

Area 2 Community Area Funding Distribution 2005/2006

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To ask Members to consider nine applications seeking 2005/2006 Community Area Award funding.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree funding distribution of the Area 2 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2005/2006 for the following organisations:
- 2.1.1. **1st Wootton Bassett Scout Group – Award £1,930 from the capital budget towards the provision of disability access at entrances and toilet at the Scout Headquarters, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.2. **Ashton Keynes Parish Council – Award £5,000 from the capital budget towards the purchase and installation of a new roundabout and climbing frame on the village playing fields, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.3. **Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre – Award £879 from the capital budget towards repairs to the Village Hall’s floor, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.4. **Breach Lane Disabled Riding Group – Award £1,615 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of a suitable horse for disabled adults and children to ride together with associated tack, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.1.5. **Lydiard Millicent Parish Council – Award £1,000 from the capital budget towards building alterations and the purchase of equipment for the re-instatement of a post office in the village, conditional upon match funding from Lydiard Millicent Parish Council and the remaining funding being in place.**
- 2.1.6. **St Michael’s Church Hall, Lyneham – Award £495 from the revenue budget towards the building of cupboards and redecoration of the hall.**
- 2.1.7. **Family Mediation (North Wiltshire) – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards a training programme for local Community Mediators.**
- 2.1.8. **Wootton Bassett Town Council – Award £4,308 from the capital budget and an ‘in principle’ award of £15,692 from the 2006/7 capital budget, conditional upon:**
- i) the 2006/7 being approved by full Council on 21st February;
 - ii) the balance of funding being in place;
 - iii) that authority be delegated to the Team Leader, Community Partnerships to release the grant; and that
 - iv) the application be referred to the Executive for match funding from the Executive Capital Partnership Fund.
- 2.1.9. **Beaufort Vision – An ‘in principle’ award of £3,000 from the 2006/7 revenue budget towards the funding of a project manager for 6 months, conditional on:**
- i) the 2006/7 being approved by full Council on 21st February;
 - ii) the balance of funding being in place by 30th September 2006; and
 - iii) that authority be delegated to the Team Leader, Community Partnerships to release the grant.

3 Links to Corporate Business Plan Priorities

- 3.1 Community Area Awards can be linked to the Council's priority of Partnerships, Community and Involvement and in practice through community based projects to support the delivery of Community Plans and other Council priorities.

4 Background

- 4.1 Following the funding recommendations made on 12th October 2005, the Area 2 Committee has a community capital balance of £13,117 and a revenue budget of £9,519 for distribution for the remainder of the year. Members are reminded that on 12th October 2005 an award of £3,000 was made from the capital budget to St Sampson's Parish Hall, Cricklade rather than £1,000 as recommended by officers. This has an impact on the closing and opening capital balance.
- 4.2 The demand for capital funding exceeds the budget available, so officers have made a suggestion in the form of an 'in principle' award from the 2006/7 budget for an application from Wootton Bassett Town Council. As this application requests more than £15,000, Members may like to consider referring the application to the Executive Capital Partnership Fund for match funding.
- 4.3 One application for revenue funding meets the agreed criteria but the applicants (Beaufort Vision) may not be able to have the balance of funding in place to take the project forward by the end of March 2006. Again, officers have suggested making an 'in principle' award from the 2006/7 budget.
- 4.4 Both 4.2 and 4.3 above will be dependant on the proposed 2006/7 budget being approved by full Council on 9th February.
- 4.5 This is the third and final funding round of 2005/6.
- 4.6 Appendix 1 provides details of the 2005/6 geographical distribution of awards to date in Area 2.

5 Funding

- 5.1 Funding criteria for 2005/06 were reviewed by a Working Party, which included representatives of all five Area Committees. The revised policy and procedures were subsequently approved by the Executive Committee on 2nd February 2005. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.
- 5.2 Members agreed at the 8th February 2005 meeting that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget would be allocated to applications which demonstrated explicit links to identified priorities in the Northern Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% would be available for those schemes that fell outside the Community Plan, but remained important for local people.
- 5.3 Members are reminded that all applications in 2005/06 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.
- 5.4 There is no indication that unallocated capital funding will be rolled forward to 2006/7. No remaining revenue funding will be rolled forwards

6 Officer Observations & Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.1	1st Wootton Bassett Scout Group See Appendix 2	Provision of disability access at entrances and toilet at the Scout Headquarters	Capital	£1,930

