

Date:

TO: All Members of the Abingdon Area
Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 2ND JULY, 2009** at **7.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in the Code of Conduct adopted on 30 September 2007 and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Carole Nicholl, Head of Democratic Services, on telephone number (01235) 547631 / carole.nicholl@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Head of Democratic Services know beforehand and she will do her very best to meet your requirements.

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and Vision

(Page 4)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached.

The Council's Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

1. Election of Chair

To elect a Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

2. Election of Vice Chair

To elect a Vice Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

4. Minutes

(Pages 5 – 11)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 19 March 2009 (copy attached).

5. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

Any Member with a personal interest or a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct, in any matter to be considered at a meeting, must declare the existence and nature of that interest as soon as the interest becomes apparent in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

When a Member declares a personal and prejudicial interest he shall also state if he has a dispensation from the Standards Committee entitling him/her to speak, or speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Where any Member has declared a personal and prejudicial interest he shall withdraw from the room while the matter is under consideration unless

- (a) His/her disability to speak, or speak and vote on the matter has been removed by a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee, or

- (b) members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter by statutory right or otherwise. If that is the case, the Member can also attend the meeting for that purpose. However, the Member must immediately leave the room once he/she has finished; or when the meeting decides he/she has finished whichever is the earlier and in any event the Member must leave the room for the duration of the debate on the item in which he/she has a personal and prejudicial interest.

6. Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements

To receive notification of any matters, which the Chair determines, should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances, which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

7. Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

8. Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

9. Community Grants

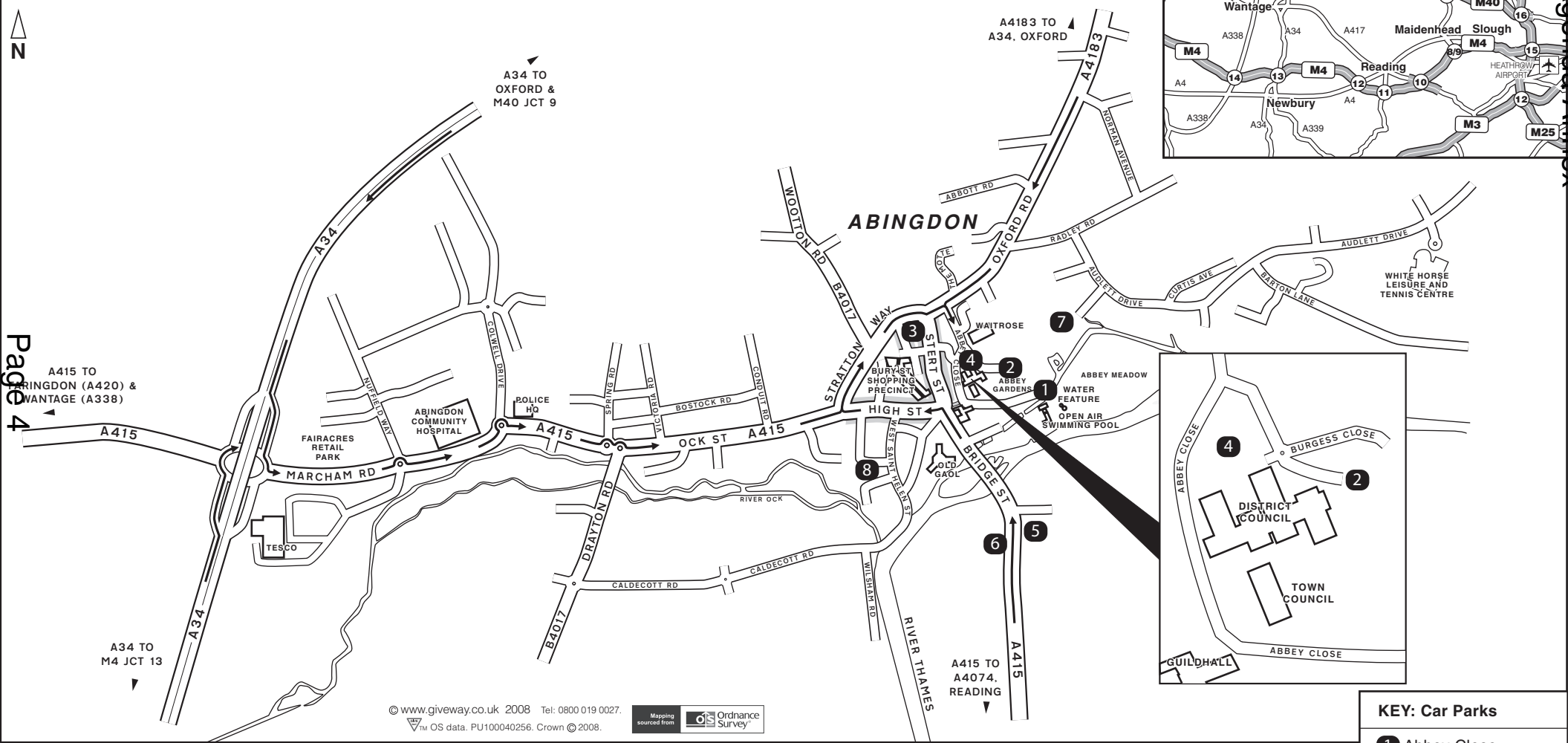
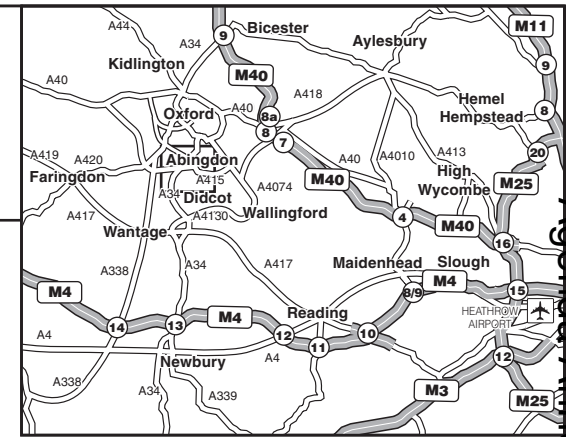
(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Abingdon Dunmore; Abingdon Fitzharris; Abingdon Northcourt; Abingdon Ock Meadow; Abingdon Peachcroft; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford;)

