

REPORT TO THE AREA 2 COMMITTEE

Report No. 6

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| Date of Meeting | 18th October 2006 | | | |
| Title of Report | Area 2 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07 | | | |
| Link to Corporate Priorities | Partnership Working with links to Healthy Lifestyles and Equalities and Diversity. | | | |
| Public Report | Yes | | | |
| <p>Summary of Report This report sets out recommendations for 6 applications for funding from the 2006/7 Community Area Award Scheme. It links the applications, where appropriate, to the Northern Community Area Plan. It also requests that Members invite a revised application for works to the village hall at Bushton/Clyffe Pypard.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Officer Recommendations</p> <p>To agree funding distribution of the Area 2 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cricklade Art Group - Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the cost of exhibition equipment 2. Bradenstoke Bugle – Award £545 from the revenue budget towards the cost of a laser printer, conditional on the balance of funding being in place 3. Cricklade Historical Society – Award £340 from the revenue budget towards the cost of computer monitors 4. Great Western Community Forest – Award £1,000 from the revenue budget towards the costs of Wootton Bassett Forest Festival, conditional on the balance of funding being in place 5. Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall – Award £1,660 from the capital budget towards the replacement of windows, conditional on the balance of funding being in place 6. Lydiard Millicent Pre-School – Award £5,000 from the capital budget towards the building of a new early years classroom, conditional on all appropriate planning permissions being granted and the balance of funding being in place 7. To invite a revised application for funding from the Bushton and Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Management Committee. | | | | |
| 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 6 applications for 2006/07 Community Area Award funding, most of which demonstrate a link to the issues and priorities identified in the Northern Community Area Plan.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|--|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 2.1 | Cricklade Art Group See Appendix 1 | Purchase of exhibition equipment | Revenue | £500 |

2.1.1 Option 1 – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the cost of exhibition equipment.

- 2.1.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan (page 23) referring to the lack of arts and cultural activities in the area.
- 2.1.3 The Cricklade Art Group is newly established and has been running since April. With around 25-30 members, it meets in venues in Cricklade and is open to those who are learning and developing all forms of art skills. It held an exhibition of its work during the Cricklade Festival in July where a great deal of interest was shown. Another exhibition will be held later this year.
- 2.1.4 In order to display its art work the group needs hanging screens, lights, plinths and easels. Contributions towards these costs have already been confirmed by the Waylands Trust and Cricklade Town Council. The group itself is also contributing through membership fees, donations, etc.
- 2.1.5 A decision not to fund this project may indicate that the Area 2 Committee is unwilling to support local arts and cultural activities. Also, it may result in not acquiring enough funding in time for the next planned exhibition.

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|--|--|------------|-------------------|
| 2.2 | Bradenstoke Bugle See Appendix 2 | To purchase a laser printer for the continued production of the local magazine | Capital | £545 |

2.2.1 Option 2 - Award £545 from the revenue budget towards the cost of a laser printer, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.2.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07. Although the project does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan, it has clear benefits to the local community. Current Criteria allows for 25% of the overall budget to be spent on projects falling outside of the Community Plan.
- 2.2.3 The Bradenstoke Bugle has been produced for the last seven years by a husband and wife team in Lyneham. This is a local publication with 11 annual issues giving useful local information to people living in the villages of Bradenstoke and Lyneham.

It is delivered to every household in Bradenstoke and copies are also printed for the library and Post Office in Lyneham.

- 2.2.4 The production run at 600 is small and does not justify the expense of commercial printing. The printers currently used are old and slow and the Bugle takes a full day to print. A modern laser printer would need to be loaded only 6 times rather than 36, need less toner and complete the run within 3 hours.
- 2.2.5 Advertising and subscriptions meet the cost of paper and toner but not the capital for a new printer. There has been an excellent response to a call for donations towards a new printer from Bugle readers. This reiterates the importance local people put on the continued publication of their magazine.
- 2.2.6 A decision not to fund this project may cast doubt on the continued and improved publication of the Bugle magazine.

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 2.3 | Cricklade Historical Society See Appendix 3 | To purchase two computer monitors | Revenue | £340 |

- 2.3.1 **Option 3 - Award £340 from the revenue budget towards the cost of computer monitors.**
- 2.3.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan (page 23) referring to support for cultural activities and for local museums.
- 2.3.3 Cricklade Historical Society runs and maintains the Cricklade Museum. In spite of its small size and not ideal location, it houses more than 8,000 items in its collection and offers research resources for family trees, local history, maps, etc. It is a key tourist attraction for the town. More information can be found on its website at www.cricklademuseum.org
- 2.3.4 The Society needs to replace two old computer monitors. New ones will provide better images, help to address the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and free up desk space. One monitor will be for the use of the museum's 500 plus visitors and the other for use by the 15-20 volunteers who help to run it.
- 2.3.5 Although calls for donations for used/nearly new flat screen monitors were made (including a request for screens surplus to requirements at NWDC) nothing has been identified. Current reserve funds have already been allocated towards forward planning on decoration and maintenance costs (much of which are taken up by electricity charges for keeping the temperature right for the conservation of historical pieces and documents). Any other unforeseen expenditure has to be met through donations or grants.
- 2.3.6 A decision not to award a grant would hinder the Historical Society's efforts to improve facilities for both its visitors and the working conditions of its volunteers.

