

Abingdon Area Committee

Agenda



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Date: 22nd April 2011

Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

A meeting of the

Abingdon Area Committee

Will be held on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2011 at 9.30 am
Council Chamber, Abbey House, Abingdon

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Marilyn Badcock
Mike Badcock
Julia Bricknell
Tony de Vere
Gervase Duffield
Jason Fiddaman
Jim Halliday
Holly Holman

Peter Jones
Angela Lawrence
Pat Lonergan
Sandy Lovatt
Julie Mayhew-Archer
Aidan Melville
Helen Pighills
Richard Webber

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement.

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 Democratic Services Officers know beforehand and they will do their very best to meet your requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being large and prominent.

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.

Agenda

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. A link to information about nearby car parking is http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car_parking/default.asp

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Election of a Chair(man)

To elect a Chair(man) for the municipal year

2. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

3. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th April 2011 (previously circulated).

4. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of personal or personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

5. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

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

6. Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Abingdon area committee.

Any statements, petitions and questions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

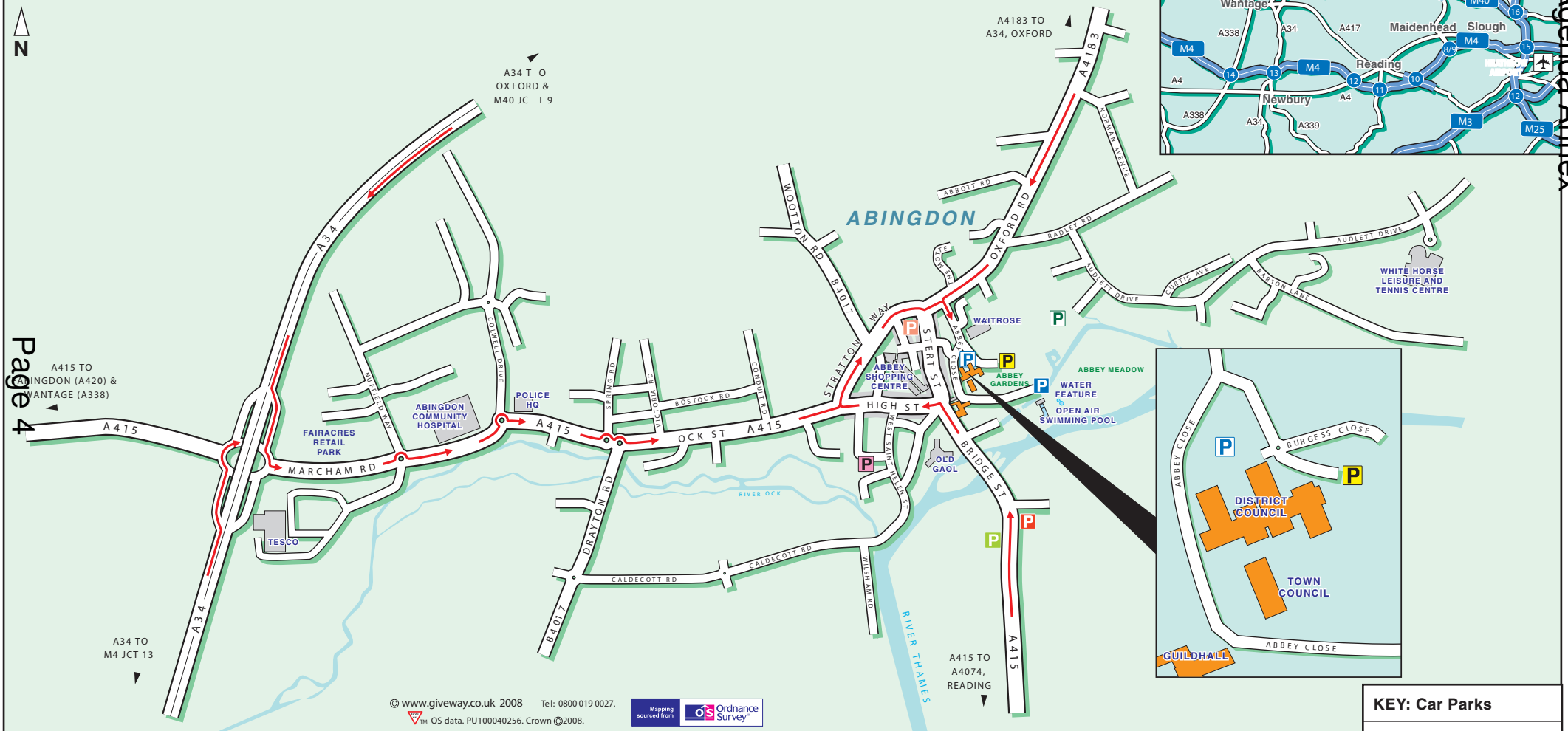
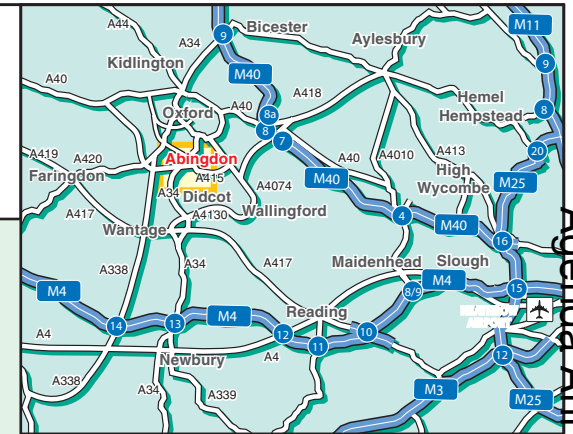
7. Community Grants

