

**REPORT TO THE CRICKLADE & WOOTTON  
BASSETT AREA (2) COMMITTEE**

Report No.7

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2007</b>			
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area 2 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07</b>			
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working with links to Healthy Lifestyles and Equalities and Diversity.			
Public Report	Yes			
<b>Summary of Report</b>				
<p>This report sets out recommendations for 2 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 gives a brief outline of the historical spread of funding to community facilities across Area 2 over the last 5 years.</p>				
<b>Officer Recommendations</b>				
<b>To agree funding distribution of the Area 2 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Committee – Award £7,500 from the capital budget towards the cost of an extension to the Village Hall and improvements to the car park with the creation of a picnic and play area. Also, that this be released enabling the applicant to begin Phase 1 of the project for extension works to the hall, conditional on:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>the balance of funding being in place for the extension works</b></li> <li>ii) <b>that the grant is not used for other work</b></li> <li>iii) <b>that the applicant does not request funding from the Area 2 Committee for any further phase of this project.</b></li> </ol> </li>   <li>2. <b>St Michael’s Church Hall, Lyneham – Award £938 from the capital budget towards improvements to the hall’s access for the disabled, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.</b></li>   <li>3. <b>To ask Members to note the historical spread of funding to community facilities in Area 2 to identify where repeat funding has been awarded.</b></li> </ol>				
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 2 applications for 2006/07 Community Area Award funding, both 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	Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Committee  See Appendix 1	Extension to the Village Hall and improvements to the car park with the creation of a picnic and play area	Capital	£7,500

**2.1.1 Option 1 - Award £7,500 from the capital budget towards the cost of an extension to the Village Hall and improvements to the car park with the creation of a picnic and play area. Also, that this be released enabling the applicant to begin Phase 1 of the project for extension works to the hall, conditional on:**

- i) the balance of funding being in place for the extension works
- ii) that the grant is not used for other work
- iii) that the applicant does not request funding from the Area 2 Committee for any further phase of this project.

2.1.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan. References can be found at page 22 where it refers to the lack of recreational facilities throughout the Community Area and specifically on page 24 where this proposed work is listed as a main priority.

2.1.3 The Village Hall is in the parish of Clyffe Pypard which includes the village of Clyffe Pypard and the hamlet of Bushton. Other than the village hall, there are no facilities for young people in this quite isolated community. The hall is well used by local groups and those further afield. These include the Gilbert Car Club, the Wootton Bassett Light Operatic Society, Clarendon Players, Swindon Parkinson's Society, the Women's Institute (WI) and many other organisations. It has also been used by the Northern Community Area Partnership and the District Council.

2.1.4 The Village Hall Management Committee is planning to build an extension to the hall (built around 15-20 years ago) to provide a proper storage area and, following a recent disability audit, a ramp access and toilet for the disabled.

2.1.5 Consultation with residents has also indicated a real need for better play and recreational facilities. The parish is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with a network of footpaths one of which runs past the hall. It was felt that part of the area around the building could be landscaped for use as a picnic area – a good starting or stopping off point for walkers. It could also incorporate 2-3 pieces of play equipment for small children. Also, rather innovatively, it was agreed the car park area (which is badly in need of resurfacing) could offer dual use - somewhere where local older children could play more safely with a ball. A sportswall unit comprising of a kickwall and basketball ring will also be installed.

2.1.6 It is hoped that the works to extend the hall will encourage further use and hire of the facility.

The proposed outside improvements would clearly increase recreational space for children and teenagers living in the parish, provide a pleasant picnic area for walkers and local mothers/grandparents and toddlers.

- 2.1.7 This is a well supported project with close to 50% of the total cost being raised locally. (Local people are very much involved with improving the facility. For example, the local WI has recently contributed two cookers for the kitchen). Other funders have also been approached and the success of these applications will be known in the coming months.
- 2.1.8 The applicant would like to take the project forward in phases. Phase 1 of the project will be work on the extension and this will need to begin in May/June 2007. This will be followed by work to the car park/play area and landscaping for the picnic area. If Area 2 funding is released to enable the first phase to begin, the applicant is unable, under current criteria, to apply for further funding to cover other phases of this same project.
- 2.1.9 Members may like to be aware that a grant of £1,000 was made to the Village Hall Committee in 2001. This was to enable a local consultation exercise, a feasibility study and initial plans to be drawn up. Again, a clear indication that this is a properly planned community project.
- 2.1.10 A decision not to fund this project may indicate that the Area 2 Committee is unwilling to support improvements to community facilities in rural areas. Also, it may result in the project not acquiring enough funding in time to begin works in May/June 2007 as planned.