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|---|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 2.4 | Great Western Community Forest See Appendix 4 | Wootton Bassett Forest Festival | Revenue | £2,652 |

2.4.1 Option 4 — Award £1,000 from the revenue budget towards the cost of Wootton Bassett Forest Festival, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.4.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates direct links to the Community Plan where it refers to helping to regenerate the local economy (pages 8 and 9), education (page 10), environmental issues (page 17-19) and recreational activities (page 22).
- 2.4.3 Great Western Community Forest (GWCF) is running an event, the Wootton Bassett Forest Festival, on Saturday, 19th May 2007. This will be to celebrate trees and associated products and to help promote a greener lifestyle through interactive displays and workshops as well as to inform about climate change. It will be completely free and provide a range of family entertainment including live music, theatre, displays and locally produced food. Schools, local businesses and community groups will have the opportunity to be involved in the lead up to it all. It will take place at a site between Ballards Ash and Jubilee Lake in Wootton Bassett and will help to celebrate the refurbishment work that has recently taken place at the lake.
- 2.4.4 GWCF has a good deal of experience and expertise in running environmental forest events and are part of a broad partnership of environmental organisations which can be drawn on to support this event. Amongst others, these include the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust, Natural England and the Forestry Commission. The District Council's Senior Regeneration Officer will also be involved with the project.
- 2.4.5 There has been much support from Wootton Bassett's Town Council (which has already committed funds towards the project) and its Chamber of Commerce. Involvement will also come from town's comprehensive school and local primary schools.
- 2.4.6 Criteria for funding from the 2006/7 revenue budget state that any grant awarded must be spent by March 2007. Although the event itself does not take place until May 2007, GWCF has confirmed that much of the expenditure will have to be met by the end of the current financial year.
- 2.4.7 If Members make decisions in line with officer recommendations in paras. 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, there will be a balance of £2,205 in the revenue budget. This means that Members could not award the full amount requested (£2,652) and awarding the balance remaining in the budget would leave no funds available for revenue grants in the third and final funding round of 2006/7.
- 2.4.8 Members are reminded that the Area 2 Committee awarded £20,000 towards the environmental refurbishment of Jubilee Lake at its meeting on 8th February 2006. This was match funded by the Executive's Capital Partnership Funding Scheme bringing the total contribution made by the District Council towards the Jubilee Lake project to £40,000.

2.4.9 If a decision is made not to award any funding towards this project it may hamper booking arrangements and force organisers to look for alternative festival entertainment or activities.

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|--|---|------------|-------------------|
| 2.5 | Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall See Appendix 5 | To replace existing rotting panels and windows in the kitchen and dressing room of the hall | Capital | £3,320 |

2.5.1 Option 5 — Award £1,660 from the capital budget towards the replacement of windows conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 2.5.1 This application generally meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan (page 22-23) where it refers to a lack of recreational facilities.
- 2.5.2 Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall is the largest hall in the area and the only one with the capacity to hold large public meetings. It is well used by a range of local community groups as well as being hired by private individuals. An after school club uses the hall during term time and school holidays. Amongst others, theatre groups, gardening clubs, and an operatic society are all regular users. This committee also uses the hall for a number of its meetings.
- 2.5.3 The hall was built in the early 1960s with extensions added in the 1970s with a style typical of those times. This committee awarded funds for replacement windows to the other side of the hall (bar annexe) in 2004. The proposed work is to replace rotting panels with windows and brickwork to match the previous work done in 2004.
- 2.5.4 Members are reminded that awards were granted to the Memorial Hall in 2001 (£5915 - redecoration), 2004 (£2485 - replacement windows), 2005 (£2565 - fire alarm system).
- 2.5.5 The Memorial Hall is unable to fund the whole project from its own funds. At present, hire charges cover expected maintenance costs but not unplanned expenditure. The required works have only recently been identified and in order to meet the deadline for receipt of applications one was submitted immediately for Area 2 funding. It is expected the applicants will also seek funds from alternative sources other than the District Council. In the case of the Memorial Hall, officers would expect the Town Council to also contribute to the works. (The Town Council is represented on the Management Committee and takes part in decisions about the running of the hall).
- 2.5.6 If a decision is made by Members not to award what is around 25% towards the overall costs of this project, the works would be delayed and the existing problem likely to worsen.

| Ref. | Applicant | Proposal | Award Type | Funding Requested |
|------|---|---|------------|-------------------|
| 2.6 | Lydiard Millicent Pre-School See Appendix 6 | Building of a new early years classroom | Capital | £5,000 |

2.6.1 Option 6 – Award £5,000 from the capital budget towards the building of a new early years classroom, conditional on all appropriate planning permissions being granted and the balance of funding being in place.