(Pages 5 - 17)

To consider report 43/11 of the head of corporate strategy

Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None



KEY: Car Parks

- P Abbey Close
- P Cattle Market
- P Charter Multi-storey
- P Civic
- P Rye Farm
- P Hales Meadow
- P Audlett Drive
- P 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

Abingdon Area Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: Abingdon Area Committee

DATE: 22 November 2011

REPORT NO:
43/11

Community Grants

Recommendations

- (a) that the Abingdon Area Committee notes the remaining budget balance for community grants in 2011/12 for the Abingdon area of the Vale
- (b) that the committee considers and determines the new applications which have been received and appraised

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the remaining budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee in respect of community grants and to invite the committee to consider and determine the applications received.

Strategic Objectives

2. The award of grants to community and voluntary groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Vale's Sustainable Community Strategy, which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Vale.

Background

3. The committee's budget for community grants in 2011/12 is £26,391. The committee met on 6 April 2011 and awarded a total of £22,658 to 12 projects, leaving £3,733 to allocate in a further round.
4. The second round of the community grant scheme opened on 1 August 2011 and closed on 30 September 2011.

5. Three applications were received requesting a total of £3,800, a summary of these is shown below and an officer appraisal for each application is attached at appendix 1 of this report.

| Ref: | Organisation | Project | Project Cost £ | Total points scored | Grant requested £ | Officer recommendation £ |
|------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 800 | Abingdon Rowing Club | Junior rowing boat | 10,054 | 80 | 2,500 | 2,000 |
| 803 | Abbey Brass | Renewal of instruments | 1,500 | 70 | 500 | 0 |
| 828 | ARCH | Box sponsorship | 4,800 | 80 | 800 | 640 |
| | | | | Total | 3,800 | 2,640 |

6. Officers used a scoring system¹ to help in evaluating each application. The scoring system is a fair and transparent way of evaluating how closely a project supports corporate and community strategy priorities, local need and the amount of funding requested as a percentage of the project costs. Details of the scoring system are attached at appendix 2.
7. The recommendations from officers are based on a revised scoring criteria from that originally approved as detailed below.

| Approved Scoring Criteria | Revised scoring criteria for round 2 | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Total points score | Total points score | |
| 150 or more | 95 or more | officers recommend that the project is a funding priority |
| 125 or more | 80 or more | officers recommend that the project receives some funding |
| 115 or less | 79 or less | officers recommend that the project does not receive funding |

Financial Implications

8. The Abingdon Area Committee has £3,733 available to allocate in the community grants budget for 2011-12. If the Committee supports the recommendations then the balance remaining of £1,093 will be carried forward to the community grants budget in 2012-13.

¹ The former Executive approved the scoring system on 7 January 2011

Legal Implications

9. The Abingdon Area Committee is able to determine these community grants under the delegation approved by Council on 18 October 2006.

