

**AREA 4 COMMUNITY AREA FUNDING DISTRIBUTION 2006/2007**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider 2 applications seeking 2006/2007 Community Area Award funding.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. **To agree funding distribution of the Area 4 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:**

- 2.1.1. **Corsham Youth Shelter – Make an in principle Award of £5,000 from the capital budget to erect a Youth Shelter on Springfield Recreation Ground, conditional upon:**

- i. **Planning Permission is granted**
- ii. **The balance of all other funding being in place**
- iii. **The authority be delegated to the Chair of Area 4 and the Team Leader of Community Partnerships to release the award upon receipt of planning permission.**

- 2.1.2. **Mansion House Playgroup – Award £11,274 from the capital budget to extend and modernise premises for the playgroup, conditional upon all other funding being in place.**

**3. Links to the Corporate Business Plan Priorities:**

- 3.1. This report links most closely to the following priorities within the Business Plan:
- 3.2. Community Area Awards can be linked to the Council's priority of Partnerships and Customer Focus through community based projects, supporting the delivery of Community Plans and all other Council priorities; especially those associated with Equalities and Diversity and Healthy Lifestyles.

**4. Background**

- 4.1. In 2006/07 Area 4 Committee were given a capital budget of £40,000 and a revenue budget of £8,000 for distribution in the form of Community Area Awards.
- 4.2. Funding criteria for 2006/07 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 2 February 2006 (see Appendix 1). Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 4.3. 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 fell outside the Community Plan, but remained important for local people and were able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.

**5. Funding**

- 5.1. Following the funding awards made in 2005/06 Area 4 had £2,429 balance of capital funding remaining. This amount is carried forward to 2006/07.
- 5.2. The funding criteria state that where Community capital awards are not taken up within two years, funding is relinquished and the applicant invited to re-apply where appropriate. Currently the following three schemes have not proceeded and funding returned to the Area 4 Committee:

- The Pound £8,075 awarded on 13 January 2004
- Neston Memorial Hall £10,000 awarded on 13 July 2004
- Box Parish Council £4,040 awarded on 13 July 2004

With the above capital added to current allocation, the total capital for 2006/07 is £64,544.

- 5.3. Appendix 2 provides details of the 2005/2006 distribution of awards across Area 4, in an attempt to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area in 2006/07.
- 5.4. Appendix 3 provides details of the Area 4 2006/07 capital and revenue balances.
- 5.5. Members are reminded that all applications in 2006/07 will be considered under the same Community Area Award criteria. Those schemes 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.
- 5.6. Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2006/07. The first is contained in this report, and the other two will take place on:
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006
  - ◆ 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007
- 5.7. The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the September Committee meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

## 6. Feedback from Recipients of Funding

- 6.1. During 2005/06 all recipients of funding were requested to complete an evaluation sheet, following completion of their project. Provision of this information is a condition of funding and failure to do so precludes them from future funding from this Committee.
- 6.2. Rather than bring these forms to Committee, officers suggest that it might be more appropriate if Members were to invite representatives from groups in receipt of Community Area Awards to attend future meetings to tell the Committee how the award was used. It is envisaged that groups are identified and invited to each of the Committee meetings dealing with Community Area Awards.

## 7. Officer Observations & Recommendations

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.1.	<b>Corsham Youth Shelter</b> See Appendix 4	To erect a Youth Shelter on Springfield Recreation ground	Capital	£ 5,000

- 7.1.1. This application meets all but one of the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan "Lack of places for young people to meet".
- 7.1.2. The criteria states that planning permission must be granted prior to seeking a community funding award. Corsham Town Council has applied for Planning Permission, and a determination is anticipated shortly, but had not unfortunately been received at the time of writing this report. Officers would not normally ask Members to consider an application until the permission had been granted, but understand that the applicant wishes to install the Youth Shelter in time for the schools summer holiday in July.
- 7.1.3. Local young people have been consulted at the Corsham Youth Festival in May 2005, and again in March 2006 to establish a suitable site and design. Officers are of the opinion that this project

has the firm support of local youth, and that the shelter will provide somewhere safe for them to meet, particularly as the applicant has chosen a design that includes solar lighting.

