

REPORT TO THE Area 4 Committee

Report No.7

Date of Meeting	16th January 2007
Title of Report	Area 4 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 4 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:

Corsham Town Council - Award £17,445 from the capital budget for the creation of a perimeter path to improve accessibility and use of Springfield Recreation Ground, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Selwyn Hall – Award £1,800 from the capital budget to purchase chairs with arms, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Corsham Rugby Football Club – Award £10,000 from the capital budget to renovate 2 full size rugby pitches, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Corsham Amateur Swimming Club - Award £875 from the revenue budget to run a swimming gala, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Secca Partnership - Award £500 from the revenue budget to run the Threshold Arts project.

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 Following the funding awards made on 12th September 2006, Area 4 Committee has a capital balance of £48,270 and a revenue balance of £6,018.
- 1.2 Members need to be aware that at present there is no indication that unallocated capital funding will be rolled forward to 2007/08. Any remaining revenue funding will not be carried forward.
- 1.3 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that all revenue funding awarded to groups and organisations must be drawn upon by 31 March 2007.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that this is the last of 3 funding rounds for 2006/07. The first took place on 16th May 2006, the second took place on 12th September 2006, and the third is contained in this report.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Corsham Town Council See Appendix 2	Creation of a perimeter path to improve accessibility and use of Springfield Recreation Ground	Capital	£ 17,445

- 2.1.1 **Option 1 – Award £17,445 from the capital budget to Corsham Town for the creation of a perimeter path to improve accessibility and use of Springfield Recreation Ground, 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 "Improve pavements and alleyways".
- 2.1.3 The pathway forms part of the Town Council's aim to improve the Springfield Recreation Ground and create a "District Park" as outlined in North Wiltshire District Council's Open Space Study 2004.
- 2.1.4 Springfield Recreation Ground has a wide catchment area, and serves in excess of 20,000 people of all ages and abilities, providing a space for passive and active recreation.
- 2.1.5 The pathway will be 2 metres wide, and constructed to Wiltshire County Councils approved standards for footways/cycleways. Officers are of the opinion that in addition to walkers, runners and cyclists, the pathway will also improve access for

pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, and parents with pushchairs, especially in the winter months.

2.1.6 The pathway will also include a “spur” to improve access to the newly installed Youth Shelter.

2.1.7 Future costs will be met by Corsham Town Council from its revenue budget for Leisure services.

2.1.8 A decision not to fund this project will delay the creation of the footpath.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	Selwyn Hall See Appendix 3	Purchase new chairs with arms	Capital	£ 1,800

2.2.1 Option 1 - Award £1,800 from the capital budget to Selwyn Hall to purchase new chairs with arms, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

2.2.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07.

2.2.3 The application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan, however, the project is of benefit to members of the community, in particular users of the Selwyn Hall who are elderly and infirm.

2.2.4 The committee responsible for running the hall has received an increasing number of requests to provide chairs with arms to ensure the health and safety of the elderly and infirm who have difficulty rising from a seated position without the assistance of arms on a chair.

2.2.5 A decision not to fund this project will result in chairs being purchased over a longer period of time, as funding becomes available.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Corsham Rugby Football Club See Appendix 4	Renovate 2 full size rugby pitches	Capital	£ 10,000

2.3.1 Option 1 – Award £10,000 form the capital budget to Corsham Rugby Football Club to renovate 2 full size rugby pitches, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

2.3.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan “Lack of facilities for young people” and “Train young people in leadership skills”.

2.3.3 Corsham RFC has a larger membership of senior, junior and mini players than ever before in it’s history, and in addition, there is also a thriving social membership throughout the community. There are 45 senior players and just over 200 junior and mini players, both boys and girls.

2.3.4 Officers are informed that the club was the first in Dorset & Wilts to be granted the club Seal of Approval from the RFU in Twickenham which demonstrates good

practise in management, responsibility, community engagement and sports development.