(Pages 12- 22

To receive and consider report 19/09 of the Head of Corporate Strategy (attached).

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None.



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KEY: Car Parks

- 1 Abbey Close
- 2 Cattle Market
- 3 Charter Multi-storey
- 4 Civic
- 5 Rye Farm
- 6 Hales Meadow
- 7 Audlett Drive
- 8 West St Helen Street

By rail – the nearest main line railway stations to Abingdon are either Didcot Parkway (seven miles) or Oxford (eight miles). Radley railway station is located on the main line between Oxford and Didcot and is three miles from Abingdon town centre. For details of train times visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484950

By bus – there are a number of bus routes serving Abingdon town centre. For details of services and timetables, visit Oxfordshire County Council's website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk. Contact details for bus operators can be found on the travel information pages on our website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Parking – details of car parks charges can be found on our website

Ab.44

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE GUILDHALL,
ABINGDON ON THURSDAY, 19TH
MARCH, 2009 AT 7.00PM

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Angela Lawrence (Chair), Beth Fleming (Vice-Chair), Richard Webber, Tony de Vere, Richard Gibson, Julie Mayhew-Archer and Laurel Symons.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lorna Edwards, Claire Litchfield and Toby Warren.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

Ab.36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janet Morgan, Samantha Bowring, Pat Lonergan, Alison Rooke, Mary de Vere and Gervase Duffield.

Ab.37 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 November 2008 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record subject to corrections to references (minute Ab.31) that the Town Council “ran” the Chamber of Commerce, as this was not the case.

Ab.38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests in report 175/08 – Community Grants as follows:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Type of interest</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Minute Ref</u>
Beth Fleming	Personal	Oxfordshire Play Association	In so far as the school at which she was employed was a member of the association.	Ab.42
Richard Webber	Personal and Prejudicial	Drayton Village Hall	In so far as he was a member of the Village Hall Management.	Ab.42
Richard Webber	Personal and Prejudicial	Drayton Village Hall	In so far as he was a Member of Drayton Parish Council.	Ab.42

Ab.39 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that after the meeting there would be an informal meeting of Members to discuss the Abingdon Area Forum.

