

## REPORT TO THE Corsham Area (4) Committee Report No.9

Date of Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2007
Title of Report	Corsham Area (4) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08
Link to Corporate Priorities	Community Area Awards can be linked to all 3 of the Council's priorities: Community, Environment and Customers, and in particular, "Make decisions based on the Community Strategy and five Community Plans" through community based projects.
Public Report	Yes

### Summary of Report

**To ask Members to consider 3 applications seeking 2007/08 Community Area Award Funding**  
**To advise Members about the Community Area Award Funding criteria and budget for 2007/08.**

### Officer Recommendations

**To agree funding distribution of Corsham Area (4) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:**

- **Lacock Evergreens - Award £309 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of games and activities for the over 55s club.**
- **Corsham Station Campaign – Award £388 from the revenue budget for website and public consultation meetings to support the reopening of Corsham Railway Station.**
- **Ecolerne – Award £1565 from the revenue budget for a recycling campaign to engage children and young people, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

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 3 applications for 2007/08 Community Area Award funding; all of which relate to issues and priorities identified in the Corsham Area Community Plan.
- 1.2 This report also draws Members attention to the new Funding Criteria and budget for 2007/08.

## 2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Lacock Evergreens See Appendix 4	To purchase games and activities for the over 55s club	Revenue	£ 309

### 2.1.1 Option 1: Award Lacock Evergreens £309 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of games and activities for the over 55s club.

2.1.2 This application meets the 2007/08 funding criteria, and demonstrates an indirect link to the Corsham Area Community Plan. Page 29 “The community wants modern, effective health and social care available as locally as possible”.

2.1.3 Lacock Evergreens is a club for which has been formed for the benefit of people over the age of 55 who live in the Parish of Lacock. A poll of parishioners indicated the need for a social club for older people as there was no community or social activity available specifically for them, and many felt isolated and disadvantaged.

2.1.4 Evergreens provide a place to meet twice a month, offering quizzes, refreshments and guest speakers.

2.1.5 The addition of some indoor games and activities would greatly enhance what the club is able to currently offer. The Evergreens anticipate that this will enable them to increase their membership, and will also give members the opportunity to participate in some gentle physical activity. The items have been selected after consultation with the members.

2.1.6 This is the first application from the Parish of Lacock for some years.

2.1.7 A decision not to fund this project would hinder the applicant’s efforts to provide a range of activities for the older members of the parish.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	Corsham Station Campaign See Appendix 5	To create a website and hold public consultation meetings to support the reopening of Corsham Railway Station.	Revenue	£388

### 2.2.1 Option 2: Award Corsham Station Campaign £388 from the revenue budget for website and public meetings to support the reopening of Corsham Railway Station.

- 2.2.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2007/08 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Page 25 “Re-open Corsham Railway Station”. Approximately 76% of the residents who responded during the consultation process for the Community Plan stated that this was a priority for the area.
- 2.2.3 This campaign has been running for a number of years, but circumstances have recently changed. There is a large new housing development at Katherine Park, and it is anticipated that this will increase the population of Corsham by approximately 10%. In addition to this, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) base at Basil Hill will be expanding its operations, resulting in a large increase in the number of employees on the base. Both of these developments will have a significant impact upon the transport needs for the Corsham area. The campaign group therefore requires new evidence to support the efforts to reopen Corsham Railway Station. The campaign group firmly believes that these 2 factors will have an enormous impact on the campaign, and this new evidence is vital to their efforts.
- 2.2.4 The campaign group intend to launch an interactive website to enable people to enter information about their starting point, destination and journey details. Data will be compared if the journey is made by rail and by road, to evidence the need for the station and people will also be able to calculate the resulting carbon footprint.
- 2.2.5 The Wiltshire County Council (WCC) Structure Panel advised that Corsham should be included in the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study (GBSTS). However, at present the report only includes one reference for the area, this was one roadside interview in Chippenham. The campaign group firmly believe that the information they will gather with this project will be entirely new, and far more robust than the current research.
- 2.2.6 The campaign group is confident that the data from this project, together with information produced by Halcrow on traffic implications of the MOD Basil Hill development, will provide extremely valuable supporting evidence to reopen Corsham Railway Station.
- 2.2.7 A decision not to fund this project may indicate that the Corsham Area (4) Committee is unwilling to support residents campaign to re-open the railway station. It will be a missed opportunity to support the top priority in the Community Plan, and may also result in a lost opportunity to gather significant evidence for the campaign.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Ecolerne See Appendix 6	<b>An awareness campaign to increase recycling rates in Colerne, with a particular focus on engaging children and young people</b>	Revenue	£1565

- 2.3.1 **Option 4: Award Ecolerne £1565 from the revenue budget for a recycling campaign to engage children and young people, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.3.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2007/08 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. Page 23 “Improve local recycling and composting”. Over 70% of local residents in the community area listed this as a priority when consulted.

