

REPORT TO THE Corsham Area (4) Committee Report No.7

Date of Meeting	15 th January 2008
Title of Report	Corsham Area (4) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08
Link to Corporate Priorities	Community Area Awards can be linked to all 3 of the Council's priorities: Community, Environment and Customers, and in particular, "Make decisions based on the Community Strategy and five Community Plans" through community based projects.
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To ask Members to consider 10 applications seeking 2007/08 Community Area Award Funding, and to recommend carry forward of unspent capital funding.

Officer Recommendations

To agree funding distribution of Corsham Area (4) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:

- Corsham Cricket Club – Award £8,642 from the capital budget to purchase and install new practice nets and safety nets, conditional upon Planning Permission being granted for the erection of the back netting, and the balance of funding being in place.
- Corsham Knitting & Crochet Group – Award £500 from the revenue budget to purchase wool and patterns to produce teddies and blankets for First Response.
- Corsham Town Council - Award £4,454 from the capital budget towards improvements to the Children's Play Area in Neston, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Corsham Town Council – Award £669 from the revenue budget towards the installation of a bus shelter in Bradford Road, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Mansion House Pre-School Playgroup – Rescind the previous in principle award of £11,274 capital funding made on 16th May 2006. Award £20,258 from the capital budget for conversion of premises for the playgroup, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Age Concern – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards publicity to promote physical activity opportunities for older people.
- Corsham Amateur Swimming Club – Award £900 from the revenue budget towards the project to encourage increased participation from more mature swimmers, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Corsham Bike Club – Award £4,500 from the capital budget for improvements to the BMX facility at Springfield Recreation Ground, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Corsham Town Council – Award £6,653 from the capital budget towards the provision of a mobile CCTV unit, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- Katherine Park Residents Association – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the cost of hiring a venue and publicising the initial public meeting to launch a Residents Association.
- To recommend to Executive that £24,575 unspent capital is carried over to the 2008/09 budget.

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 11 applications for 2007/08 Community Area Award funding; some of which relate to issues and priorities identified in the Corsham Area Community Plan.
- 1.2 Following the funding awards made at the first funding round on 2nd October 2007, Corsham Area (4) had a **£57,808** balance of **capital funding**, and **£5,181** balance of **revenue funding** remaining.
- 1.3 Members are reminded that there is no indication that unallocated capital funding will be carried forward to 2008/09. Any remaining revenue funding will not be carried forward.
- 1.4 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that all revenue funding awarded to groups and organisations must be drawn upon by 31st March 2008.
- 1.5 On 16th May 2006, Members made an in principle award of £11,274 from the 2005/06 capital budget to Mansion House Pre-school Playgroup. The project has recently been reviewed, and costs have been reduced. On the advice of Officers from Wiltshire County Council External Funding Network, the applicant has requested that the previous in principle award is waived, and consideration is given to a new updated application. See 2.5.
- 1.6 Appendix 1 provides details of the distribution of awards across the Corsham Area (4) in 2007/08, to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Corsham Cricket Club See Appendix 2	To purchase and install new practice nets and safety nets.	Capital	£ 8,642

- 2.1.1 **Option 1: Award Corsham Cricket Club £8,642 from the capital budget to purchase and install new practice nets and safety nets, conditional upon Planning Permission being granted for the erection of the back netting, and the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08 and demonstrates a partial link to the Corsham Area Community Plan, Page 21 "Lack of facilities for young people".