Risks

10. There are no risk implications arising from this report.

Conclusion

11. The Abingdon Area Committee is requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Background Papers

- Abingdon Area Committee 6 April 2011
- Executive Report on Community Grants 7 January 2011

Vale Community Grants Evaluation

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|
| Name of Organisation | | Abingdon Rowing Club | |
| Ref | 800 | Project Costs / Funding Position | |
| Project Name | Junior Coxed Quad | | £ |
| Project Area | Abingdon | Total Project Cost | £10,054 |
| Area Committee | Abingdon | Amount Requested | £2,500 |
| Project Description To purchase a coxed quad boat suitable for younger juniors weighing 60kg or less. | | Secured Funding | £3,234 |
| | | Town/Parish council funding | £234 |
| | | Recommended Award | £2,000 |
| | | Committee Decision | |
| Contributing to the Vale Community Strategy <i>Up to 60 points can be scored in this section</i> | | Application Details | |
| C1 | Which priority of the Vale Community Strategy does your project support? | involving young people | |
| C2 | How does your project meet this priority? | All rowing boats are designed for particular crew weights. Currently the equipment suitable for junior crews can barely support the existing squad. Existing juniors aged 13 to 18 will benefit immediately. But the new boat would also allow new members from our waiting list aged 11 up to be introduced to rowing. | |
| C3 | Does your project meet any other priorities of the Vale's Community Strategy? | Healthier communities - we offer 4 sessions a week, each with 1 hour in a boat - contributing to the recommended 60 mins physical activity per day for children. Access to good quality sports facilities - the rowing club is open to all juniors who wish to row but we are limited by lack of suitable equipment. | |
| The project will have a good impact on this priority. | | | Score |
| | | | 40 |
| Contributing to the council's priorities <i>Up to 40 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C4 | Which priority of the council does your project support? | Not applicable | |
| C5 | How does your project meet this priority? | | |
| C6 | Does your project meet any other council priorities? | | |
| | | | Score |
| | | | 0 |
| Consultation <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C7 | How did you consult with the local community? | Meeting with chairman of Abingdon Marina Residents Association who is looking to get more kids in the area involved in a sport or activity, including rowing | |
| Good evidence of consultation | | | Score |
| | | | 10 |
| Local need <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C8 | How do you know the community need this project? | We have not been proactively looking for new members. But since May 2011 I have received 10 applications from potential rowers aged from 11 to 16, all but one of whom could benefit from the proposed new equipment. | |
| The club is volunteer committee led and a new junior boat will help | | | Score |
| | | | 10 |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| increase the clubs junior participation. There is a good level of local need within the club to enhance their junior section | | | |
| Community Benefit <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C9 | Who will benefit from this project? | Abingdon Rowing Club lies between Hinksey Sculling School in Oxford and Wallingford club, so is the ideal choice for children in and around Abingdon. We currently have 12 juniors, 8 of whom would benefit from training in the boat, with the girls J14 squad being able to race in the boat. Beginners invited to join the junior squad would benefit from training and racing in the new equipment. | |
| There is a good level of benefit for those using the boat. It will also add to the clubs equipment and enhance the overall provision the club offer | | Score | 10 |
| Finance score Up to 20% of the project costs – 15 points 21 – 40% of the project costs – 10 points 41 – 60% of the project costs – 5 points | | Score | 10 |
| Scoring Points System: 79 or less – recommend the project does not receive funding 80 or more – recommend the project receives some funding 95 or more – recommend the project is a funding priority | | TOTAL | 80 |
| <u>Comments Section</u> | | | |
| Grants Officer: | | | |
| <p>The club are applying for one rowing boat and four sets of oars, which will improve the equipment on offer at the club, which in-turn will help the club increase junior participation. The club seems to be well managed and they have received financial support from Abingdon Town Council. The club was awarded a grant of £500 in this financial year for an upgrade to electrics in their boat store, which has yet to be claimed.</p> <p>The application has scored 80 points and in line with the revised scoring criteria the project should receive some funding.</p> <p>Recommendation: to award £2,000 towards the purchase of a junior coxed quad boat, in line with scoring criteria.</p> <p>Previous awards: 2002 - £250 2003- £7,400 2011 - £500</p> | | | |