The Chair reported that Councillor Richard Webber would have to leave the meeting early. The Chair advised that she had therefore agreed to consider the application from Drayton Village Hall, in which Councillor Webber had a personal and prejudicial interest at a later point in the meeting when he had left.

Ab.40 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER
32

It was noted that Rosemary Joseph, of Abingdon Music Festival had given notice that she wished to make a statement.

Ms Joseph made a statement in support of the application for a community grant on behalf of the Abingdon Music Festival. She advised that the money sought was intended for a special event which would be running a conducting master class. She advised that there was a great deal of interest in conducting following a recent BBC television series. She stated that the event was over and above the usual events run by the Music Festival, which was why separate funds were being sought from the Vale. She reported that the Town Council had given £350 towards the project and advised that Radley College had agreed to permit use of its hall for the event free of charge. She advised that she had been advised that applications under the value of £500 were dealt with by Officers under delegated powers and had not anticipated having to come to the Committee to ask for support. She stated that she had been advised of the need to come to Committee due to the fact that the budget was now very limited. She commented that the festival would have made an application earlier in the year had it been aware of this possibility.

The Chair thanked Ms Joseph for her statement.

Ab.41 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None.

Ab.42 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered report 175/08 of the Strategic Director detailing grant applications.

One Member commented that it was clear that there was insufficient budget remaining to award grants to all of the applicants and questioned how the Committee was going to consider each one. It was agreed that the Committee would consider each application, decide whether to support the application in principle and thereafter determine an amount to be awarded.

One Member questioned the status of the applications of the Compass Café and The Vale of White Horse Foyer, which had both been awarded a grant by the Committee, subject to grant applications made to the County Council being unsuccessful. Officers confirmed that the grants which had been allocated (£3,000 to the Compass Café and £670 to The Vale of White Horse Foyer), had been deducted from the remaining budget. Officers confirmed that applications had not been made to the County Council and were unlikely to be made as there was no remaining budget. Members therefore considered that these sums should be returned to balances.

The Committee considered each application as follows: -

Abingdon Music Festival

One Member commented that he had attended the events organised by the Festival last year and had found them to be well attended. He added that there had been a genuine feeling of all round participation and therefore he considered the application worthy of support. Other Members agreed but one Member disagreed commenting that this event targeted too small a number of people. However on a show of hands it was agreed by 5 votes to nil that the application should be supported.

Oxfordshire Film and Video Makers

One Member questioned the benefit of the initiative for Abingdon residents. One Member advised that the projects run were well attended by local school children and considered that the experiences on offer were of benefit. One Member commented that he did not support the application and suggested that given the limited number of people likely to benefit, the Committee should not to support a grant application. Other Members agreed and it was concluded that given the limited number of people who would benefit a grant should not be offered.

Oxfordshire Play Association

Councillors Beth Fleming had declared a personal interest in part of this item.

In response to a question raised regarding the benefit of the Play Association it was commented that most after school clubs and toddler groups were members and this gave them an opportunity to receive play equipment. No Members spoke against the application and the Committee agreed that a grant should be offered.

South and Vale Carers Centre

One Member commented that this application should be supported as it provided a link for carers with a real presence in Abingdon. Members agreed that this project was important and that a grant should be offered.

Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire

Members questioned the benefit of the scheme in Abingdon. Officers advised that the scheme was in operation all over Oxfordshire and coordinated volunteers to go into schools to help with reading. It was advised that schools were waiting for volunteers. It

was noted that the scheme was present in Rush Common, Carswell, Dunmore and Sutton Courtney Primary Schools.

One Member commented that she considered that charging schools £275 was expensive and was not sure what the £1,000 sought would be spent on. She stated that she was sympathetic to the need, however did not consider that the application should be supported. Another Member commented that reading in schools should be funded by the County Council. Other Members agreed and it was concluded that no grant should be offered.

The Oxfordshire Playbus

One Member advised that the playbus was worthy of support, as it attended special schools in order to give students an opportunity to have experiences outside of the classroom. One Member agreed and added that the play bus attended special events if requested, such as the fun day at Dalton Barracks. No Members spoke against the application and the Committee agreed to support the offer of a grant.

