

AREA 3 COMMUNITY AREA FUNDING DISTRIBUTION 2006/2007

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider 9 applications seeking 2006/2007 Community Area Award funding.
- 1.2. To ask Members to invite representatives from groups in receipt of Community Area Awards from the Area 3 Committee to attend future meetings.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **To agree funding distribution of the Area 3 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:**
 - 2.1.1. **Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre – Award £6,000 from the capital budget, towards the opening of the historic Council Chamber to the public and school groups, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.2. **Kington Langley Parish Council – Award £6,025 from the capital budget, towards the protection of the Middle Common from erosion, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.3. **North Wraxall Parish Council – Award £1,928 from the capital budget, towards the cost of improving access to the North Wraxall Chapel, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.4. **Kington Langley Playing Fields Association – Award £646 from the capital budget, towards new drainage for the Kington Langley Playing Fields, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.5. **Biddestone Village Hall & Recreation Trust – Award £5,000 from the capital budget, towards the cost of improving and expanding the play area adjacent to the village hall, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.6. **Chippenham Community Festival Association – Award £3,000 from the revenue budget towards the cost of the Chippenham Community Festival, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
 - 2.1.7. **Biddestone Parish Plan Committee – Award £400 from the revenue budget towards the production of a Parish Plan for Biddestone & Slaughterford.**
 - 2.1.8. **Westlea Housing Association – Make an in principle award of £4,269 from the capital budget, towards the improvement of car parking and landscaping on Hungerdown Lane, conditional upon:**
 - ◆ **Planning permission is granted**
 - ◆ **The balance of all other funding being in place**
 - ◆ **The authority be delegated to the Chair of Area 3 and the Team Leader of Community Partnerships to release the award upon receipt of planning permission**
 - 2.1.9. **Seagry Pre-school – Award £438 from the revenue budget towards the cost of a treasurer.**
- 2.2. **Feedback from recipients of funding - Invite representatives from groups in receipt of Community Area Awards from the Area 3 Committee to attend future meetings to provide feedback about how the award was used.**

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 3 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 3 had £15,614 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 scheme has not proceeded, and funding returned to the Area 3 Committee:
 - East Tytherton Village Hall £2,200 awarded on 9 February 2004

With the above capital added to current allocation, the total capital for 2006/07 is £57,814.

- 5.3. Appendix 2 provides details of the 2005/2006 distribution of awards across Area 3, 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 3 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 that £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:
 - ◆ 9th October 2006
 - ◆ 5th February 2007
- 5.7. The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the October Committee meeting is 1st September 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.
- 6.3. **Officer Recommendation** - Invite representatives from groups in receipt of Community Area Awards from the Area 3 Committee to attend future meetings to provide feedback about how the award was used.

7. Officer Observations & Recommendations

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.1.	Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre See Appendix 4	Open the historic Council Chamber in the Yelde Hall to members of the public and school groups	Capital	£6,000

- 7.1.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Environment, Landbased & Countryside section 4 item 4.9 "Chippenham needs to improve it's environment, whilst maintaining its character and attraction as an important Wiltshire Market Town."
- 7.1.2. The historic chamber is situated on the upper floor of the Yelde Hall which is the only Grade 1 listed building in the Town. The ground floor was recently restored and is now used as the Tourist Information Centre.
- 7.1.3. Since the Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre opened 6 years ago, it has attracted an average of over 19,000 visitors per annum. The number of visitors is an indication of the demand from both the local community and tourists to access the heritage of the town and surrounding area.
- 7.1.4. The applicant intends to link the historic chamber to the museums education programme, and in addition, a joint venture with schools on citizenship and local studies.
- 7.1.5. Public consultation recently carried out has confirmed full and enthusiastic support for the project.
- 7.1.6. **Officer Recommendation** – Award £6,000 from the capital budget, towards the opening of the historic Council Chamber to the public and school groups, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

7.1.7.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.2.	Kington Langley Parish Council See Appendix 5	The protection of Middle Common from erosion	Capital	£6,025

- 7.2.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Transport section 5 item 5.9." Noise, pollution, damage to roads and erosion of verges from heavy vehicles"