- 2.1.3 This project is also consistent other local, regional and national policies e.g. The Community Strategy for North Wiltshire, Page 23 "Increasing leisure opportunities and facilities". Sport England Regional Strategy objective, Page 15 "organisations must demonstrate how their facilities meet the need and drive up participation in sport". The English Cricket Board's (ECB) national strategy which states "every affiliated club should have access to practice facilities" and that there should be "increase in the number of children playing in junior sections by 50,000".
- 2.1.4 Corsham Cricket Club was formed in 1848, and the ground is reputed to be the 6th oldest in the Country. The club has always played on the field that is played on today, and is committed to maintaining and improving the facilities for the benefit of all of the players, members and visitors. There are 11 ECB qualified coaches who coach at the ground, and the club has Clubmark Accreditation.
- 2.1.5 The club currently has over 100 junior members and 58 senior members, running 6 senior teams. In addition to those members who live in the town, there is a significant proportion of the members from the villages surrounding Corsham. The First X1 plays in the West of England Premier Division, and the club enjoys an excellent reputation, including recognition by England & Wales Cricket Board as a Focus Club. Three minor county games are hosted each season.
- 2.1.6 The existing practice net facility is over 10 years old, the surfaces are badly worn, and the nets in need of constant repair. In addition, the club recognises that it has a duty of care to its neighbours, and proposes to erect a high back fence to afford better protection to the windows of the Pound Arts Centre. It is not possible to relocate the practice nets anywhere else on the ground. Planning Permission was applied for on 5th December 2007. The new nets are essential in order for the club to continue to provide a good standard of practice facilities, and to extend its membership.
- 2.1.7 Current activities will be extended to include after school coaching sessions. As the club has forged closer links with local schools, they have been rewarded with the opportunity to run the "Chance to Shine" project in local schools from spring 2008. Corsham Cricket Club has a comprehensive Development Plan, and anticipates a 20% increase in junior members in both 2008 and 2009.
- 2.1.8 The applicant has received letters of support for this project, including Wiltshire Cricket Board and NWDC Sports Development Officer.
- 2.1.9 A decision not to fund this project may deprive local people of enhancements to an extremely popular and well used sports facility. It would be a missed opportunity to support a project, which is clearly identified as important in a number of local, regional and national strategies.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	Corsham Knitting & Crochet Club See Appendix 3	To purchase wool and patterns to produce teddies and blankets for First Response.	Revenue	£500

- 2.2.1 **Option 2: Award £500 from the revenue budget to purchase wool and patterns to produce teddies and blankets for First Response.**
- 2.2.2 This application meets funding criteria for 2007/08. It does not demonstrate a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan, however, the Corsham Area (4) Committee is committed to awarding 75% of it's funding to projects linked to the plan,

which leaves the remaining 25% for projects that do not demonstrate a direct link, but where there is a community benefit.

- 2.2.3 Corsham Knitting & Crochet Club was formed in 2000 with 6 members. Since then the membership has increased to over 70, and they hold regular monthly meetings in Corsham Community Centre. In addition to the members who regularly attend, there are other members who cannot get to the meetings, but who are supplied with materials and have their handiwork collected.
- 2.2.4 The project is to produce blankets and teddies for First Response. First Response is a key NHS Partner providing a broad spectrum of volunteering opportunities within the NHS Ambulance Service. It is not a replacement for the Ambulance Service, but helps start the treatment cycle before an ambulance arrives. First Response is a vital link in providing a high level of emergency care in rural areas. Blankets are regularly needed for patients in accident and emergency situations, and "trauma teddies" are very helpful for children in stressful situations.
- 2.2.5 The Corsham Knitting & Crochet Group has a history of assisting good causes, both local and international. In addition to ongoing support for Aid Ukraine, the group regularly support Corsham Christmas Bazaar, the French Market, Gastard Fete, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Box Revels, Open Days at Lackham College, The Women's Refuge, and Special Care Baby Units.
- 2.2.6 In the course of a year, the group produces hundreds of items for good causes, but alongside this they also pass on new skills to each other. A good example of this is when the premature baby unit asked for bonnets for premature babies with an opening in the top to accommodate monitors on the babies heads. No pattern was available, so group members worked together to design a pattern. The group offers opportunities to anyone wishing to learn knitting and crochet skills, and amongst their number have members with both physical and mental needs. Lessons are also regularly provided at local primary schools, at an annual "sit in " in Corsham Library, and are also offered to residents of the Women's Refuge.
- 2.2.7 Equally as important as the items produced, and the skills passed on, is the enormous benefit to all of the members. The friendship and companionship, particularly for those who live on their own, is very valuable, and for some the monthly meetings have provided an interest which encourages them to overcome reluctance to leave their homes. Members derive a great deal of joy and satisfaction from creating warm garments and other items, and appreciate the opportunity to participate in something that is so worthwhile and appreciated by so many.
- 2.2.8 Running costs are kept to a minimum thanks to support in kind from friends, neighbours and relations who assist with transport to collect yarn (at cost from wholesalers in Bristol), delivery of completed items, art work and publicity. Members make a small donation at each meeting they attend.
- 2.2.9 A decision not to fund this project will prevent the purchase of the wool required to produce the items, and will result in a delay in providing the much needed items for First Response. It would also be a missed opportunity to support a very popular and worthwhile local group of volunteers.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Corsham Town Council See Appendix 4	Improvements to the Children's Play Area in Neston, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.	Capital	£4,454

2.3.1 **Option 3: Award £4,454 from the capital budget towards improvements to the Children's Play Area in Neston, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

2.3.2 This application meets funding criteria for 2007/08. It demonstrates a link to the Corsham Area Community Plan, Page 21 "Lack of facilities for young people, particularly in villages".