Drayton Village Hall

Councillor Richard Webber had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application and he withdrew from the meeting room during its consideration.

One Member advised that Drayton Village Hall was well used. Members agreed that the work proposed was important in creating a more inviting atmosphere for users. No Member spoke against the application and the Committee agreed to the offer of a grant.

Parish Cleansing Grants

Councillor Richard Webber had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this part of the item and he withdrew from the meeting room during its consideration.

Members were reminded that they had agreed to phase out the awarding of parish cleansing grants over a two year period, this being the second year.

RESOLVED

- (a) *that the remaining budget for the Abingdon Area Committee be noted as £5739.72;*
- (b) *that the sum of £3,670 be returned to the budget for 2008/9 (proposed by Councillor Beth Fleming, seconded by Councillor Julie Mayhew Archer and agreed by 7 votes to nil);*
- (c) *that the grant applications be determined as follows: -*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Agenda and Priority</u>	<u>Amount</u>	

Abingdon Music Festival	Towards a master class in conducting	Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality Priority	£475	Proposed by Councillor Julie Mayhew Archer, seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 7 votes to nil.
Drayton Village Hall	Towards the replacement doors	Social agenda Town and Village priority	£1,000	Proposed by Councillor Richard Gibson, seconded by Councillor Beth Fleming and agreed by 6 votes to nil with 1 of the voting Members not being present.
Oxford Film & Video Makers	Summerscreen 2009 Activities	-	Nil	Proposed by Councillor Richard Gibson, seconded by Councillor Beth Fleming and agreed by 4 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

- (d) that the grant applications which were awarded a grant by the Executive on 17 October 2008 be determined as follows: -:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Agenda and Priority</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Oxfordshire Play Association	Towards core costs of providing support services to play settings	Social Agenda Access priority	£500	Proposed by Councillor Tony de Vere, seconded by Councillor Angela Lawrence and agreed by 4 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.
South and Vale Carers	Towards the core costs of support services to carers	Social agenda, access priority	£1,000	Proposed by Councillor Tony de Vere, seconded by Councillor Laurel Symons and agreed by 7 votes to nil.
Assisted reading for Children in Oxfordshire	To impart a love of reading to children in the Vale	-	Nil	Proposed by Councillor Richard Gibson, seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 3 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.

<i>Oxfordshire Playbus</i>	<i>Towards the cost of a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs</i>	<i>Social agenda, access priority</i>	<i>£1,000</i>	<i>Proposed by Councillor Richard Webber, seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 7 votes to nil.</i>
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- (e) *that the Executive be requested to approve the carry forward of unspent grant budget from 2008/9 into 2009/10;*
- (f) *that the budget for the Abingdon Area Committee for 2009/10 be noted; and*
- (g) *that the following be awarded as additional parish cleansing grants to be taken from the 2009/10 budget, (proposed by Councillor Richard Gibson and seconded by Councillor Tony de Vere and agreed by 6 votes to nil with 1 of the voting Members not being present): -*
 - a. Appleford Parish Council - £75*
 - b. Drayton Parish Council - £300.*

Ab.43 TARGETING GRANTS FOR THE ABINGDON AREA

The Committee received and considered report 176/08 of the Strategic Director which asked Members to consider the production of a grants prospectus for the Abingdon Area and to determine its contents.

Officers advised that the intention was to give potential applicants an idea of what types of grants were particularly welcome at this Committee. It was commented that it was not an attempt to be prescriptive and to exclude other types of applications.

One Member questioned what the prospectus would look like and suggested that something be prepared that was more user friendly than the current folder. Officers responded that it was unlikely that a glossy magazine would be produced given budget constraints. However Officers undertook to approach the Council's Communications Team with a view to improving the current format.

The Committee agreed that a prospectus would be useful and went through the priorities highlighted in the report to determine which would be included. It was agreed that the following would be taken out of the prospectus:

Vale Community Strategy Priorities	Priorities in the Abingdon Area 2009/10
Safer Communities	Reassuring people that the Vale is a relatively safe place to live so that they do not live in fear of crime.
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	Preparing parish action plans

Helping those without cars to access jobs or services	Improving community transport schemes providing local service directories or websites; voluntary sector advice “roadshows” visiting village halls.
Affordable Homes	To be determined
Good Quality Homes	Providing proactive housing advice for hard to reach groups
Addressing economic weakness	Providing after school clubs
Building on economic strengths	To be determined

In addition to the removal of the above it was agreed that the following be inserted under the priority “A low carbon vale” – community climate change initiatives.