Vale Community Grants

Evaluation

| | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | | Abbey Brass | |
| Ref | 803 | Project Costs / Funding Position | |
| Project Name | Renew Instrument Stock | | £ |
| Project Area | Abingdon | Total Project Cost | £1,500 |
| Area Committee | Abingdon | Amount Requested | £500 |
| Project Description TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR OUR LEARNER GROUPS | | Secured Funding | £500 |
| | | Town/Parish council funding | £0 |
| | | Recommended Award | £0 |
| | | Committee Decision | |
| Contributing to the Vale Community Strategy <i>Up to 60 points can be scored in this section</i> | | Application Details | |
| C1 | Which priority of the Vale Community Strategy does your project support? | involving young people | |
| C2 | How does your project meet this priority? | The aim of the band is to introduce children and adults to the pleasures of playing in a brass band. To do this we run Learner Classes where we provide tuition, music and instruments for anyone interested in playing (initially free of charge). Once the learners are reasonably proficient they join our training band and play at school fetes etc. From there players progress to the main band and play at more demanding venues. | |
| C3 | Does your project meet any other priorities of the Vale's Community Strategy? | Yes - playing in a local band fosters a greater feeling of community as we play in the town square, at the "fun in the Park" events, as well as playing carols at Christmas. The fact that our membership encompasses a wider range of ages and backgrounds also promotes a grater feeling of community. We also have players who are in their 60's and over so we can also be said to be improving the quality of life for older people. | |
| The project will have a minimal impact on these priorities | | | Score 20 |
| Contributing to the council's priorities <i>Up to 40 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C4 | Which priority of the council does your project support? | helping to maintain a safe Vale | |
| C5 | How does your project meet this priority? | Youngsters who have hobbies and interests are much less likely to get bored and act irresponsibly. Also interacting with older people with a similar interests in an informal environment broads their outlook on life and helps them to appreciate the benefits of living in an orderly society. | |
| C6 | Does your project meet any other council priorities? | Having a local band that performs in the town centre during the summer months helps to attract visitors which in turn promotes a more vibrant and vital atmosphere in the town. | |
| The project will have a minimal impact on these priorities | | | Score 20 |
| Consultation <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C7 | How did you consult with the local | We advertise for new members and promote our concerts | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | community? | and events in local newspapers and magazines (Round and About) as well as putting notices in the windows of local shops. |
| Minimal evidence of consultation has been provided | | Score 5 |
| Local need <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | |
| C8 | How do you know the community need this project? | We know from our own experiences how much enjoyment can be obtained from playing and performing and, in our 30 years of existence, have seen numerous young learners develop into accomplished players (some of whom have played with the band for decades). |
| The project provides minimal evidence of a local need. | | Score 5 |
| Community Benefit <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | |
| C9 | Who will benefit from this project? | Anybody in the local community who plays, or want's to learn to play, a brass instrument or who likes to hear live music and is around when the band is performing in the town or at some other local venue. |
| There is a good level of community benefit | | Score 10 |
| Finance score Up to 20% of the project costs – 15 points 21 – 40% of the project costs – 10 points 41 – 60% of the project costs – 5 points | | Score 10 |
| Scoring Points System: 79 or less – recommend the project does not receive funding 80 or more – recommend the project receives some funding 95 or more – recommend the project is a funding priority | | TOTAL 75 |
| <u>Comments Section</u> | | |
| Grants Officer: | | |
| <p>The organisation is applying for three instruments to add to their instrument stock. The organisation have also received numerous grants over the years to purchase instruments.</p> <p>The organisation held £18,101 in cash reserves and their annual expenditure at March 2011 was £5,655 (which includes depreciation of equipment), actual expenditure was £3,683. The organisation's income derives from performance and subscription income, which comfortably meets their expenditure. The organisation therefore has sufficient funds to meet the cost of the instruments.</p> <p>Recommendation: in line with scoring criteria, no award.</p> <p>Has this organisation previously received funding? 2003 - £500 2004 - £500 2005 - £500 2007 - £400 2008 - £300</p> | | |

