budget, based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marston Meysey Village Hall Association – Award £1,545 from the capital budget towards the renewal of a window and a new storage cupboard for the Village Hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 2. Ashton Keynes Village Hall – Award £1,947 from the capital budget towards equipment for the provision of a rural cinema for Ashton Keynes, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 3. Wilts and Berks Canal Trust – Award £2,640 from the capital budget towards the restoration of the chamber of Lock 4 on the Wilts and Berks Canal at Lyneham, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 4. St Bartholomew’s, Wootton Bassett – Award £870 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of new lawnmowers for the churchyard and vicarage garden, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 5. Purton Cricket Club – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards cricket coaching courses and equipment. 6. Ashton Keynes Parish Council/Greener Village Working Group – Award £810 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of a thermal imaging camera to promote and encourage energy efficiency in the village, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 7. Cricklade Bloomers – Award £1,203 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of tools, equipment and trees for improving the appearance of land and gardens in the town, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 8. Lyneham Village Hall – Award £640 from the revenue budget towards replacement stage curtains, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 9. Members request that the Executive agrees to permit the carry forward of the Area 2 2007/8 capital underspend to 2008/9. 				
Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.				
Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report considers 8 applications for 2007/2008 Community Area Award funding and, where appropriate, links them to issues and priorities identified in the Northern Community Area Plan.
- 1.2 Following the funding awards granted at the second funding round on 17th October 2007, the Area 2 Committee has a capital balance of **£6,942** and a revenue balance of **£7,128**. This is the third and final funding round of 2007/8.
- 1.3 **Appendix 1** provides details of the distribution of awards so far in 2007/8 to assist Members when distributing grants across the whole community area.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Marston Meysey Village Hall Appendix 2	Renewal of a window and a new storage cupboard for the Village Hall	Capital	£1,545

- 2.1 **Option 1- Marston Meysey Village Hall Association — Award £1,545 from the capital budget towards the renewal of a window and a new storage cupboard for the Village Hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.2 The application meets the 2007/2008 funding criteria and demonstrates direct links to the Community Area Plan. References are found at pages 22 and 23 about the lack of recreational facilities throughout the community area.
- 2.1.3 The Village Hall dates back to 1875 and is an important facility for the local community. It is used by a number of local groups including Neighbourhood Watch, Parish meetings, used as the local polling station as well as for private hire for children's parties, etc.
- 2.1.4 As the hall is a listed building, the aim of the project will be to replace the original window which is rotten with one specifically designed to duplicate it using modern energy saving glazing. Also included is a new built-in cupboard to replace an existing one which does not currently offer sufficient storage space.
- 2.1.5 Alongside income from letting charges, a number of fundraising events are held throughout the year towards the upkeep of the hall and the Parish Meeting contributes to the hall each year through its precept.
- 2.1.6 Members are reminded that the Area 2 Committee contributed £15,000 towards the purchase of the hall in 2003.
- 2.1.7 A decision not to fund this project may mean that the window deteriorates further while more fundraising takes place and that current users look elsewhere for a venue with better storage facilities.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Ashton Keynes Village Hall Appendix 3	Equipment for the provision of a rural cinema for Ashton Keynes	Capital	£1,947

2.1.8 Option 2 - Ashton Keynes Village Hall – Award £1,947 from the capital budget towards equipment for the provision of a rural cinema for Ashton Keynes, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

2.2.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Community Area Plan. References can be found at pages 22/23 about the lack of recreational, arts and cultural activities in the area. The project also links directly to the Parish Plan for Ashton Keynes where at page 20 consultation shows that a rural cinema would be of great benefit to the village.

2.2.2 This project is to provide a rural cinema at the Village Hall, which is the main venue for community activities. The cinema at Cirencester has closed and the nearest alternatives are in Swindon which involves a 20 mile round trip. This is not possible for many people without transport in this rurally isolated area. The project has been properly planned out with a Business Plan showing targets and costings for film showings for the first year. Research has been undertaken which looked at a similar scheme in Norfolk. The applicant looked at the possibility of working with Moviola (an organisation running rural cinema schemes in the south of Wiltshire) but the village is too far north of the county to be included. It was decided that the most cost efficient way forward was to own the appropriate equipment and pay for the hire and distribution of films.

2.2.3 Volunteers will run the rural cinema and there will be a charge for tickets with concessions for certain age groups, families, senior citizens, etc to cover the supply of films. The equipment can also be used for other functions, shared with other venues in the village and, possibly, with other villages in the area.

2.2.4 Under the Licensing Act 2003, a variation was made changing the Village Hall Public Entertainment Licence to the Premises Licence, which added film showings as a licensable activity. The Village Hall has the appropriate licence.

2.2.4 Members are reminded that the Area 2 Committee awarded the Village Hall £1,391 in 2005 for the installation of a loop system. A decision not to fund this project would result in a delay to plans to start showing films to audiences in March while funds are sourced.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Wilts and Berks Canal Trust Appendix 4	Restoration of chamber of Lock 4 on the Wilts and Berks Canal at Lyneham	Capital	£2,640

2.3 Wilts and Berks Canal Trust – Award £2,640 from the capital budget towards the restoration of the chamber of Lock 4 on the Wilts and Berks Canal at Lyneham, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

2.3.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan. There is a specific reference at page 23 to the continuing development of the canal running through the area.