RESOLVED

that a community grants prospectus be supported subject to the comments referred to above.

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None.

The meeting rose at 8.55 pm

Report to the ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE



2nd July 2009

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy

Report No. 19/09

Author: Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer

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E-mail: lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Wards Affected
All wards in the Abingdon
Area

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year;*
- (b) *that Members consider and determine the following grant applications:*
 - (i) *The Abingdon Bridge, £5,000, towards the drug and alcohol service;*
 - (ii) *Abingdon Music Centre Trust, £1,300, towards providing music classes to wider audiences;*
 - (iii) *The Northcourt Centre, £3,000, towards a replacement floor;*
- (c) *that Members review the role of the arts in Abingdon and discuss future support for APAGE.*

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for Community Grants at the beginning of the financial year 2009/10 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.

2. Relationship with Corporate Plan

- 2.1 This report supports the Corporate Plan in that it concerns the provision of a value for money service, namely the Community Grants Scheme, that meets the needs of our residents and service users.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the award of grants to community and voluntary sector groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Vale

3. The Community Grants Budget

- 3.1 The current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants is as shown in the table below.

Budget b/f 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Total budget 2009/10	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£1,764.72	£26,096.00	£27,860.72	£9,751.25	£9,751.25	£2,786.07	£5,572.15
	Allocated	£4,545.00	£375.00	£4,170.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Remaining budget	£23,315.72	£9,376.25	£5,581.25	£2,786.07	£5,572.15

- 3.2 The sum of £3,670.00 had been allocated in November 2008 as funding towards two projects (Compass Café and The Vale of White Horse Foyer) in the event that the applicants were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the County's Chill Out Fund. At the March meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee Members were advised that the applicants had not been able to apply to the Chill Out Fund as the budget for 2008/09 had already been spent. They were advised that they would have to wait until the new financial year before submitting their application. In view of this and given that there were a number of applications before the Committee, Members agreed to free up funds from their 2008/09 budget for the new applications and to carry forward into 2009/10 their commitment to the two earlier applications. This sum has been included in the allocated budget for 2009/10.
- 3.3 In accordance with the practice over the last few years Members considered applications towards additional parish cleansing at their March meeting and awarded two grants totalling £375 to be allocated from their 2009/10 budget. This sum has also been included in the allocated budget.
- 3.4 Since the beginning of the financial year an application from Vale Housing Association towards printing a community newsletter has been considered under officer delegation in consultation with the Chair and a grant of £500 was awarded. This figure is also included in the figure for the budget already allocated giving a total figure of £4,545, as shown in the table above.
- 3.5 In addition, an application from Carbon Cutters is currently being considered under officer delegation and the outcome will be reported verbally at the meeting. If this application is successful the remaining budget may be reduced by up to £250.

4. New grant applications

4.1 Applications totalling £9,300 have been received from the following applicants and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.

- (i) **The Abingdon Bridge, £5,000**, towards the drug and alcohol service
- (ii) **Abingdon Music Centre Trust, £1,300**, towards providing music classes to wider audiences
- (iii) **The Northcourt Centre, £3,000**, towards a replacement floor

4.2 Narratives containing information about the applications are provided at Appendix A. Members are invited to consider and determine the grant applications received.

5. Abingdon vitality and the role of the arts

5.1 Abingdon Performance Arts Group Enterprise (APAGE), the organisers of the Abingdon Arts Festival, has requested that the Council should class the group as a 'partner organisation' in order to give them increased certainty that they will receive a grant each year. The organisers feel that increased certainty will assist them in planning their annual programme.