- 2.3.5 As a result of the club's enormous success in recent years, the club's facilities are wearing out, and 2 full size pitches require renovation. Last year some fixtures had to be cancelled due to the poor condition of the playing area and naturally the club are anxious to avoid this happening again.
- 2.3.6 Members' attention is drawn to the fact that the club serves the whole of the community area not just the town. The club is instrumental in addressing issues of improving recreational and social facilities, encouraging health and well being and indirectly assisting with community safety issues by engaging with and focussing the energies of a large number of the areas teenagers.
- 2.3.7 Future running costs will be met by a levy on revenue income, and also fundraising. A separate development and maintenance budget has been established, to ensure that the development plan and maintenance of the facilities are catered for in the future.
- 2.3.8 Officers understand that the club enjoys an excellent relationship with local schools, and assists both senior and primary schools by providing coaching staff. There is also the opportunity for older members from the junior section to assist with competitions and coaching for the mini section.
- 2.3.9 A decision not to fund this project will result in the pitch renovation being delayed, and this may jeopardise fixtures this season.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.4	Corsham Amateur Swimming Club See Appendix 5	To run a swimming gala	Revenue	£ 875

2.4.1 Option 1 – Award £875 form the revenue budget to Corsham Amateur Swimming Club to run a swimming gala, 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 “Lack of facilities for young people” and “Train young people in leadership skills”.
- 2.4.3 Corsham Amateur Swimming Club (ASC) would like to hold a swimming gala to include local schools in an inter-school competition. In order to run the event, items of poolside equipment are required e.g. a clock and flags. Training for additional swimming teachers will also be required, and a swimming clinic run by National swimming coaches will also greatly benefit both the swimmers and teachers.
- 2.4.4 Officers are informed that there is an opportunity for young people to add to their skills by gaining coaching qualifications, and in many of them go on to help by teaching younger children at the club.
- 2.4.5 Corsham ASC has taught hundreds of local children and young people to swim since it formed in 1973. All of the coaching and teaching staff are volunteers, and the club was the first in Wiltshire to be awarded the “Swim 21” accreditation. This

acknowledged the club for its excellent child protection, health & safety, teaching proficiency and administration.

- 2.4.6 Corsham ASC enjoys a good relationship with local schools, and assists them with their curricula targets including the requirement that every child should be able to swim 25 metres by the age of 11. In addition to this, the club has links with the service community at Basil Hill and Rudloe, and provides official and helpers for the annual Springfield Triathlon. A Masters section is also run for adult swimmers.
- 2.4.7 There are no future running costs for this project, although it is very much hoped that future galas might be held with the support of Wiltshire Amateur Swimming Association, Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership and sponsorship from local businesses.
- 2.4.8 A decision not to fund this project will result in the gala not taking place. It will be a missed opportunity to encourage local children to take up swimming on a regular basis and for everyone at the club to benefit from the experience of the swimming clinic.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.5	Secca Partnership See Appendix 6	Threshold Arts Project	Revenue	£ 500

2.5.1 Option 1 – Award £500 from the revenue budget to Secca to run the Threshold Arts project.

- 2.5.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07, and demonstrates a link to the Community Plan “The survey showed that respondents valued the history and architecture in the area”.
- 2.5.3 This arts project will take place in Lacock and Corsham in partnership with the National Trust, following consultation in July this year. The aim is to engage with community groups to research the textile history of the area.
- 2.5.4 Officers are of the opinion that this project provides an excellent opportunity for groups from diverse backgrounds, and different generations to work together. Several local groups have indicated their wish to participate including the North Wiltshire branch of the University of the Third Age, Lacock WI, Mother & toddler groups, and local history group.
- 2.5.5 In addition to the co-operative working during the research phase, the resulting material can be shared by a much wider audience in Corsham and Lacock.
- 2.5.6 A decision not to fund this project will result in a delay in the project being delivered, and may also restrict the number places available for local people to participate.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 As a result of 3 projects not proceeding, capital funding totalling £24,544 was returned to the Area 4 Committee for 2006/07.

- 3.3 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 2nd February 2006. Should members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.4 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.

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 4.1 of this report.
- 4.1.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £19,025 and a revenue balance of £4,643.
- 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.
- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 All documents relating to the Community Funding Awards are available in hard copy, large print, or via the North Wiltshire District Council website.
- 4.3.3 Officers offer support to applicants through the application process.
- 4.3.4 Expert funding advice is available via the Charities Information Bureau.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Financial Summary • Appendix 2 – Funding Application from Corsham Town Council • Appendix 3 – Funding application from Selwyn Hall • Appendix 4 – Funding application from Corsham Rugby Football Club
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5 – Funding Application from Corsham Amateur Swimming Club • Appendix 6 - Funding Application from Secca
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan • Community Area Award Criteria

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Area 4 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07	Area 4 Committee 16 th May 2006 Area 4 Committee 12 th September 2006	