- 2.3.3 Ecolerne is a group of volunteers who have come together to address environmental issues in the village of Colerne, The group is a dynamic and enthusiastic and have already delivered successful projects in the village.
- 2.3.4 Ecolerne aims to hold a series of events and activities over the next 6 months to promote waste minimisation and increase recycling. The group is working closely with Wiltshire County Council (WCC) and North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC) to achieve this.
- 2.3.5 The project will coincide with the 6 month trial of plastic and cardboard recycling in Colerne which will be launched in May. It is vital to the success of the project that key messages are communicated to everyone in the village on a regular basis, to maintain momentum throughout the 6 month period.
- 2.3.6 The key messages will be delivered in a variety of ways. Posters will be distributed throughout the village, and flyers and articles will also be included with the Parish Magazine which is delivered to every household in Colerne. Colourful fridge magnets will also be distributed to encourage people to “wash and squash” plastic bottles and “pack it flat” for cardboard.
- 2.3.7 The campaign will also focus on engaging children and young people as Ecolerne recognise that this is a particularly effective way of involving all family members. A character called “Eco Ernie” has been created to lead the campaign, and he will be a regular feature at future events. e.g. Children’s recycling competitions, events for the primary school, Brownies and Cubs etc, and the Ecolerne recycling festival in September 2007. An adult sized costume has been designed to ensure maximum impact.
- 2.3.8 Colerne currently recycles 10.6 kg per household per month, and Ecolerne aims to increase this figure to match or indeed surpass the top recyclers in the District who currently recycle 12.5 kg per household per month (statistics provided by NWDC).
- 2.3.9 Ecolerne will monitor the recycling facilities regularly to ensure they are being used correctly, and monthly recycling data will be published in the Parish Magazine, and displayed on the dedicated notice board and in local shops.
- 2.3.10 A decision not to fund this project will prevent Ecolerne from implementing a comprehensive campaign to publicise the recycling trial in the village. Poor publicity will in turn have an impact on the success of the plastic and cardboard pilot recycling project. It would also be a lost opportunity to support one of the highest priorities identified in the Community Plan.

### **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 In 2007/08 Corsham Area (4) Committee has been 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 Following the funding awards made in 2006/07 Corsham Area (4) had a £19,025 balance of capital funding, and £4,643 revenue funding remaining. The rules on carry forward remain unchanged resulting in a carry forward of £19,025 capital funding. The remaining revenue balance was not carried forward.
- 3.3 With the carry forward capital funding added to the current allocation, the total capital budget for 2007/08 is £59,025, and the total revenue budget for 2007/08 is £8,000.

- 3.4 Funding criteria for 2007/08 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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 (see Appendix 1). Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy; the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.5 Key amendments included:
- 3.5.1 That the, 'Guide to Funding' make clear that funding would be awarded according to demand over the three funding rounds rather than the budget being divided equally between the three tranches.
- 3.5.2 A number of minor alterations were made to the 'Funding Criteria' section, including cross-referencing information to the 'Local Funding & Advice' section.
- 3.5.3 The 'Local Funding & Advice' sheet would, in addition to details about external sources of funding, also include information about the Council's Executive Capital Partnership Funding Scheme.
- 3.5.4 In future planning permission would only need to be investigated by the applicant when submitting their application, although the receipt of planning permission would form a condition of an Award being made.
- 3.5.5 Minor changes were made to the application form to make it more user-friendly while maintaining the necessary rigour and responsibilities required when distributing public money.
- 3.5.6 No award would be made to an applicant that exceeded the sum requested on the formal application form. Should Members wish to award a greater sum, the item would need to be deferred until the next funding round and the applicant requested to submit a revised application.
- 3.5.7 Capital and revenue will continue not to be awarded for the same scheme. The rationale for this approach is to ensure that applicants ensure that before committing themselves to capital schemes that they have the means by which they can sustain their project and have funding for running costs.
- 3.5.8 The provision of plaques for larger projects that acknowledged the Council's involvement was considered. These would have a cost that would have to be found from the Area Committee's budget. Details are currently being investigated.
- 3.5.9 A capital award of less than £1,000 may only be made where it can be shown to generate external funding.
- 3.6 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 fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and are able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.
- 3.7 Members are reminded that all applications in 2007/08 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.

3.8 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2007/08. The first is contained in this report, and the other two will take place on:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007
- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008

3.9 The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the October Committee meeting is 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

3.10 Appendix 2 provides details of the 2006/2007 distribution of awards across Corsham Area (4), to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area in 2007/08.

3.11 Appendix 3 provides details of the Corsham Area (4) 2007/08 capital and revenue balances.

## **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 3.1 of this report.

4.1.2 If Members make awards in line with Officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of £59,025 and a revenue balance of £5,738.

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.

4.3.2 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.

4.3.3 All documents relating to the Community Funding Awards are available in hard copy, large print, or via the North Wiltshire District Council website.

4.3.4 Officers offer support to applicants through the application process.

4.3.5 Expert funding advice is available via the Charities Information Bureau.

## **5 Risk Analysis**

5.1 Failure to make awards would have a moderate impact on applicants and their

associated projects. Since this is considered unlikely, the overall risk is considered low.

<p><b>Appendices:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 2 – Financial Summary 2006/07</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 3 – Financial Summary 2007/08</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 4 – Funding Application from Lacock Evergreens</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 5 – Funding Application from Corsham Railway Station Campaign</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 6– Funding Application from Ecolerne</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Corporate Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Area Award Criteria 2007/08</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08</b></li> </ul>

**Previous Decisions Connected with this Report**

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<p><b>Corsham Area (4) Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07</b></p>	<p>Corsham Area (4) Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007</p>	<p>C039</p>
<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<p><b>Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08</b></p>	<p>Executive 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007</p>	<p>E175</p>