5.2 The request from APAGE provides an opportunity for the Abingdon Area Committee to review the role of the arts in Abingdon and discuss future support for APAGE. To inform this discussion, Members should note that in 2008/09 the Abingdon Area Committee made the following grant awards for arts activity:

APAGE	£3,000.00
Abbey Brass	£300.00
Abingdon & District Musical Society	£250.00
Abingdon Band	£750.00
Abingdon Concert Band	£250.00
Abingdon Music Festival Association	£475.00
Total	£5,025.00
Area Committee budget 2008/09	£29,725.00
Percentage awarded for arts activity	17%

6. Financial, legal and any other implications

6.1 None

Background Papers: Grant applications and associated documents

(i) Applicant: The Abingdon Bridge, Bridge Street, Abingdon

Years in existence: 15 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Abingdon Bridge is seeking a grant towards their drugs and alcohol service which provides drug and alcohol education and support. The staff support individuals with drug or alcohol problems and help them to make positive choices. They also work to raise awareness of the risks. Much of the work is outreach, either talking to groups in schools or community settings, or working directly with children or young people who are drinking in public places. Often this group of young people are drinking very strong, cheap alcohol to excess, leading to aggressive behaviour and risking long term damage to health.

Other young people make contact with the Abingdon Bridge after getting into trouble with the police through an incident involving drink and drugs.

A core group of about 40-50 young people regularly attend the drop-in centre for advice on drug and alcohol related issues while others receive help through outreach work. Schools and colleges regularly invite the drug and alcohol worker from The Abingdon Bridge to talk to their students.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	X
Fostering a greater sense of community	
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: Abingdon; Radley; Drayton and Shippon

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 180

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: None

Total estimated project cost: £10,955 exc VAT (no VAT payable)

Balances: To be advised verbally at the meeting

Running costs: To be advised verbally at the meeting

Own Contribution: Shortfalls in project funding will come from unrestricted donations and, if necessary, from reserves. The Abingdon Bridge has had to draw heavily on reserves over the past 2 years, consequently the reserves have fallen from £57,700 in June 2007 to £17,100 in March 2009. Current reserves are too low with staff costs of £5,300 per month, cash flow may soon become a real problem if the downward trend cannot be reversed.

Grant requested: £5,000

Previous Awards (Vale): Housing advice £8,000 per annum from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2009.

Community against Drugs, a government grant paid through the Vale:

£10,000 per annum from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2004

£7,500 per annum from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2006

£5,000 per annum from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

£3,000 per annum from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

CDRP (Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership): £3,000 per annum from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2008. No grants have awarded for the financial year 2008/09 or 2009/10.

Accommodation: rent free from 1994 to the present day

Parish Council Support: Regularly receive an annual grant from Abingdon Town Council (£4,700 in 2008/09) to cover general running costs, £940 of which is allocated to the Drugs and Alcohol service.

Other Support: Applied to the Church in Abingdon for general running costs; Drinkaware for funds to support the Drugs and Alcohol service; numerous charitable trusts for unrestricted funding, including Cooper Charitable Trust - £1,200 awarded.

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support?	Yes, subject to conditions outlined below.
Amount recommended	The Committee is requested to determine the amount of any grant awarded.
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale.
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant	In addition to standard conditions: any

award	grant should be subject to The Abingdon Bridge linking in with the statutory agencies Evolve and SMART which are commissioned by the district councils to provide a confidential, community-based drug and alcohol treatment service for 10-18 year olds (Evolve) and open access and assessment services, structured treatment and residential and in-patient services, after-care services and harm minimisation for adults (SMART).
Other comments	

(ii) Applicant: Abingdon Music Centre Education Trust (AMCT)

Years in existence: 35 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Abingdon Music Centre was established to make music available as widely as possible within the local community for both children and adults. AMCT offers classes for children and adults and is seeking a grant towards the development of their offer to meet the needs of a wider age-range than at present (confined to classes for pre-school children and an adult choir - there is no term-time provision for school-age children). Feedback from the community, in particular parents and primary heads, has identified a significant but unmet need for instrumental tuition for primary school children.

To address this need, AMCT has decided to start a high-quality music school for children aged 8-11 - The Frances Kitching Music School (FKMS). In order to accommodate these classes, AMCT is seeking funding to:

- Make minor alternations to the fabric of the building (leased from the Vale)
- Help buy instruments and subsidise fees for low-income families

AMCT expects FKMS to be self-supporting within 4 years.