- 7.2.2. Middle Common in Kington Langley is a Registered Common in a Conservation Area, and is central to the visual appearance of the centre of the village.
- 7.2.3. In recent years, the verges have suffered significant damage from vehicles, which has resulted in dangerous and unsightly erosion, leaving the edge of the common rutted, muddy and waterlogged.
- 7.2.4. The project has the full support of villagers, local school and Chapel.
- 7.2.5. The Parish Council will meet ongoing maintenance costs.
- 7.2.6. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £6,025 from the capital budget, towards the protection of the Middle Common from erosion, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.3.	North Wraxall Parish Council Appendix 6	Improve access to North Wraxall Chapel	Capital	£1,928

- 7.3.1. This application meets the funding criteria for 2006/07, and demonstrates a link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Housing & Built Environment section 7 item 7.7 “Lack of roadside footpaths”
- 7.3.2. The Chapel does not currently have any hard standing at the entrance, and as a result it is not only unsuitable for disabled people, it also becomes very muddy for users during inclement weather.
- 7.3.3. In addition to the problems for pedestrians, there are also issues with traffic congestion caused when dropping people off at the Chapel, as the road is single track.
- 7.3.4. Officers are of the opinion that the improvements will benefit both those walking to the Chapel, and drivers in the area. It will provide temporary parking for vehicles to drop passengers, in particular those who are disabled.
- 7.3.5. Officers note that Wiltshire County Council will maintain the highway improvement and pathway.
- 7.3.6. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £1,928 from the capital budget, towards the cost of improving access to the North Wraxall Chapel, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.4.	Kington Langley Playing Fields Association See Appendix 7	New drainage for Kington Langley Playing Fields	Capital	£650

- 7.4.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Culture & Leisure section 8 item 8.1 “Insufficient outdoor sports facilities and playing fields”.
- 7.4.2. During wet weather, approximately 25% of the playing field regularly becomes waterlogged, which results in the cancellation of matches, particularly during the autumn and winter months.
- 7.4.3. The Playing Fields Association is actively encouraging villagers, especially local teenagers, to use the facilities, but this is hindered by the ground being frequently unusable when waterlogged.
- 7.4.4. Officers are of the opinion that this project will greatly assist the applicant in promoting regular sports activities with in the village.

- 7.4.5. Officers would point out that funding criteria states that a maximum of 50% of the total project costs will be awarded.
- 7.4.6. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £646 from the capital budget, towards new drainage for the Kington Langley Playing Fields, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.5.	Biddestone Village Hall & Recreation Trust See Appendix 8	Improve and expand the play area adjacent to the village hall	Capital	£5,000

- 7.5.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Housing & Built Environment section 7 item 7.1 "Insufficient play and recreation areas for children up to the age of 16".
- 7.5.2. Biddestone Village Hall & Recreation Trust built a new village hall 3 years ago, and the building is located within a safe open space alongside the cricket, football pitches and the tennis courts. A small playground was constructed next to the hall, but it has very limited equipment.
- 7.5.3. The hall and facilities are extremely well used by village residents, sports club members and their families. It has been recognised that the play area requires improvements and expansion to cater for the high number of users, and research carried out in preparation for the production of the Biddestone Parish Plan supports this finding.
- 7.5.4. Biddestone Village Hall Recreation Trust will meet the cost of future maintenance.
- 7.5.5. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £5,000 from the capital budget, towards the cost of improving and expanding the play area adjacent to the village hall, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place. The applicant is to be responsible for regular health & safety inspections.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.6.	Chippenham Community Festival Association See Appendix 9	Chippenham Community Festival	Revenue	£3,000

- 7.6.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Culture & Leisure Section 8 "The plan aims to increase support for community facilities and events, and to encourage a range of opportunities for both the residents and visitors to the area".
- 7.6.2. The Community Festival incorporates performances and contributions from many local community groups including: Chippenham Light Opera Group (CLOGS) Cantata, Chippenham Male Voice Choir, Chippenham Civic Society, Chippenham University of the Third Age (U3A), Chippenham Central Methodist Choir, and North Wilts Orchestra.
- 7.6.3. The Festival provides the opportunity for local people of all ages to both participate in and/or experience a wide variety of activities ranging from music, dance and drama to art, literature and heritage. In addition to this, the Festival Committee work closely with local schools to ensure local school children can also access the programme of events.
- 7.6.4. Officers are of the opinion that the proximity of the Festival to the Christmas trading period will enhance commerce and tourism in Chippenham. The theme for this year's event is Brunel & His Times.

