

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

Date of Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 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

### Officer Recommendations

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

- **Box Guides – Award £445 from the revenue budget to purchase a tent, guide stationery, badges and craft materials.**
- **Thomas Steaming in Box – Award £500 from the revenue budget to hire Thomas the Tank Steam Engine and bring it to Box as the centrepiece of the Box Revels event.**
- **Box Jubilee Centre – Award £1,660 from the capital budget towards the cost of a replacement boiler, 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; some of which relate to issues and priorities identified in the Corsham Area Community Plan.
- 1.2 Following the funding awards made at the first funding round on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007, Corsham Area (4) had a £59,025 balance of capital funding, and £6,126 balance of revenue funding remaining.
- 1.3 The funding criteria states that awards must be spent on the activities/items specified in the application. In the event that the project costs are less than originally anticipated any surplus funding must be returned. On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Corsham Area (4) Committee awarded the Selwyn Hall Management Committee £1,800 capital funding to purchase chairs with arms. The applicant was able to source chairs at a lower price and has therefore returned £442.00 to the Corsham Area (4) Committee.
- 1.4 Following the return of the surplus capital funding, the total **capital** funding is **£59,467**, and the total **revenue** funding is **£6,126**.
- 1.5 Appendix 1 provides details of the distribution of awards across the Corsham Area (4) in 2007/08, to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the community area.

## 2. Options and Options Appraisal

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.1	Box Guides See Appendix 2	To purchase a tent, guide stationery, badges and craft materials.	Revenue	£ 445

- 2.1.1 **Option 1: Award Box Guides £445 from the revenue budget to purchase a tent, guide stationery, badges and craft materials.**
- 2.1.2 This application meets the funding criteria for 2007/08 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan - page 21 "Lack of places for young people to meet" and "Lack of facilities for young people particularly in the villages."
- 2.1.3 Box has had a Guide Unit for approximately 13 years, and it is a well established and valued organisation in the village. New Guide Leaders will take over the running of the unit in autumn 2007. One of the Guide Unit's tent needs to be replaced as it is old and worn out. Stocks of guide stationery, craft materials and badges have also run very low.
- 2.1.4 In order to retain current members and to encourage new Guides, it is vital to be able to offer a programme of interesting and exciting activities. The purchase of a tent will encourage the Guides to plan for their next camp, and Guide books, craft materials and badges are essential for the Guides to use at their weekly meetings.
- 2.1.5 Box Guides offers young girls a valuable opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities, make new friends, learn new skills, gain confidence and contribute to their community.

- 2.1.6 The new Guide Leaders intend to embark upon a fundraising campaign with the guides in the autumn to purchase other much needed resources such arts and crafts materials.
- 2.1.7 A decision not to fund this project will result in insufficient funding being available to purchase these resources, and this in turn will result in a very restricted programme for the new term. It would also be a missed opportunity for the Corsham Area (4) Committee to fund activities identified in the Community Plan.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	<b>Thomas Steaming in Box</b> See Appendix 3	<b>To hire Thomas the Tank Engine and bring it to Box as the centrepiece of the Box Revels event.</b>	Revenue	£500

**2.2.1 Option 2: Award £500 from the revenue budget to hire Thomas the Tank Steam Engine and bring it to Box as the centrepiece of the Box Revels event.**

- 2.2.2 This application meets funding criteria for 2007/08. It demonstrates a tenuous link with the Community Plan “respondents value their history” but does show a benefit to the community. The Corsham Area (4) Committee is committed to awarding 75% of it’s funding to projects linked to the plan, which leaves the remaining 25% for projects that do not demonstrate a direct link, but where there is a community benefit.
- 2.2.3 The project is to bring Thomas the Tank Engine to Box as a key part of the annual “Box Revels” event. The Revels have been taking place for many years and regularly attract approximately 3000 people. In addition to the community spirit which the Revels promotes, money raised at the event is distributed to local community groups.
- 2.2.4 At the Revels in May 2006 one attraction was “Steam Back to Box” when a steam engine was brought to the village as part of the Brunel 200 celebrations. The engine was a huge success, and it was used to promote competitions and school projects for local school children focusing on the celebration of local heritage. Members are reminded that Corsham Area (4) Committee awarded Steam Back to Box £465 in January 2006 towards the cost of advertising, publicity and school prizes for this event.
- 2.2.5 Following on from this success, Thomas Steaming in Box will once again pick up the theme of Steam trains. This time the focus is on the Thomas the Tank Engine stories, which originated in Box. Lorne House in Box is known as the “Home of Thomas the Tank Engine”, having once been the home of the author Reverend Awdry.
- 2.2.6 The project will form the centrepiece of the Revels, and will provide the local primary school and local nursery groups with the opportunity to encourage the children to learn about and value their local heritage.
- 2.2.7 A decision not to fund this project may result in insufficient funding to enable the applicant to bring the engine to Box, and the village will lose it’s intended centrepiece for the celebrations. It would also be a missed opportunity for Corsham Area (4) members to demonstrate their support for a project which promotes and celebrates local heritage.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.3	Box Jubilee Centre See Appendix 4	To replace the gas boiler at The Jubilee Centre	Capital	£1,660

- 2.3.1 **Option 3: Award £1,660 from the capital budget towards the cost of a replacement boiler, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.3.2 This application meets funding criteria for 2007/08. It demonstrates a partial link to the Community Plan Page 28 "Provide sufficient child and after school care for working parents".
- 2.3.3 The Jubilee Centre is used regularly by a local Pre-School Playgroup and by Box Kids after-school club. Both groups have received very good OFSTED reports. The Centre is also available for hire by private individuals for other functions.
- 2.3.4 In the last 12 months the Centre has undertaken a refurbishment of the kitchen and toilets, and also resurfaced the hard standing/car park at the front of the building. Both the Playgroup and Box Kids groups contributed towards the cost of these works.
- 2.3.5 The replacement of the boiler has now become a priority as the existing boiler is over 30 years old and is inefficient. The new boiler will be far more efficient and environmentally friendly.
- 2.3.6 A decision not to fund this project would delay the replacement of the boiler. It could also result in less usage of the centre by individuals and organisations, which might reduce revenue streams. It would also be a missed opportunity for Corsham Area (4) members to demonstrate their support for a project which supports pre-school and after-school childcare.

### 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 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. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy; the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 3.3 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 fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and are able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.
- 3.4 Members are reminded that all applications 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.
- 3.5 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there will be three funding rounds during 2007/08. The first took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007, the second is contained in this report, and the **final round** will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> **January 2008**.

**3.6 The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the January Committee meeting is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

3.7 At the first funding round on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007, an application from Corsham Station Campaign was deferred in order to invite the applicant to speak to the other group concerned with the Station, with a view to working together. At the time of writing this report, Officers understand that the applicant has not yet contacted the other group. If no new information is forthcoming in time for the third and final funding round on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Members will be obliged to refuse award on the grounds that the additional information required has not been forthcoming.

**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 1.4 of this report.

4.1.2 If Members make awards in line with Officer recommendations, Members will have a **capital balance of £57,807** and a **revenue balance of £5,181**.

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.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1 – Financial Summary 2007/08</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 2 – Funding Application from Box Guides</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 3 – Funding Application from Thomas Steaming in Box</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 4 – Funding Application from Box Jubilee Centre</b></li> </ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Corporate Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Area Award Criteria 2007/08</b></li> </ul>

**Previous Decisions Connected with this Report**

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<b>Community Area Awards Policy 2007/08</b>	Executive 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	E175
<b>Community Funding Distribution</b>	Corsham Area (4) Committee	C09