

REPORT TO THE CHIPPENHAM AREA 3 COMMITTEE Report No. 8

Date of Meeting	9th October 2006
Title of Report	Area 3 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07
Link to Corporate Priorities	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.
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To ask Members to consider 5 applications seeking 2006/07 Community Area Award Funding.

Officer Recommendations

To agree funding distribution of Area 3 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:

- 2.1 Award £4,385.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Town Council to install a Youth Shelter in Pewsham Park, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.2 Award £3,466.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Highlights for the purchase and erection of a workshop/storage facility for theatrical costumes and scenery, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.3 Award £500.00 from the revenue budget to Kington St Michael Parish Plan Committee towards the production of a Parish Plan for Kington St Michael.**
- 2.4 Award £1,750.00 from the revenue budget to CLOGS towards the production of "The Merry Widow", conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.5 Make an in principle award of £5,000.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Without Parish Council towards the restoration of Drakes Pond.**

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 5 applications for 2006/07 Community Area Award Funding, all of which demonstrate a direct link to the issues and priorities identified in the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Chippenham Town Council See Appendix 2	To install a Youth Shelter in Pewsham Park	Capital	£4,385.00

2.1.1 **Option 1 – Award £4,385.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Town Council to install a Youth Shelter in Pewsham Park, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

- 2.1.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Culture & Leisure section 8 item 8.5 “Lack of places for young people to meet”.

- 2.1.3 Planning permission is not required as the Town Council intends to install the Youth Shelter on their land in Pewsham Park. However, in order to give local residents and young people the opportunity to contribute to the project, three phases of consultation have taken place:

- Abbeyfield School
- PCSO patrols
- An open morning at Pewsham Community Centre, when Councillor Doubell and Councillor Noblet invited local residents to discuss the project with them.

Councillor Doubell also referred to the proposed project in her newsletter, which is delivered to local residents.

- 2.1.4 The location of the shelter has been carefully selected after considering the results of the consultation, and discussions with the PCSOs and Community Centre Committee.

- 2.1.5 The design of the shelter has been carefully selected after considering the results of the consultation, and following discussions with the PCSOs. The applicant has chosen a model, which has it 3 sides, and solar lighting will be included.

- 2.1.6 Supporting this application will provide young people in Pewsham with a safe place to meet, and it is hoped that people using nearby facilities can do so without feeling intimidated by young people who would otherwise be hanging around shop entrances etc.

- 2.1.7 The Town Council will carry out inspection and maintenance, and meet future costs for the shelter.

- 2.1.8 A decision not to fund this project might delay the installation of the Youth Shelter. It would also be a missed opportunity to support an issue identified in the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	Chippenham Highlights See Appendix 3	To purchase and erect a workshop/storage facility for theatrical costumes and scenery	Capital	£ 3,466.00

2.2.1 Option 2 - Award £3,466.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Highlights for the purchase and erection of a workshop/storage facility for theatrical costumes and scenery, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

2.2.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Culture & Leisure section 8 “The plan aims to increase support for community facilities and events, and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area”.

2.2.3 Chippenham Highlights has been running for 26 years, with a broad membership ranging from age 3 to senior citizens. In addition to cast members there are over 100 backstage helpers assisting with sets and costumes etc.

2.2.4 In 2005 Highlights were given notice to vacate their existing workshop and storage facility, and as a result they now have nowhere to store their costumes and scenery.

2.2.5 An alternative facility is urgently needed to enable Highlights to continue to stage it’s popular shows. The annual pantomime regularly attracts 200 people to each of the 8 performances in the Neeld Hall, and in addition to this, Highlights tour the local residential homes with smaller productions and carol services.

2.2.6 A new site has been identified to erect a workshop at Stanley Farm. There will be no rent incurred, and it has been agreed that the maintenance of the building is the responsibility of Chippenham Highlights. In the event that the farm is sold, a valuation of the workshop will be made, and the current value will be returned to Highlights. Legal documents to this effect have been signed and are lodged with solicitors.

2.2.7 A decision not to fund this project will result in a delay in establishing the new workshop/storage facility, which in turn will jeopardise the groups ability to prepare for the pantomime in January 2007.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Kington St Michael Parish Plan See Appendix 4	To produce a Parish Plan for Kington St Michael	Revenue	£500.00

2.3.1 Option 3 - Award £500.00 from the revenue budget to Kington St Michael Parish Plan Committee towards the production of a Parish Plan for Kington St Michael.

2.3.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the 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.