- 6.1.1 This application meets the essential funding criteria and demonstrates links to the Community Plan where it refers to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) (page 20) and to the lack of youth and recreational facilities for young people throughout the Community Area (page 22).
- 6.1.2 At present the Scout Headquarters in Muddy Lane, Wootton Bassett is inaccessible for disabled people. The work will involve bringing access at the main entrance and toilets up to the requirements of the DDA and also work on the path to the emergency exit and subsequent redecoration work.
- 6.1.3 This active Scout Group has a membership of about 140 children and leaders and the proposed alterations will encourage disabled people to join. In addition, the building is, when not in use by the Scouts, already available to other community groups and this is likely to increase with improved access for the disabled.
- 6.1.4 Fundraising has been undertaken by the Scouts.
- 6.1.5 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £1,930 from the capital budget, conditional upon the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.2	Ashton Keynes Parish Council See Appendix 3	Purchase and installation of new roundabout and climbing frame on the village playing fields	Capital	£5,000

- 6.2.1 This application meets the essential funding criteria and has clear links to the Community Plan (page 22) referring to the lack of recreational facilities and playgrounds throughout the Community Area.
- 6.2.2 The existing roundabout and climbing frame are more than 20 years old and have been identified as unsafe in a recent Play Area Safety Inspection. The play equipment at the playing fields is well used by the children living in the village, those at Ashton Keynes Primary School (around 150) and those in neighbouring parishes. The proposed renewal of the equipment was supported by residents in response to questionnaires which formed the basis for a plan for the playing fields drawn up in 2004. It is not the only play area in the village but is the one aimed at younger age groups (infant/junior). The Playing Fields Committee will undertake future safety checks.
- 6.2.3 Fundraising is planned to meet the remaining shortfall.
- 6.2.4 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £5,000 from the capital budget, conditional upon the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.3	Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre See Appendix 4	Repairs to the Village Hall's floor	Capital	£879

- 6.3.1 This application meets the essential funding criteria and has clear links to the Community Plan (22) referring to improvements to recreational facilities throughout the Community Area.
- 6.3.2 The proposed repairs involve stripping, sanding and re-sealing the hall's wooden floor as well as covering it with an additional coat of non-slip sealant. The existing floor has been in place since

the hall was built in 1875 and, apart from general painting and cleaning, no real repairs have ever taken place. There have been complaints about the floor surface from hall users and a specialist has recommended that it needs to be made safe.

- 6.3.3. The hall is a well used (approximately 700 people each month) and valuable facility for the village and local groups hire it regularly for bowls, keep fit, dance classes, etc. In consultation with residents, the Hall Committee has organised fundraising activities towards a new roof but agree that the floor should first be brought up to a good standard.
- 6.3.4. Members are reminded that the Area 2 Committee awarded a grant to this organisation in 2004 towards disabled toilets.
- 6.3.5 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £879 from the capital budget, conditional upon the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.4	Breach Lane Disabled Riding Group See Appendix 5	Purchase of a suitable horse for disabled adults and children to ride together with associated tack	Revenue	£1,615

- 6.4.1 This application meets the essential funding criteria and has clear links to the Community Plan under the reference for supporting vulnerable people (page 20) and addresses the lack of recreational facilities in the Community Area (page 22).
- 6.4.2 The proposal is for the group to buy a larger horse of 14.2 - 15.0 hands for disabled adults or children with Downs Syndrome to ride. (Smaller ponies - already owned by the disabled group – are not suitable with people with some types of disabilities). Also, the horse needs to be of an appropriate temperament – active but quiet and tolerate sudden movement or screams as can happen with disabled riders. The application includes the purchase of a saddle, bridle and rugs.
- 6.4.3 There are about 4 other disabled riding centres in the wider area offering riding for the disabled. All are oversubscribed. Around 20 people use the Breach Lane group each week from local care homes and day centres as well as private users. Others are waiting to start sessions. An additional horse would enable more disabled riders to join. There is much support for this local group with volunteers giving their time freely to help run the sessions. Various fundraising activities have also taken place.
- 6.4.4 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £1,615 from the revenue budget, conditional upon the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.5	Lydiard Millicent Parish Council See Appendix 6	Building alterations and purchase of equipment to open a new village Post Office and shop	Capital	£1,000

- 6.5.1 This application meets the funding criteria and has links to the Community Plan under the section referring to the retention of business start-ups and village shops and Post Offices (page 8).
- 6.5.2 The closure of the village Post Office and shop in 2003 - in spite of great efforts by the Parish Council and parishioners to prevent it - was a great loss to the village. Following consultation involving all households in the village, Lydiard Millicent's Parish Plan 2005 identifies the re-opening of the facility in a new location as a priority action. (Those consulted rated it in the top ten key issues for the village). After considering a number of potential sites, it was agreed that the

new Post Office, with some building alterations, could be in part of the existing garden centre in Stone Lane.