7.6.5. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £3,000 from the revenue budget towards the cost of the Chippenham Community Festival, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.7.	Biddestone Parish Plan Committee See Appendix 10	The production of a Parish Plan for Biddestone & Slaughterford	Revenue	£400

- 7.7.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. In the “What Happens Next” section of the plan, residents are invited to contribute by raising issues, and advising the partnership about new projects and priorities.
- 7.7.2. The Parish Plan will provide information for decision-makers about the specific needs and aspirations of the people of Biddestone, and will also inform the Community Planning process for Community Area 3.
- 7.7.3. This project has been planned with the full support of Community First, and the Parish Council.
- 7.7.4. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £400 from the revenue budget towards the production of a Parish Plan for Biddestone & Slaughterford.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
7.8.	Westlea Housing Association See Appendix 11	The improvement of car parking and landscaping on Hungerdown Lane	Capital	£12,806

- 7.8.1. This application meets all but one of the 2006/07 funding criteria and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Housing & Built Environment Section 7 item 7.8 “Damage to grass verges by parked vehicles”.
- 7.8.2. Westlea Housing Association owns 18 of the 28 properties facing out onto Hungerdown Lane between the Kingfisher Public House and the Folly Crossroads. In recent years, approximately a dozen householders have parked their vehicles on the grass verge, creating dangerous and unsightly ruts in the grass and exposing tree roots. The unauthorised parking is also hazardous for cyclists using the adjacent cyclepath.
- 7.8.3. The project proposes to create 14 unallocated parking bays and landscape the area. Signs will be erected to indicate that the bays are for residents parking. New trees will be planted and bollards installed to prevent any further parking on the grassed area. This will improve the aspect of the area, address safety issues for cyclists and improve access for refuse, recycling and emergency vehicles.
- 7.8.4. Westlea have carried out consultation with all 28 households, and received 2 objections to the scheme. A formal application for planning permission has been submitted.
- 7.8.5. Officers would bring to Members attention that they would expect this type of project to receive funding support from Wiltshire County Council and Chippenham Town Council.

7.8.6. **Officer Recommendation** – Make an in principle award of £4,269 from the capital budget, towards the improvement of car parking and landscaping on Hungerdown Lane, conditional upon:

- ◆ Planning permission is granted
- ◆ The balance of all other funding being in place
- ◆ The authority be delegated to the Chair of Area 3 and the Team Leader of Community Partnerships to release the award upon receipt of planning permission

7.9.	Seagry Pre-school See Appendix 12	The cost of a treasurer for the pre-school group	Revenue	£438
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- 7.9.1. This application meets the 2006/07 funding criteria, and demonstrates a direct link to the Chippenham Area Community Plan. Seagry listed the pre-school as one of the things that they valued most, and Section 2 item 2.2 “Maintain viability of Village Schools”.
- 7.9.2. The pre-school has until now operated with a volunteer parent acting as treasurer. Unexpectedly, this year no one has come forward to take on this role. As a result, the committee has no option but to engage a professional to carry out these services for 2006/07.
- 7.9.3. In response to the situation, the committee has increased fees by 50p per session to help meet the costs of a treasurer, and are now building the additional costs into next year’s budget.
- 7.9.4. The pre-school has recently undergone an Ofsted inspection which found the pre-school to be “Very Good”, and there is currently a waiting list for places which illustrates how highly regarded the facility is.
- 7.9.5. **Officer Recommendation** - Award £438 from the revenue budget towards the cost of a treasurer.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 3 Committee as outlined in section 4.1 of this report.
- 8.2. If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £33,946 and a revenue balance of £4,162.
- 8.3. Consideration needs to be made to ensure a balance of funding across towns, villages and hamlets within the Community Area.

9. Community and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. 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.

10. Human Resources Implications

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

Documents used in the preparation of Report

Community Area Grant Proposal Forms

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