Vale Community Grants Evaluation

| | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------|
| Name of Organisation | | ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire) | |
| Ref | 828 | Project Costs / Funding Position | |
| Project Name | Book Box sponsorship | | £ |
| Project Area | All (covers whole of Vale) | Total Project Cost | £4,800 |
| Area Committee | Abingdon | Amount Requested | £800 |
| Project Description We are asking the council to support volunteers helping children from disadvantaged backgrounds by sponsoring their book boxes. ARCh provides each volunteer with a box containing around 30 books and some games which costs approximately £300 to resource. Because our aim is to engage reluctant readers it is essential that we provide material to inspire. We therefore choose books carefully with each volunteer's 3 children in mind, taking into account their interests and ability | | Secured Funding | £0 |
| | | Town/Parish council funding | £0 |
| | | Recommended Award | £640 |
| | | Committee Decision | |
| | | | |
| Contributing to the Vale Community Strategy <i>Up to 60 points can be scored in this section</i> | | Application Details | |
| C1 | Which priority of the Vale Community Strategy does your project support? | involving young people | |
| C2 | How does your project meet this priority? | ARCh volunteers work hard to engage the children they work with in reading. The children may be reluctant at first, they may lack confidence, may not have books or anyone to read with at home. The sessions twice a week with their enthusiastic volunteer for the school year turn around negative attitudes so that books cease to be daunting and reading becomes a pleasure. This has a positive effect on their learning in general, resulting in improved life chances for these children. | |
| C3 | Does your project meet any other priorities of the Vale's Community Strategy? | Fostering sense of community - ARCh volunteers gain satisfaction from "giving back" to their local community, helping the younger generation enjoy and achieve, become involved with their local school. Our work aids cohesion, bringing together people from all backgrounds and cultures. Healthier communities - volunteering for ARCh promotes a sense of well-being, alleviates depression and stress, prevents isolation and loneliness. Improving quality of life for older people - most ARCh volunteers are retired and have great experience to pass on to the children. Twice weekly sessions provide a useful framework for the week for those just embarking on retirement. The children enjoy spending quality time with their volunteer who becomes their special friend within school. Children may not have other contact with the older generation so really enjoy the company of the volunteer. The bond which develops between volunteer and child is rewarding for both and the volunteers enjoy seeing their children progress. | |
| The project will have a good impact on a number of priorities in the | | Score | 40 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| strategy | | | |
| Contributing to the council's priorities <i>Up to 40 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C4 | Which priority of the council does your project support? | Not applicable | |
| C5 | How does your project meet this priority? | | |
| C6 | Does your project meet any other council priorities? | | |
| No information has been provided | | Score | 0 |
| Consultation <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C7 | How did you consult with the local community? | Each year we ask schools to complete a Pupil Survey, a summary of our 2010 results will be sent with this application. | |
| The application contains minimal evidence of consultation | | Score | 5 |
| Local need <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C8 | How do you know the community need this project? | Around 20% of children leave primary school with a reading level below government expected which has an adverse impact on their life in secondary school and beyond, Schools select the children who will benefit most from ARCh help - they will have a reading level below expected, may have low confidence/self-esteem, may lack support at home, may have difficult home lives, may have English as an Additional language etc. | |
| There is good evidence of local need, as the organisation receives subsidies from many local schools to deliver their services. | | Score | 10 |
| Community Benefit <i>Up to 20 points can be scored in this section</i> | | | |
| C9 | Who will benefit from this project? | Initially 48 children we are working with and their 16 volunteers | |
| There is a good level of benefit to young people | | Score | 10 |
| Finance score Up to 20% of the project costs – 15 points 21 – 40% of the project costs – 10 points 41 – 60% of the project costs – 5 points | | Score | 15 |
| Scoring Points System: 79 or less – recommend the project does not receive funding 80 or more – recommend the project receives some funding 95 or more – recommend the project is a funding priority | | TOTAL | 80 |
| <u>Comments Section</u> | | | |
| Grants Officer: | | | |
| <p>Assisted Reading from Children in Oxfordshire is a charitable organisation that provides reading support to children in Oxfordshire, predominantly in a school environment. The schools in Abingdon that will benefit from this scheme are St Edmunds, Caldecott and Dunmore School. The organisations main income is from school subscriptions and donations. This application is towards the purchase of £300 boxes that include books and games, which will be allocated to one volunteer who supports three children. The total project includes the purchase of 16 boxes for volunteers, costing £4,800, which will initially help 48 children which they are working with and their 16 volunteers. They have asked for £800 towards this cost.</p> <p>The organisation is financially stable. The majority of their income is derived from school subscriptions and donations, and they hold current assets of £63,932 at March 2010. In line with the scoring criteria the project should receive some funding.</p> | | | |
| Recommendation: award £640 towards book boxes to be used by volunteers and children in the Abingdon area, in line with the scoring criteria. | | | |
| Has this organisation previously received funding? 2008 - £1,000 - to support training for volunteers | | | |