- 6.5.3 The project requires minor alterations to the garden centre including the removal of a wall and the bricking over of windows in order to meet security regulations. The application also requests funding towards capital purchases such as counter and associated equipment. The facility will also have a linked small store facility. The Post Office will be run by an already identified Postmaster who will take on the ongoing commercial risk of running the enterprise.
- 6.5.4 The project will help to enhance village life and provide a service for local people, especially for those who might otherwise find it difficult to travel to post office facilities and shops outside of the village. It will encourage trade in the garden centre which also houses other small local businesses and therefore help to stimulate the local economy.
- 6.5.5 The Parish Council has, together with Community First, secured funding through a Post Office regeneration grant and private funding and is seeking provisional funding from Rural Renaissance. The Parish Council is looking to grant £1000 towards the project.
- 6.5.6 Members may like to be aware that a similar project for the re-opening of a village Post Office and shop in Kington St Michael was awarded funds from the Area 3 Committee in October 2003.
- 6.5.7 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £1,000 from the capital budget, conditional upon match funding from Lydiard Millicent Parish Council and the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.6	St Michael's Church Hall, Lyneham See Appendix 7	Building of cupboards and redecoration of hall	Revenue	£495

- 6.6.1 This application meets the essential funding criteria and has links with the Community Plan. It addresses the lack of and improvements to recreational facilities throughout the Community Area (page 22).
- 6.6.2 The application requests funding towards the building of cupboards for much needed storage needed by user groups and for cleaning equipment. It is also for the painting of the hall to improve the overall standard and brightness making it a more attractive venue for current and potential users.
- 6.6.3 The Church Hall is an important community facility in the village and is well used by a variety of groups. It is used for various dance classes, mother and toddler groups, coffee mornings, slimming clubs, youth groups, birthday parties, charity fund raising, local elections, etc.
- 6.6.4 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £495 from the revenue budget.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.7	Family Mediation (North Wiltshire) See Appendix 8	Training programme for local Community Mediators	Revenue	£500

- 6.7.1 This application meets the funding criteria. It also has links to the Community Plan in that it addresses issues in the Section dealing with Crime and Community Safety (pages 12 and 13) and Education and Lifelong Learning (page 11).

- 6.7.2 The proposed training programme involves the recruitment of up to 12 local people to a course leading to a recognised qualification. Training will include mediation techniques to help solve neighbourhood disputes around such issues as noise, parking, anti-social behaviour, etc. Once qualified the mediators work voluntarily in the community to foster peaceful solutions to problems encouraging social integration. Trained mediators work in pairs and initially visit individual parties in their homes followed by meetings at a neutral venue. They work closely the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Police, legal firms, housing associations, etc.
- 6.7.3 Although this is a district-wide service, this funding is to address specific needs of users in Area 2. For example, there have recently been a number of mediation referrals from the Wootton Bassett area.
- 6.7.4 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £500 from the revenue budget, conditional upon the remaining funding being in place.

Ref	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.8	Wootton Bassett Town Council Appendix 9	Refurbishment of Jubilee Lake	Capital	£20,000

- 6.8.1 This application meets the funding criteria and has links with the Community Plan. It addresses the lack of recreational facilities throughout the Community Area (page 22), lack of Public Open Space (page 22), tourism opportunities (page 8), the protection of sites of special status (page 17), concerns about the population's general health (page 21) and support for local schools (page 10).
- 6.8.2 Members will already be aware of ongoing plans for this site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). NWDC's Senior Regeneration Officer has been working closely with the Town Council and English Nature towards this.
- 6.8.3 As set out in the Council's Open Spaces Study, under Section 4.28, Jubilee Lake is only one of three District Parks in North Wiltshire and is also the largest at 11.5 hectares. It has a range of areas including open water, semi-natural green space, amenity grass, playing fields and play areas. It has a small car park and relatively good walking links to the town (via the Row de Dow footpath). The site is managed by the Town Council with adjacent fields in private ownership. Under section 4.67 of the same Study, it is identified as a potential Local Nature Reserve (LNR) based on English Nature guidelines.
- 6.8.4 The Town Council is following a Management Plan completed by the Cotswold Water Park. This deals mainly with the ecological aspect of the site but also looks at recreation and improvements. Plans are extensive and include the re-surfacing of some of the pathways to a high standard in keeping with the natural feel of the site as well as new footpaths with handrails and more standard resurfacing to the car park area. There are also footbridges, picnic tables, signage and a tree and shrub planting programme.
- 6.8.5 It is clear that these enhancements will greatly improve the facilities at the site for residents of Wootton Bassett, those living elsewhere in Area 2 and throughout the district. It will also encourage visitors and tourists to the area. The improvements, undertaken with more community involvement, may also help to increase the likelihood of the site being awarded LNR status.
- 6.8.6 The Town Council is investing heavily in this project and has committed funds towards the work. Community First has been involved and the Town Council is applying for funds from Landfill Tax Credits. A small number of other local community groups such as the Jubilee Lake Conservation Group, Wootton Bassett Angling Club, Sea and Army Cadets and the Friends of the Row de Dow are involved. It is anticipated that once the work is underway, more local groups, such as local schools, will become more involved.