- 7.1.4. The location of the shelter has been carefully selected after discussions with Corsham Town Council, Corsham Police, Skatepark Project Team, users of the BMX track and local young people.
- 7.1.5. A site visit has been made by the supplier to confirm the suitability of the location for the shelter. Officers are of the opinion that every effort has been made to ensure that the shelter is placed in a position that will compliment both the BMX track and the Skatepark.
- 7.1.6. Representatives from Corsham Police have been involved with project team since inception, and are in full support of the project. They are happy that the chosen location will provide young people with a safe place to congregate so that they don't feel excluded. It will also mean that people using the recreation ground and other nearby facilities can do so without feeling intimidated by young people who would perhaps otherwise be hanging around shop entrances etc. It is felt that the shelter will go some way to addressing the issue of nuisance and low level graffiti in the Town Centre.
- 7.1.7. Officers understand in areas where similar shelters have been installed, they have made a significant contribution to the reduction of anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood nuisance.
- 7.1.8. **Officer Recommendation – Make an in principle Award of £5,000 from the capital budget to erect a Youth Shelter on Springfield Recreation Ground, conditional upon:**

- iv. **Planning Permission is granted**
- v. **The balance of all other funding being in place**
- vi. **The authority be delegated to the Chair of Area 4 and the Team Leader of Community Partnerships to release the award upon receipt of planning permission.**

7.1.9.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.2.	<b>Mansion House Playgroup</b>  See Appendix 5	To extend and modernise new premises for the playgroup.	Capital	£11,274

- 7.2.1. This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07, and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan: "Provide sufficient child and after school care for working parents".
- 7.2.2. Mansion House Playgroup is the only remaining community run pre-school playgroup in Corsham. It has been serving the community for over 40 years based at Mansion House, but the premises are no longer suitable for the following reasons:
- The future of the building, is uncertain as it up for sale
  - The annual rent has escalated to £8,500 per annum
  - The accommodation does not allow for the expansion of childcare provision
- 7.2.3. St Patrick's Primary School has offered the applicant the vacant caretaker's bungalow in the grounds of the school. The bungalow has been empty for a few years but remains structurally sound. A peppercorn rent of £10 per annum for the next 10 years has been secured.
- 7.2.4. The applicant has engaged an architect to produce the required plans and building regulation drawings. Planning permission has been granted.
- 7.2.5. The new premises when refurbished will provide a purpose built facility with the appropriate kitchen and toilet facilities, meet DDA requirements, and offer a safe and suitable environment for pre-school children.

- 7.2.6. Officers are of the opinion that the new building will enable the applicant to offer longer and more flexible sessions. This will prove vital in coping with the anticipated increase in Corsham's population in the next few years, which will inevitably lead to increased demand for pre-school places.
- 7.2.7. Officers understand that the applicant intends to develop links with special needs teachers and speech therapists to cater for children with special needs. The expansion of the provision will also enable the applicant to offer more work experience opportunities to local students training for a career in childcare.
- 7.2.8. The applicant is very keen to explore the possibility of breakfast clubs and after school clubs at the new premises, and to this end has been in touch with the Surestart and Extended Schools Teams. These initiatives will be discussed further once the new premises are fully established.
- 7.2.9. This is an ambitious project, fully supported by all members of staff and committee members at Mansion House Playgroup who are wholly committed to providing quality childcare for the local community.
- 7.2.10. Officer Recommendation - Award £11,274 from the capital budget to extend and modernise premises for the playgroup, conditional upon all other funding being in place.

#### **7.2.11. Financial Implications**

- 7.3. Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 4 Committee as outlined in section 4.1 of this report.
- 7.4. If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £48,270 and a revenue balance of £8,000.
- 7.5. Consideration needs to be made to ensure a balance of funding across towns, villages and hamlets within the Community Area.

### **8. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 8.1. 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.

### **9. Human Resources Implications**

- 9.1. There are no Human Resources implications directly relating to this report.

### **Documents used in the preparation of Report**

Community Area Grant Proposal Forms

### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & REGENERATION STRATEGIC MANAGER TO AREA 4 COMMITTEE 16 MAY 2006.**

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