

Date of Meeting	17th October 2007			
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 2 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. Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre – Award £2,723 from the capital budget towards the cost of repairs to the gable wall of the Village Hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place. 2. Cricklade Town Council – Award £600 from the revenue budget towards enhancement works to the Meer Stone in Cricklade, conditional on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) the balance of funding being in place, ii) that any relevant planning permissions are granted, iii) that the Historic Buildings Officer at North Wiltshire District Council and the County Archaeologist oversees any excavation work and are informed of progress and iv) that the award is spent by 31st March 2008. 				
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 2 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 first funding round on 20th June 2007, the Area 2 Committee has a capital balance of **£9,665** and a revenue balance of **£7,728**.
- 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
Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre Appendix 2	Repairs to a gable wall of the Village Hall	Capital	£2,723

- 2.1 **Option 1- Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre – Award £2,723 from the capital budget, towards the cost of repairs to the gable wall of 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 about the lack of recreational facilities throughout the community area and at page 24 where there is a specific reference to the lack of youth facilities in Bradenstoke.
- 2.1.3 In recent years there have been a number of repair and refurbishment works including new windows, improved facilities and access for the disabled, resurfacing of the floor and a new roof. This latest project will involve repairs to the gable wall to remove existing rendering, repair brickwork and re-render. It is currently considered to be in a near dangerous state.
- 2.1.4 The Village Hall and Recreational Centre was built in 1875 and remains an important community facility. It is used by a number of local groups and there are approximately 700 users. It is used for village events, parish meetings, elections and a number of clubs for young and old including one for disabled children.
- 2.1.5 Members will want to be aware that since 2001 the Area 2 Committee has funded the applicant with grants towards new windows, improvements for the disabled and resurfacing the floor. A great deal of effort has been focused on fund raising by the local community. For example, £6,000 was raised towards the costs of a new roof which is now in place. The Parish Council has also contributed towards the hall's maintenance and has been approached for funding for this project. Unfortunately, a recent bid to the Lottery for funding for improvements was turned down.
- 2.1.6 A decision not to fund this project may mean that the hall is closed while funds are raised. Ideally, a full refurbishment programme incorporating all necessary works would be planned but, again, this is likely to mean that the hall would be closed while the funding is sought and works completed. As with many other older community halls across North Wiltshire, a piecemeal approach through separate projects often has to be taken.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Cricklade Town Council Appendix 3	Enhancement works to the Meer Stone in Cricklade	Revenue	£600

2.2.1 Option 2 - Cricklade Town Council – Award £600 from the revenue budget towards enhancement works to the Meer Stone in Cricklade, conditional on:

- i) the balance of funding being in place,**
- ii) that any relevant planning permissions are granted,**
- iii) that the Historic Buildings Officer at North Wiltshire District Council and the County Archaeologist oversees any excavation work and are informed of progress and**
- iv) that the award is spent by 31st March 2008.**

2.2.1 This application meets the 2007/8 funding criteria and demonstrates a link to the Community Area Plan. This is at page 9 where it refers to the promotion of Cricklade's historic image.

2.2.2 The Meer Stone is one of a number of stones that originally marked the boundary of Cricklade. It is the only such stone surviving and is cited in a well-documented 18th Century parliamentary boundary dispute concerning voting rights for local people. It is clearly of historic importance to the town and of interest to visitors. This project will involve the enhancement of the area around the Meer Stone through the removal of a fence, building of a wall, laying of chippings and erection of an interpretation board and mounted plaque. The Town Council is working closely with Cricklade Historical Society and Cricklade Museum towards this project.

2.2.3 If the Meer Stone is found to be a Scheduled Monument, there will be a requirement for consent to be sought prior to any works taking place.

2.2.4 Members are reminded that the Area 2 Committee has awarded the Town Council a number of grants for different projects since 2001, the most recent being for £12,843 in June 2007 towards the building of a Community Garden. A decision not to fund this project may possibly indicate reluctance by the Area 2 Committee to support issues highlighted in the Community Area Plan.

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 there will be three funding rounds during 2007/8. The second is contained in this report and the third and final one will take place on **13th February 2008**. The deadline for receipt of applications is **11th January 2008**.

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 **£6,942** and a revenue balance of **£7,128**.

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 – Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre • Appendix 3 Application – Cricklade Town Council
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 Funding Distribution	Area Committee – 20 th June 2007	CR9
2007/8 Community Area Awards Policy	Executive 8 th February 2007	E175