2.3.3 In June 2007, the Town Council held a public consultation in Neston Village Hall, and a list of priorities was identified. It was agreed at this public meeting that there is an opportunity to greatly improve the facilities at the recreation ground.

2.3.4 A working group of volunteers has been formed, and they have held meetings to select the most appropriate equipment.

2.3.5 The facility is adjacent to the Village Hall which hosts a regular playgroup, Children attending the playgroup will of course benefit from the improvements, but it is estimated that approximately 400 local children and young people use the site.

2.3.6 In addition to the clear benefit to the residents of Neston, this project will also have a wider community benefit, for all those who hire the Village Hall. An increase in bookings once the improved recreational facilities are in place will assist with the sustainability of this project.

2.3.7 The equipment and fencing will be robust and low maintenance. Corsham Town Council has included the ongoing repair, maintenance and inspection costs in to it's annual revenue budget.

2.3.8 A decision not to fund this project would deprive young people and children of enhancements to an outdoor recreational space. It would also be a missed opportunity to support a project which links with a priority identified in the Community Plan.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.4	Corsham Town Council See Appendix 5	The installation of a bus shelter in Bradford Road Corsham.	Revenue	£669

2.4.1 **Option 4: Award £669 from the revenue budget towards the installation of a bus shelter in Bradford Road Corsham, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

2.4.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08. It does not demonstrate a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan, however, the Corsham Area (4) Committee is committed to awarding 75% of it's funding to projects linked to the plan, which leaves the remaining 25% for projects that do not demonstrate a direct link, but where there is a community benefit.

- 2.4.3 This project demonstrates a partial link to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy "Identifying suitable Community Transport provision."
- 2.4.4 In recent years the Town Council has received several requests to erect a bus shelter in Bradford Road, Corsham.
- 2.4.5 Recent housing developments have resulted in additional properties built in close proximity to the bus stop. It is estimated that in excess of 200 local residents will be served by the stop.
- 2.4.6 The applicant is keen to encourage increased use of public transport, and it is hoped that the provision of a shelter will promote this.
- 2.4.7 Corsham Town Council will meet future maintenance costs from its annual revenue budget.
- 2.4.8 A decision not to fund this project will delay the installation of the shelter, and would be a missed opportunity to support a project identified in the Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.5	Mansion House Pre-School Playgroup See Appendix 6	The conversion of premises for the pre-school playgroup.	Capital	£20,258

- 2.5.1 **Option 5: Rescind the previous in principle award of £11,274 capital funding made on 16th May 2006. Award £20,258 from the capital budget towards the conversion of premises for the Mansion House Pre-school playgroup, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.5.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, and demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan "Provide sufficient child and after school care for working parents."
- 2.5.3 This project also demonstrates links to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy "Maker wider use of school facilities" and "Seeking how to better utilise assets as opportunities for learning".
- 2.5.4 Mansion House Pre-School Playgroup is the only remaining charitable, community run pre-school playgroup in Corsham. It has been serving the community for over 40 years based at The Mansion House in Corsham, but the premises are no longer suitable for the following reasons:
- The future of the building is uncertain as it is up for sale
 - The annual rent has escalated to £8,500 per annum
 - The accommodation does not allow for expansion of childcare provision
- 2.5.5 St Patrick's Primary School has offered the playgroup the vacant caretaker's bungalow in the school grounds. The building has been unused for a few years, but remains structurally sound. A letter of intent has been issued by Wiltshire County Council stating that the building will be available to the applicant at a peppercorn rent of £50 per annum with a long term lease for 20 years.