2.6.2 This application meets the essential criteria for 2006/7. It demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan particularly where it refers to supporting the vitality of village schools and seeking permanent sites for pre-school facilities (page 10) and increased training opportunities for those working with children and young people (page 11).

2.6.3 Lydiard Millicent Pre-school (LMPS) is a thriving group that caters for young children in the parishes of Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoz and is run by a parent management committee. The lease on its current classroom expires in July 2007 and will not be renewed.

2.6.4 LMPS wants to extend its current provision by building a new classroom on a site adjacent to Lydiard Millicent Primary School. This will offer full time day care open to all children aged 0 – 5 years living in the two parishes. This would mean increasing its current provision from 4 to 9 sessions per week. It also aims to run a holiday club for 3-11 year olds. This extension to services will greatly help those in the community who are working parents. It would also ease the passage of local children into the reception class of the village school. (However, there would be no guarantee of admission into the primary school).

2.6.5 There is much support for this project and a clear demand for the pre-school. Children are already registered for 2006/7 with some prospective parents currently being turned away. In addition, the only other local pre-school is closing which will reduce local provision.

2.6.6 LMPS has worked hard to raise funds for the project and has submitted bids to a number of other funders. The application itself is open and transparent and gives a breakdown of the costs of the project as a whole rather than for one capital purchase.

2.6.7 Planning permission is currently being sought and a decision expected before the Area 2 Committee meets on 18th October.

2.6.8 If a decision is made not to award a grant to this project it would delay the programme for building works set out in the business plan and may weaken LMPS's applications to other funders. This in turn may create a situation where there would be no provision for early years childcare in the village.

2.7 Option 7 - To invite a revised application for funding from the Bushton and Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Management Committee.

2.7.1 The Bushton and Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Management Committee has recently submitted an application for funding for improvement works to the village hall. The project is a good one and links directly to the priorities in the Community Plan.

However, the application has been withdrawn for a little more background work and will be submitted to this committee at the next or subsequent funding round.

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 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.
- 3.2 Funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget is allocated to applications that demonstrate clear links to the Northern Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% is 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.
- 3.3 In 2006/07 all funding applications will be considered under the same Community Area Award criteria. Those schemes requesting £500 or less will not require match funding, while those requesting more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of the project.
- 3.4 Following the funding recommendations made on 14th June 2006, the Area 2 Committee has a capital balance of £17,487 and a revenue balance of £3,590 available for distribution for the remainder of the year.
- 3.5 At its meeting on 8th February 2006, this committee granted an award of £3,000 from the revenue budget to the Beaufort Brewery Arts Centre project in Wootton Bassett. This was towards the funding of a consultant for 6 months to look at the feasibility and forward planning of the project. A deadline for claiming this money was recommended and agreed by Members as 30th September 2006. The bid to Rural Renaissance for the remainder of the funding will be decided by its Board on 20th October and, therefore, after the deadline. After consultation with relevant officers and informing the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee, an extension to this deadline was given to 31st October. (Current criteria states that money should be spent by 31st March 2007).
- 3.5 Appendix 7 provides the details of the 2006/07 geographical distribution of awards across Area 2 to date.
- 3.6 Members are reminded that there will be three funding rounds during 2006/07. The first took place on 14th June 2006, the second is contained in this report, and the third will take place on:
 - 28th February 2007 (with a deadline for receipt of applications of 12th January 2007)

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 2 Committee as outlined in Section 3 of this report.
- 4.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, there will be a capital balance of **£10,827** and a revenue balance of **£1,205**.

5 Community & Environmental Implications

- 5.1 All of the awards can be directly linked to priority themes and aspirations laid out in the Northern Community Area 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.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards Scheme has been undertaken and there are no significant issues identified within this. This assessment can be found under Equality Impact Assessments, Community and Environment, Community Planning on the District Council's website www.northwilts.gov.uk. Copies can be downloaded or made available on request.

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.

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| Appendices: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Funding application - Cricklade Art Group • Appendix 2 – Funding application - Bradenstoke Bugle • Appendix 3 – Funding application - Cricklade Historical Society • Appendix 4 – Funding application - Great Western Community Forest • Appendix 5 – Funding application - Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall • Appendix 6 – Funding application - Lydiard Millicent Pre-School • Appendix 7 – Financial Summary |
| Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Award Funding Criteria • Northern Community Area Plan |

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

| Report | Committee & Date | Minute Reference |
|---|--|------------------|
| Area 2 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07 | Area 2 Committee 8 th February 2006 | CR41 |