Learning to play a musical instrument can support and improve achievement in school, encourage a sense of achievement and foster self-discipline. The Trust believes that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy these benefits, but for those without a school or family culture of playing music, there can be significant barriers to participation.

This project aims to break down financial and social barriers to musical development for primary school children in the Abingdon area, and ensure that all children have access to high-quality musical tuition regardless of their economic circumstances or family background. It will be open to all children attending one of the partnership primary schools in Abingdon.

Fees have been set at a level to encourage inclusion. Furthermore the Trust aims to provide fee remission of 50% to any child on free school meals. Open evenings for parents will be aimed at breaking down any remaining barriers, and support will be provided to children and families as the project progresses, by the Trust's experienced and dedicated team of teachers and helpers.

The Trust is based in the Old Magistrates' Court which it leases from the district council. The existing two-year lease is due for renegotiation in February 2010.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	

A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	X
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: Abingdon, Drayton, Marcham, Milton, Radley, Steventon, Sunningwell, Sutton Courtenay, Wootton, Berinsfield, Culham, Dry Sandford and Dorchester. Pupils must attend one of the primary schools in the Abingdon Partnership of schools whose catchment areas serve these places.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 60 after 4 years, in the first year estimate that 15 will benefit.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Yes, £6 per hour for tuition - fee remission of 50% is available for those in receipt of free school meals

Total estimated project cost: £9,601 ex VAT; £10,200 inc VAT; VAT not reclaimable.

Balances: £32,971 as at 31 August 2008

Running costs: £34,776 year ended 31 August 2008

Own Contribution: Provision of premises; development time; voluntary labour for display aspect; teacher support and development time; administration time, fee remission. £36,915 raised in 2007/08 (the Trust's last financial year). While this income is mostly used to fund current activities, the Trust has made provision to support the new development.

Grant sought: £1,300

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: £250 from Abingdon Town Council in 2008/09 (March) for improvements to display facilities in the Old Magistrates' Court. The Trust intends to make a further application this year for FKMS music and instruments.

Other Support: Applications to the Gannett Foundation and Npower were unsuccessful. All of the primary heads have indicated willingness to be involved in publicity for FKMS and have agreed to issue the prospectus and to encourage participation especially amongst those not currently participating in musical activities. Several have offered the free use of premises.

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support?	Yes
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Amount recommended	£1,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale (indirectly)
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions.
Other comments	Applicant is advised to contact SODC for a grant as some of the schools in the partnership are in South Oxfordshire.

(iii) Applicant: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon

Years in existence: 43 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Northcourt Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the wood block floor in the main hall. The floor has been sanded many times and, after forty-three years of use, needs replacing. Legal action was taken against the Centre in 2001 as a result of injury to one of the users due to the poor state of the floor.

The use of the hall is the main facility we offer to the local community and its upkeep is vital. The groups using the hall on a regular basis in 2008 have included: bowls, ballet, Scottish dancing, National Blood Service, Flower Club, Fitzharrys W.I., Order of the Amaranth, Abbey Quilters, The beaders, Weight Watchers, Peace Group, Archaeological Society, Horticulture Society and the MS Society. The centre has also been hired out for private parties, plant and jumble sales and local elections.

Earlier this year the ladies toilets were refurbished at a cost of over £5,000. Funding for this has come out of the Centre's balances for 2009/10.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	X
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	X
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	X
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: North Abingdon

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: No figures provided.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: The hall is hired out at an hourly rate. Organisations are given a discounted rate.

Total estimated project cost: £5,636 inc VAT. VAT cannot be reclaimed.

Balances: £8,798.12 at 31 December 2008

Running costs: £12,274.71 year ended 31 December 2008

Own Contribution: £2,000

GRANT REQUESTED: £3,000

Previous Awards (Vale): £10,000 VWHDC between 2000 -2002 towards refurbishment.

Parish Council Support: Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £1,000 but advised they are unlikely to be awarded more than £500, if an award is made. Outcome awaited.

Other Support: Applied to Oxfordshire County Council £2,000 (outcome awaited).

Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,500
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Supporting a vibrant local economy
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions.
Other comments	The hall is well-used and forms a focal point for the local community.