- 2.5.6 The new premises when refurbished will provide a purpose built facility with the appropriate kitchen and toilet facilities, meet the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements, and will offer a safe and suitable environment for pre-school children.
- 2.5.7 Officers understand that the applicant intends to develop links with complex needs teachers and speech therapists to cater for children with complex needs. Longer and more flexible sessions are also planned, and this will prove vital in coping with the inevitable increase in demand for pre-school child places, as the population of Corsham grows in the next few years.
- 2.5.8 The applicant is working closely with officers from the External Funding Network at Wiltshire County Council to secure funding for this project, and a WCC Officer is also sitting on the Fundraising Committee. On the advice of these officers, the project team has reviewed the original project plan, and decided to reduce costs by removing the staffroom and playground at his time, in order to safeguard the future of this valuable community asset.
- 2.5.9 A decision not to fund this project will prevent the conversion to the building going ahead, leaving the future of the pre-school group extremely uncertain. It would also be a missed opportunity to support a project, which is identified in both the Community Plan and the Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.6	Age Concern Wiltshire See Appendix 7	Publicity to promote physical activity opportunities for older people.	Revenue	£500

- 2.6.1 **Option 6: Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the publicity to promote physical activities for older people.**
- 2.6.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, and demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan " The community wants modern, effective health and social care available as locally as possible."
- 2.6.3 This project also demonstrates links to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy "Increasing opportunities for physical activities" and "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles". In addition to this, the "Beyond the Immediate" report about the needs of the over 50s in Wiltshire found that over 36% of the population are over 50 years old. This percentage is likely to significantly increase in the future, and will present key challenges and opportunities. One way of addressing this is to increase public awareness of the services available, including access to physical activity.
- 2.6.4 Age Concern Wiltshire will be providing exercise sessions for groups of older people in spring 2008 at venue/s in Corsham. The aim is to encourage gentle exercise to assist with retaining mobility and improving balance to prevent falls.
- 2.6.5 In order to publicise this opportunity as widely as possible in the Corsham Community Area, the applicant intends to produce promotional leaflets for distribution in the area. Leaflets will be made available in the library, mobile library, Tourist Information Centre, Community Centre and Springfield Leisure Centre. Other forms of publicity will include contacting all of the Town and Parish Councils, local press and radio.
- 2.6.6 Officers are aware of other local projects seeking to promote physical activities for older people, and have put this applicant in touch with Corsham Amateur Swimming

Club (See Appendix 8) and Lacock Evergreens, a previous applicant to this committee. It is hoped that these organisations will be able to collaborate and promote each others activities.

- 2.6.7 A decision not to fund this project will hinder the applicants efforts to publicise this opportunity as widely as possible, and it would also be a missed opportunity to support a project which is addressing priorities in both the Community Plan and Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.7	Corsham Amateur Swimming Club See Appendix 8	A project to encourage increased participation from more mature swimmers	Revenue	£900

- 2.7.1 **Option 7: Award £900 from the revenue budget towards a project to encourage increased participation of more mature swimmers, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.7.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, and demonstrates a partial link to the Corsham Area Community Plan " The community wants modern, effective health & social care available as locally as possible."
- 2.7.3 This project also demonstrates several links to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy "Increasing opportunities for physical activities", "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles", "Increasing leisure opportunities and facilities", "Improving access to existing facilities", and "Increasing breadth of provision at local facilities".
- 2.7.4 Corsham Amateur Swimming Club (Corsham ASC) is a well established local organisation, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. The Club has achieved tremendous success since its formation in 1974, and is about to become the first club in South West England to be re-accredited under the Swim 21 scheme.
- 2.7.5 Corsham ASC has recognised that there is an opportunity to offer their services more widely, and increase their membership, by encouraging increased participation by mature swimmers. Lessons will range from beginners classes to teach those who have not yet learnt to swim, classes to improve confidence in the water for existing swimmers, and more advanced classes catering for swimmers wishing to improve their skills.
- 2.7.6 Corsham ASC has the qualified staff with the expertise and experience to provide this opportunity, and is working in partnership with Springfield Leisure Centre and DC Leisure to offer these sessions.
- 2.7.7 Corsham ASC is keen to support Corsham's local Springfield Leisure Centre, and will make the PA system available for wider use by the centre when not in use by the club.
- 2.7.8 As previously mentioned at item 2.6.6, Officers are aware of other local projects seeking to promote physical activities for older people, and have put this applicant in touch with Age Concern Wiltshire (See Appendix 7) and Lacock Evergreens, a previous applicant to this committee. It is hoped that these organisations will be able to collaborate and promote each others activities.
- 2.7.9 A decision not to fund this project will prevent this project from going ahead, and would deprive local people of the opportunity to participate in a beneficial physical

activity. It would be a missed opportunity to support activities at the Local Leisure Centre, and also a missed opportunity to support a project identified as a priority in both the Community Plan and Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.8	Corsham Bike Club See Appendix 9	Improvements to the BMX facility at Springfield Recreation Ground	Capital	£4,500

2.8.1 Option 8: Award £4,500 from the capital budget towards a project to improvements to the BMX facility at Springfield Recreation Ground, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

2.8.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, and demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan "Survey showed that facilities for young people were a priority".