- 2.3.2 In the short term, the project is to transform the existing lock from what has been a hazard to walkers using the towpath, into a good sound structure. The lock will form part of the restored Wilts & Berks Canal which connects into the national waterway network. The project offers benefits to local communities in Lyneham and Tockenham and will, in the long term when all planned canal restoration work is complete, provide a green corridor for people to enjoy.
- 2.3.3 There is much community support for this project with local volunteers working on a weekly basis on construction and planning. Work has already been undertaken to maintain the towpath and keep access open.
- 2.3.4 Members are reminded that NWDC awarded capital funding of £27,000 to the WBCT as part of the Partnership Restoration Strategy in 2004/5 and in 2005/6 for work on various lock projects throughout the district. No grants have been made by NWDC to these projects since then.
- 2.3.5 Funding for more than 90% of the overall cost of the project has already been confirmed and a decision not to fund this would hold up work while the applicant identifies other funding sources. It would also go against the District Council's commitment to supporting the work of the Trust.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
St Bartholomew's, Wootton Bassett Appendix 5	Purchase of new lawnmowers for the churchyard and vicarage garden	Revenue	£870

2.4 St Bartholomew's, Wootton Bassett – Award £870 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of new lawnmowers for the churchyard and vicarage garden, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.4.1 This application largely meets the 2007/8 funding criteria. Currently these require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget be allocated to applications that demonstrate links to the Northern Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% will be available for those schemes that fall outside Plan but, remain important for local people and are able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need. It is clear that the churchyard and vicarage garden are of enormous benefit to local people in Wootton Bassett.
- 2.4.2 This project is to replace the existing lawnmower used by volunteers to mow the grass in the churchyard and vicarage garden. It is old and in disrepair and will be replaced by two new, more powerful lawnmowers.
- 2.4.3 The vicarage garden is a real community asset which has been used for a number of events including the Scouts 100th anniversary celebrations last year, a fundraising event for Macmillan nurses as well as open air concerts. In 2008 events being held will include a local school's summer fete and Bassett Brass has also been offered use of the venue for a concert. In addition, the applicant is happy, subject to insurance, to loan the equipment to other local community groups.
- 2.4.4 The Town Council already supports St Bartholomew's through grants towards the upkeep of the garden. A decision by the Area 2 Committee not to award funding to this project would mean that there would be a delay in buying the new machinery while further funds are identified.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Purton Cricket Club Appendix 6	Cricket coaching courses and equipment	Revenue	£500

2.5 Purton Cricket Club – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards cricket coaching courses and equipment.

- 2.5.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan where it refers to the lack of recreational facilities for young people throughout the area.
- 2.5.2 The project will provide training to enable 3 new qualified coaches with their own equipment to work with young people playing in the junior section of the club and aged between 7 – 15 years.
- 2.5.3 Purton Cricket Club is well known in throughout the area. It is involved with many of the District Council's Sports Development activities and works with the local school and the County Cricket Board. It has achieved the highest award from the County Sports Partnership for club accreditation recognising that it has the appropriate child protection, welfare, health and safety and administrative procedures in place.
- 2.5.4 A decision not to award funding would result in money having to be sought elsewhere. With growing numbers of young people wanting to play cricket at the club, this may leave Purton CC unable to cope with the required coach-player ratio making it difficult to deliver this activity for its junior section.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Ashton Keynes Parish Council/Greener Village Working Group Appendix 7	Purchase of thermal imaging camera to promote energy efficiency in the village	Revenue	£810

2.6 Ashton Keynes Parish Council/Greener Village Working Group – Award £810 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of a thermal imaging camera to promote and encourage energy efficiency in the village, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.6.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria. Although, these require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget be allocated to applications that demonstrate links to the Plan, the remaining 25% will be available for those projects that fall outside of this but remain important for local people. An environmental scheme such as this clearly demonstrates a community-identified need.
- 2.6.2 The Parish Council and its Greener Village Working Group aims to promote energy efficiency and conservation as well as recycling. The thermal imaging camera will be used to take images of houses in the village (at a charge of £10 per house) to show heat loss encouraging householders to consider better energy efficiency measures and benefit from lower energy bills. The scheme will be accompanied by promotional literature.
- 2.6.3 The Greener Village Working Group has been established for 18 months. In Spring 2007 it held a Greener Village Fair supported by a number of organisations including the District Council which was attended by approximately 700 people. Visitors were

invited to complete a questionnaire about environmental issues and this consultation showed that energy efficiency was a high priority for many people in the village. The Parish Council may also be able to assist surrounding villages by offering them the service.