- 6.8.7 Due to constraints on tree planting and other refurbishment activities, work on this project needs to start soon. The next funding round begins in June which would be too late for some of the project plans. Under current criteria applicants are unable to apply for funds retrospectively from the Community Awards Scheme. The Town Council has therefore asked that the award be considered at the last funding round of the 2005/6.
- 6.8.8 The request for funding far exceeds that which the Committee has to give. This is recognised by the applicants. However, if an Area Committee is satisfied that all grant conditions are met then Members can make an 'in principle' award from the following year's budget – subject to the budget being approved by full Council at its meeting on 21st February. These funds would be available from 1st April 2006.
- 6.8.9 Members may also like to be aware that where an Area Committee grants awards of £15,000 or more then, if requested by Members, that application can be passed to Executive to contribute match funding from the Executive Capital Partnership Fund. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the criteria for this additional funding.
- 6.8.10 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £4,308 from the capital budget and an 'in principle' award of £15,692 from the 2006/7 capital budget, conditional upon:
- i) the 2006/7 being approved by full Council on 21st February;
 - ii) the balance of funding being in place;
 - iii) that authority be delegated to the Team Leader, Community Partnerships to release the grant; and that
 - iv) the application is referred to the Executive for match funding from the Executive Capital Partnership Fund.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
6.9	Beaufort Vision Appendix 10	Funding of a project manager for a 6 month period for the proposed Beaufort Brewery Arts Centre	Revenue	£3000

- 6.9.1 This application meets funding criteria and has links to the Community Plan where it specifically refers to the proposed Brewery Arts Centre on the former St Ivel site in Wootton Bassett (page 23).
- 6.9.2 Members will recall that a presentation was given about this project at the Area 2 Committee meeting on 12th October 2005. There has been positive promotion in the town about the project, an initial business plan has been produced, charitable status has been sought and local fundraising has also begun. The developers of the site have also given advice to the trustees of the proposed Arts Centre.
- 6.9.3 The Council's Design and Estates Officer and the Senior Conservation Officer have met with the trustees and are of the opinion that this ambitious project would, at this early stage, be best taken forward by an appointed agent/project manager. This role would include looking at the feasibility of the proposal, drawing plans, making initial funding bids, liaising with developers and planning authorities and looking at the possibility of commercially based activities at the site to help make it a sustainable project.
- 6.9.4 The refurbishment of the old brewery building and the establishment of various arts facilities such as a theatre, cinema, music and dance practice rooms, a bar and cafe will need substantial investment. Such a facility would be of value to the local community and offer a diverse range of arts-based activities. It is in line with an identified need in the Community Plan. However, Members are reminded that in July 2004 the Executive agreed to support the Pound Centre in Corsham as the district-wide arts facility. (£1.2m has been invested in this project). It would be unlikely to invest heavily in a second one. Members may need to consider whether two arts centres in close proximity to each other could be sustainable in North Wiltshire.

- 6.9.5 Beaufort Vision has recently submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for funding to recruit a project manager. The overall cost is estimated at £12,000. The bid to the HLF is for 75% of these costs. The 25% shortfall at £3000 is the figure applied for from the Area Committee. As this application falls to the revenue budget, the money must be spent by March 31st 2006. It is not yet clear when a decision will be made by HLF. If Members granted an award from the 2005/6 budget, this would give the trustees very little time to finalise things with the HLF and fill the post.
- 6.9.6 Revenue funds cannot be carried over to the new Financial Year. However, if an Area Committee is satisfied that all grant conditions are met then Members can make an 'in principle' award from the following year's budget – subject to the budget being approved by full Council on 21st February. These funds would be available from 1st April 2006.
- 6.9.7 Members may like to consider making an award for a limited period. For example, an award could be made conditional on the balance of funding being in place after six months. This should give Beaufort Vision adequate time to receive decisions on other funding applications. After this time, if not spent, the money could be offered back to the revenue budget for other applications to the Community Awards Scheme.
- 6.9.8 Members are reminded that applicants can make no more than one application per project.
- 6.9.9 **Officer Recommendation** – Award £3000 from the 2006/7 capital budget, conditional upon:
- i) the 2006/7 being approved by full Council on 21st February;
 - ii) the balance of funding being in place by 30th September 2006; and
 - iii) that authority be delegated to the Team Leader, Community Partnerships to release the grant.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to the Area 2 Committee as outlined in section 4.1 of this report.
- 7.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, Members will have a capital balance of nil and a revenue balance of £6,909.
- 7.3 Consideration needs to be made to ensure a balance of funding across towns, villages and hamlets within the Community Area.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1 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.

9. Human Resources Implications

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

Documents used in the preparation of Report

Community Area Grant Proposal Forms
Northern Community Area Plan

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER TO AREA 2 COMMITTEE 8th FEBRUARY 2006 Report Prepared by

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