2.8.3 This project also demonstrates several links to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy "Increasing opportunities for physical activities", "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles", "Increasing leisure opportunities and facilities", "Improving access to existing facilities", and "Increasing breadth of provision at local facilities".

2.8.4 One of the activities on offer at CASE (Corsham Alternative Sports Event) in September 2007 was coaching on the existing BMX facility on Springfield Recreation Ground. The evaluation of the event identified that the BMX was one of the most popular and well attended activities on the day.

2.8.5 Following on from this success, Officers invited young people interested in BMX to a meeting to discuss options for the site, and for the BMX riders. As a result, an enthusiastic group of young people has decided to form Corsham Bike Club.

2.8.6 Corsham Bike Club has decided that the first priority is to improve and develop the existing BMX facility. To this end, with the support of parents, Officers and teaching staff at Corsham School, they have advertised and promoted the project. The project has attracted a significant amount of support, and the large number of names on the petition illustrates this.

2.8.7 Fundraising has begun and Corsham Town Council has already confirmed a contribution of £2,500, and that future maintenance will be from the Town Council budget. The club will also be carrying out their own fundraising activities such as car washes and bagpacks, and has started to approach local companies to explore sponsorship opportunities.

2.8.8 Once the BMX track itself is improved and developed, the Alternative Sports Co-ordinator (Wiltshire County Council) and the Sports Development Officer (North Wiltshire District Council) have committed to support the club to secure coaching sessions.

2.8.9 The formation of the club, improvements to the facility and the introduction of coaching sessions would be a great asset to Corsham, and would be of great benefit to the young people in the area. Whilst initial efforts will be concentrated in the town, the club will aim to raise awareness in the surrounding villages in order to attract more riders.

2.8.10 A decision not to fund this application would prevent the track improvements from taking place, and this in turn will hinder the club in its efforts to hold coaching

sessions and attract more riders. It would also be a missed opportunity to support a project identified in both the Community Plan and Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.9	Corsham Town Council See Appendix 10	Provision of a mobile CCTV unit	Capital	£6,653

- 2.9.1 **Option 10: Award £6,653 from the capital budget towards the provision of a mobile CCTV unit, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.9.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, and demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan. Page 31 "Lack of CCTV cameras in problem areas".
- 2.9.3 This project also demonstrates links to the Community Strategy for North Wiltshire "Supporting solutions to anti-social behaviour" and "Fear of Crime".
- 2.9.4 Corsham Town Council is working in partnership with Wiltshire Constabulary to identify the most effective methods of dealing with anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. A letter of support for the project has been received from Sector Inspector Gavin Williams.
- 2.9.5 Members of the Town Council on the Mobile CCTV Working Group met on 30th October to consider a mobile CCTV system to aid crime prevention and detection. Their recommendation is that Corsham Town Council purchase one dome camera mobile CCTV system. This project includes the camera system, a laptop PC, modification of lampposts and signage. The full council approved this recommendation on 12th November 2007.
- 2.9.6 The Town Council is confident that this project will help to address issues of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, which have increased in recent years. They are of the opinion that it will assist Police with crime detection and prevention and will help to provide a sense of security for residents. In addition to this, a mobile system could be deployed at short notice in locations where anti-social behaviour or vandalism is known to occur. The system is a potential benefit to all residents and visitors to Corsham.
- 2.9.7 North Wiltshire District Council Executive Committee discussed CCTV in North Wiltshire on 3rd February 2005, and resolved the following "Where appropriate, and where there is a community identified priority, Members support the capital investment of CCTV from the relevant Area committee Capital Community Fund".
- 2.9.8 Future costs will be met by Corsham Town Council Revenue budget.
- 2.9.9 A decision not to fund this project will significantly delay the purchase of the equipment required, and would also be a missed opportunity to support a project identified in both the Community Plan and Community Strategy.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.10	Katherine Park Residents Association See Appendix 11	Set up costs for Residents Association	Revenue	£500

2.10.1 Option 11: Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the cost of hiring a venue and publicising the initial public meeting to launch a Residents Association.