2.3.3 The Parish Plan will provide information for the decision-makers about the specific needs and aspirations of the people of Kington St Michael, and will also inform the Community Planning process for Community Area 3.

2.3.4 This project has been planned with the full support of Community First and the Parish Council.

2.3.5 A decision not to fund this project might result in difficulties producing and distributing the Parish Plan.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.4	CLOGS See Appendix 5	To produce "The Merry Widow" at the Chippenham Community Festival	Revenue	£1,750.00

2.4.1 **Option 4 – Award £1,750.00 from the revenue budget to CLOGS towards the production of "The Merry Widow", conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

2.4.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Culture & Leisure section 8 "The plan aims to increase support for community facilities and events, and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area".

2.4.3 Venue costs and commission on ticket sales have risen significantly over the last 3 years. It has not been possible to cover all of the expenses from ticket income at realistic ticket prices.

2.4.4 The Pound Arts Centre is now the Arts Centre for North Wiltshire, and from 2007 it will provide box office facilities for productions across the district at much reduced commission prices. It is also anticipated that with the support of the Pound, the number of tickets sold may be increased. CLOGS are also trialing a ticket hotline to further reduce costs.

2.4.5 CLOGS provide an opportunity for local people to participate in musical theatre performance, and have been the cornerstone of the Chippenham Festival for a number of years.

2.4.6 A decision not to fund this application will result in CLOGS incurring a loss on the production, and threaten the ability to stage future events.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.5	Chippenham Without Parish Council See Appendix 4	The restoration of Drakes Pond	Capital	£5,000.00

2.5.1 **Option 5 – Make an in principle award of £5,000.00 from the capital budget to Chippenham Without Parish Council towards the renovation of Drakes Pond, conditional upon:**

- The balance of funding being in place
- The applicant provides 3 quotes, and identifies agreed supplier
- The applicant receives security of tenure from the Landowner (Persimmon Homes)
- Consultation with local people is carried out, and the results made available to Area 3 Committee

- 2.5.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. The Environment, Landbased and Countryside section 4 "Maintain and enhance the character of the local area".
- 2.5.3 Chippenham Without Parish Council has formed a project to restore the area which has been overgrown and neglected since the housing estate was built. They aim to create a wildlife haven and community quiet area. They aim to protect and enhance the animal and plant life, plant the rim of the flood area with appropriate trees and shrubs, and improve the local drainage feed into the pond and surrounding area.
- 2.5.4 In addition, the fencing will be repaired and replaced, and seating and a community noticeboard will be provided. The work will be carried out in accordance with the standards of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Management Plan.
- 2.5.5 Officers understand that Chippenham Without Parish Council intends to form a community group to assist with the management, maintenance and protection of the area. Local schools and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be involved at every stage of the project.
- 2.5.6 Chippenham Without Parish Council will meet future maintenance and running costs.
- 2.5.7 At this stage the applicant is seeking an in principle decision from Area 3 to enable them to proceed with the next stages of the project.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Funding criteria for 2006/07 were reviewed by a Working Party, which included representatives of all five Area committees. The Executive subsequently approved the revised policy and procedures, on 2nd February 2006. Should members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.2 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 Chippenham and Villages 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.
- 3.3 In 2006/07 all funding applications will be considered under the same Community Area Award criteria. Those schemes requesting £500.00 or less will not require any matched funding, while those requesting more than £500.00 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project.
- 3.4 Following the funding recommendations made on 5th June 2006, Area 3 Committee has a capital balance of £24,015.00 and a revenue balance of £4,162.00, available for distribution for the remainder of the year.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 provides the details of the 2006/07 geographical distribution of awards across Area 3 to date. It is hoped that these will assist Members when making their decisions.
- 3.6 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2006/07. The first took place on 5th June 2006, the second is contained in this report, and the third will take place on:
- 5th February 2007

The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the February Committee meeting is 22nd December 2006.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 3 Committee as outlined in section 3 of this report.
- 4.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £11,164.00 and a revenue balance of £1,912.00.

5 Community & Environmental Implications

- 5.1 All of the awards can be directly linked to priority themes and aspirations laid out in the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan.
- 5.2 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.

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.

7. Risk Analysis

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

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Financial Summary • Appendix 2 – Funding application from Chippenham Town Council • Appendix 3 – Funding application from Chippenham Highlights • Appendix 4 – Funding application from Kington St Michael • Appendix 5 – Funding application from CLOGS • Appendix 6 – Funding application from Chippenham Without Parish Council
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Award Funding Criteria

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Area 3 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07	Area 3 Committee 5 th June 2006	