Ref.	Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
2.2	<b>St Michael's Church Hall</b>  See Appendix 2	Improvements to the hall's access for the disabled	Capital	£938

- 2.2.1 **Option 2 - Award £938 from the capital budget towards improvements the hall's access for the disabled, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.**
- 2.2.2 This application meets the essential funding criteria for 2006/07 and has links to the Community Area Plan. (See references on pages 20 and 22).
- 2.2.3 The application requests funding towards the conversion of the entrance to the Church Hall to appropriate steps, ramp and handrail to enable wheelchair access. This will make help to make the building compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and will also encourage wider use of the hall.
- 2.2.4 This is an important community facility to the village of Lyneham. It is well used by a number of local groups including youth groups, dance clubs, slimming clubs, mother and toddler groups (the new access will be beneficial to this group as pushchair access will also be improved) and other organisations and individuals. It is also used for local elections and by the Area 2 Committee.
- 2.2.5 Members should be aware that a grant of £495 from the revenue budget was made to the Church Hall in February 2006. This was for the building of storage cupboards and the redecoration of the hall. It was originally hoped that the application would have included a request for funding towards the access works. However, the applicant was unable to acquire the relevant quotes in time to meet the deadline for

receipt of applications. The much needed redecoration work was well overdue and, at the time, it was thought sensible to prioritise this.

- 2.2.6 A decision not to fund this project may result in the project not acquiring enough funding to undertake the access improvements and may indicate that the Area 2 Committee is not willing to help improve facilities towards the inclusion of disabled people in community activities.

**3. Option 3 - To ask Members to note the historical spread of funding to community facilities in Area 2 to identify where repeat funding has been awarded.**

- 3.1 At the Area 2 Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October, officers were asked by Members to provide information about the historical spread of funding to community facilities across the Community Area. A breakdown of expenditure over the last 6 years is at Appendix 3.

- 3.2 It is clear from Appendix 3 which community facilities have been granted Community Awards and subsequently returned to the Committee for further funding from the Scheme.

- 3.3 This was discussed by the Working Party that met on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to review Community Area Award funding criteria for 2007/8. (This included representatives from the Area 2 Committee). It was felt that where applicants return for more funding - often those seeking money for community halls and playgrounds – it was usually for a separate project. For example, often the refurbishment of a hall was phased to allow for its continued use and/or for more fundraising to take place.

- 3.4 Also, in the case of halls with an ecclesiastical connection there were sometimes difficulties in obtaining grants from other funders. This District Council's Community Award Scheme does not reject applications from church groups requesting money where a project demonstrates a wider community benefit.

- 3.5 No recommendations were made as to a change in the criteria for the handling of repeat applications. It was advised that officers should continue to refer to any previous awards in their recommendations to Members. Each application should be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

**4. Background Information**

- 3.1 Following the funding recommendations made on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006, the Area 2 Committee has a capital balance of **£9,275** and a revenue balance of **£98**.

- 3.2 Members are reminded that this is the last of three funding rounds for 2006/7. The first took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006, the second on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and the third is contained in this report.

- 3.3 Members will want to be aware that, at the time of writing this report, there is no indication whether or not unallocated capital funding will be rolled to 2007/8. (This will be made clear following the Executive meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007). Any remaining revenue funding will not be carried forward.

- 3.4 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Appendix 4 provides the details of the 2006/07 geographical distribution of awards across Area 2 to date.

**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 **£837** and a revenue balance of **£98**.

**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](http://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.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1 – Funding application – Clyffe Pypard Village Hall Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 2 – Funding application – St Michael’s Church Hall</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 3 – Breakdown of Community Awards granted by the Area 2 Committee 2002-2007</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 4 - Financial Summary</b></li> </ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Area Award Funding Criteria 2006/7</b></li> </ul>

the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Community Area Plan</li> </ul>
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**Previous Decisions Connected with this Report**

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
<b>Area 2 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/07</b>	Area 2 Committee 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	CR29