2.10.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08, but does not demonstrate a direct link to the Corsham Area Community Plan, however, the Corsham Area (4) Committee is committed to awarding 75% of it's funding to projects linked to the plan, which leaves the remaining 25% for projects that do not demonstrate a direct link, but where there is a community benefit.

2.10.3 Katherine Park is a new housing development in Corsham of approximately 600 homes. The needs and views of the residents are diverse as the properties range from 5 bedroom detached homes to 1 bedroom apartments. Local people felt that such a large number of people would benefit from the formation of a Residents Association.

2.10.4 The Residents Association will endeavour to raise awareness of current issues and to consult with residents about facilities for Katherine Park. The association also aims to provide an opportunity for all residents to feel part of a community, and to get involved with projects to make Katherine Park a really pleasant and safe place to live. Potential projects under consideration are a community hall and a community litter pick.

2.10.5 In order to launch the Residents Association effectively, a meeting is planned for January 2008, to which all residents will be invited. A large venue will be required, and organisers are aware that publicising the event is key to engaging with as many residents as possible. This project will ensure that sufficient leaflets are printed and distributed around the estate to make all residents aware of the new Association, advertise the meeting and invite everyone to attend, and to provide relevant contact details etc.

2.10.6 A decision not to fund this project will significantly restrict the efforts of the Residents Association to effectively communicate with all of the residents on Katherine Park. This may in turn deprive some residents of the opportunity to engage in with the association and become involved in community projects.

3. Background Information

3.1 In 2007/08 Corsham Area (4) Committee has been given a capital budget of £40,000 and a revenue budget of £8,000 for distribution in the form of Community Area Awards.

3.2 Funding criteria for 2007/08 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.

3.3 The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget would be allocated to applications that demonstrate explicit links to the Corsham Area

Community Plan. The remaining 25% would 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.

- 3.4 Members are reminded that all applications requesting £500 or less will not require any matched funding, while those requesting more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project.
- 3.5 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that this is the last of 3 funding rounds during 2007/08. The first took place on 22nd May 2007, the second on 2nd October 2007, and the **final round** is contained in this report.
- 3.6 At the first funding round on 22nd May 2007, an application from Corsham Station Campaign was deferred in order to invite the applicant to speak to the other group concerned with the Station, with a view to working together. At the time of writing this report, Officers understand that the applicant has not yet contacted the other group. The applicant has advised that "we are not in a position to give the confirmation you requested". Members are therefore obliged to refuse award on the grounds that the additional information required has not been forthcoming.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 4 Committee as outlined in section 1.6 of this report.
- 4.1.2 If Members make awards in line with Officer recommendations, Members will have a **capital balance of £24,575** and a **revenue balance of £2,112**.
- 4.1.3 Consideration needs to be made to ensure a balance of funding across towns, villages and hamlets within the Community Area.

4.2 Community & Environmental Implications

- 4.2.1 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and /or 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.

4.3 Equality & Diversity Implications

- 4.3.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 4.3.2 The Community Funding Award Criteria does not discriminate against any member of the community on the grounds of age, gender, disability, ethnicity/culture, religion/belief, sexual orientation.
- 4.3.3 All documents relating to the Community Funding Awards are available in hard copy, large print, or via the North Wiltshire District Council website.
- 4.3.4 Officers offer support to applicants through the application process.
- 4.3.5 Expert funding advice is available via the Charities Information Bureau.

5 Risk Analysis

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

<p>Appendices:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Financial Summary 2007/08 • Appendix 2 – Funding Application from Corsham Cricket Club • Appendix 3 – Funding Application from Corsham Knitting & Crochet Group • Appendix 4 – Funding Application from Corsham Town Council • Appendix 5 – Funding Application from Corsham Town Council • Appendix 6 – Funding Application from Mansion House Pre-school Playgroup • Appendix 7 – Funding Application from Age Concern • Appendix 8 – Funding Application from Corsham Amateur Swimming Club • Appendix 9 – Funding Application from Corsham Bike Club • Appendix 10 – Funding Application from Corsham Town Council • Appendix 11 – Funding Application from Katherine Park Residents Association
<p>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan • Community Area Award Criteria 2007/08

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
<p>Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08</p>	<p>Executive 8th February 2007</p>	<p>E175</p>
<p>Community Funding Distribution</p>	<p>Corsham Area (4) Committee 22nd May 2007 Corsham Area (4) Committee 2nd October 2007</p>	<p>C09 C032</p>