- 2.6.4 A decision not to award this money may conflict with the District Council's decision to sign the "Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change." This is a clear indication of the policy direction it wishes to take to encourage local communities to take the opportunity to adapt to the impact of Climate Change and improve the local environment which includes looking at ways to reduce energy costs.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Cricklade Bloomers Appendix 8	The purchase of tools, equipment and trees	Revenue	£1,203

2.7.1 Cricklade Bloomers – Award £1,203 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of tools, equipment and trees for improving the appearance of land and gardens in the town.

- 2.7.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan where, at page 24, there is a specific reference to increasing the opportunities for tourism in Cricklade.
- 2.7.2 This project will be to buy tools and equipment to enable the group to continue its work enhancing the overall appearance of the town through various neighbourhood projects including the renovation of gardens and flower beds. Some of this equipment will help to bring the group's trailer to the required safety standard for working on the highway with portable road signs, etc. It also includes the purchase and planting of a number of trees.
- 2.7.3 Cricklade Bloomers is a group of more than 20 volunteers who have been working hard over the last 4 years to create real civic pride in the town. Along with up to 150 local people the group has undertaken a number of individual projects contributing towards the success of Cricklade in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom Competition. Amongst others, these projects have involved St Mary's Church, the Leisure Centre, Housing Association land and a conservation project taken on by the school. Background and photographs can be found on the Cricklade in Bloom website at www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk
- 2.7.4 Last year the enhanced appearance of Cricklade not only led to the town being awarded the status of Best Small Town in the South West but also a Silver-Gilt award in the national finals. This group is an important part of community life in the town has done much to encourage local people to help improve their local green spaces and promote tourism.
- 2.7.5 It is supported by a number of local commercial sponsors and has been granted funding by the Town Council. A decision by the Area 2 Committee not to award this money would delay the purchase of trees, which need to be planted before the end of March.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Lyneham Village Hall Management Committee	Purchase of replacement stage curtains	Revenue	£640

2.7.6 Lyneham Village Hall – Award £640 from the revenue budget towards replacement stage curtains, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.8.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan where, at page 22, there is a reference to the lack of recreational facilities throughout the area.
- 2.8.2 This project is to replace the hall's stage curtains (which are in poor condition and have been in place since 1937) with new lined, flame retardant ones. This will help Management Committee to address safety concerns raised during the hall's annual fire inspection.
- 2.8.3 The hall is an important community facility in Lyneham. It is used regularly by a number of groups including the WI, a martial arts group for young people, housing associations and the Parish Council. It is also hired for private functions.
- 2.8.4 Following heavy rain in July 2007 leading to leaks in the flat roof at the back of the building, a new pitch roof was added which used a large part of the hall's reserves leaving less for planned maintenance which included new curtains. These will undoubtedly help to enhance the hall and its stage (currently not in use) and encourage performances by drama groups.
- 2.8.5 A request has been made to the Parish Council to contribute £1,000 to the project. A decision by the Area 2 Committee not to award funding would delay the purchase of the curtains while alternative funding is identified.
- 2.9** Officers recommend that the Area 2 Committee recommends to Executive that **£809** unspent capital be carried over to the 2008/9 budget.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 In January 2007, funding criteria for 2007/8 were reviewed by a Working Party which included representatives of all five Area Committees. The Executive Committee subsequently approved the revised policy and procedures on 8th February 2007. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.2 Members are reminded that all applications will be considered under the same Community Award criteria. Applicants requesting £500 or less will not require any matched funding and those applying for more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project.
- 3.3 A capital award of less than £1,000 may only be made where it can be shown to generate external funding.
- 3.4 The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget be allocated to applications that demonstrate links to the Northern Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% will be available for those schemes that fall outside the Community Plan but, remain important for local people and are able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.
- 3.5 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that this is the final funding round during 2007/8.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 2 Committee as set out in Section 2 of this report.
- 4.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, there will be a capital balance of **£809** and a revenue balance of **£3,105**.

5. Community and Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The majority of the awards can be directly linked to priorities in the Northern Community Area Plan. Where this is not the case the applicant can provide evidence that either local consultation or pilot projects to identify a community need have been undertaken.
- 5.2 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being in the Community Area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

6. Equality & Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards has been undertaken and copies are available on the Council's website.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 Failure to make awards would have a moderate impact on applicants and their associated community projects. Since this is considered to be unlikely, the overall risk is considered low.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 Area 2: 2007/8 Financial Summary • Appendix 2 Application – Marston Meysey Village Hall • Appendix 3 Application – Ashton Keynes Village Hall • Appendix 4 Application – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust • Appendix 5 Application – St Bartholomews • Appendix 6 Application – Purton Cricket Club • Appendix 7 Application – Ashton Keynes PC/GVWG • Appendix 8 Application – Cricklade Bloomers • Appendix 9 Application – Lyneham Village Hall
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	Community Area Award Funding Criteria 2007/08 Community Area Awards Policy 2007/2008 Corporate Plan Northern Community Area Plan 2005 - 2015

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Area 2 Community Area Awards 2007/8	Area Committee – 17 th October	CR22
Community Area Awards Policy	Executive 8 th February 2007	E175