Community Grants 2011/12

Scheme information and scoring criteria



Community grant scheme from 1 April 2011 onwards

The council has a very limited budget for discretionary grants to parish councils and voluntary or community organisations, (including clubs and societies) wholly or partly based in Vale of White Horse District (the Vale). The council will not fund projects or services that are more appropriately funded by other organisations and it will not act as the sole funder of a project. It requires that applicants demonstrate widespread support by obtaining most of its funding from other organisations. Projects will have to show some financial contribution from other sources, for example their own funds, their local parish council or support from other funding organisations. Contributions 'in-kind' will be considered.

All projects must comply with disability discrimination legislation, the council's equal opportunities policy and race equality scheme (see www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and must be open to all sections of the community (accepting that some projects or services may be focussed on certain sections of the community, for example: young people or people with disabilities).

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Assessment methodology for community grant applications

All applications will be assessed using the scoring system shown below. Applications that score the highest number of points are likely to be funded.

Contributing to the Vale Community Strategy

up to 60 points

Scores of up to 60 points are available dependent on how well the project contributes to the following priorities:

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier communities • improving the quality of life for older people • safer communities • fostering a greater sense of the community • a good understanding of town and parish priorities • involving young people | <p>Does the project contribute to at least one of these priorities? Scores are based on how well a project contributes to a particular priority.</p> |
|--|--|

- helping those without a car to access services.
- Affordable homes
- good quality homes
- access to good quality green spaces, sports, cultural and leisure facilities
- addressing economic weaknesses
- building on our economic strengths
- maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of market towns
- a low carbon Vale
- living with extreme weather
- using resources wisely
- reducing waste and increasing recycling
- a high quality natural and historic environment.

Applications that do not score more than 19 points in this section will not be scored further and will be withdrawn from the evaluation process.

Contributing to the Council's own priorities

up to 40 points

Scores of up to 40 points are available dependent on how well the project contributes to the following priorities:

- Meeting people's need for housing
- supporting a vibrant local economy
- rising to the challenge of climate change
- helping to maintain a safe Vale
- keeping the Vale a clean place to live

Does the project contribute to at least one of these priorities? Scores are based on how well a project contributes to a particular priority.

Consultation

up to 20 points

Consultation

To what extent has the relevant community been consulted and participated in putting the proposal together?
The broader and more extensive consultation will score more points.

Local need**up to 20 points**

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Meeting a local need | How well is the evidence of local need? Evidence from parish plans or gathered through various consultation exercises to support the project will score more points. |
|-----------------------------|--|

Community benefit**up to 20 points**

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Community benefit | Who will benefit from the project? The wider number of beneficiaries the better. Projects that help to assist minority groups will score more points in this section. |
|--------------------------|---|

Finance**up to 15 points**

To encourage funding of projects from a variety of sources applicants are encouraged to ask for smaller grant awards. In this section, the smaller the grant amount requested equates to a higher number of points. Scores of up to 15 points are available dependent on the percentage of the project costs requested:

| Percentage of the project costs | Points available |
|--|-------------------------|
| Up to 20 per cent of the project costs | 15 points |
| 21 – 40 per cent of the project costs | 10 points |
| 41 – 60 per cent of the project costs | 5 points |

Summary of scoring system**maximum score 175 points**

The maximum score of 175 points is made up as follows:

| Assessment factor | Maximum points available |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Priorities of the community strategy | 60 |
| Priorities of the council | 40 |
| Consultation | 20 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Local need | 20 |
| Community benefit | 20 |
| Finance | 15 |
| Total points | 175 |

Applications scoring over 115 points will be eligible for an award, subject to **budget availability**:

| Total points score | Option 1 |
|---------------------------|--|
| 150 or more | officers recommend that the project is a funding priority |
| 125 or more | officers recommend that the project receives some funding |
| 115 or less | officers recommend that the project does not receive funding |

General conditions of all grants

Grants must be spent solely for the purpose they are given. All grants will be offered for a period of one year from the date of the decision. Only one grant for a particular project or service will be awarded to an organisation in any one financial year. The council's support must be acknowledged on all publicity for the project or service.