

**(i) Applicant: Abingdon Child Contact Centre**

An application from the Abingdon Child Contact Centre was heard by the Committee at its meeting on 30 March and it was decided to defer consideration of the application to the next meeting, pending the receipt of further information including whether the Centre would prefer regular financial support. The information below has been amended to include the further information requested and the applicant has indicated that the Centre would be happy to receive regular financial support from the Council in the form of a service level agreement.

Brief outline of project

The Abingdon Child Contact Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of supporting and securing the running of the Centre, which is based at the Baptist Church Hall in Ock Street, Abingdon. The purpose of the Centre is to provide a safe and secure meeting point for children of broken relationships to meet their non-residential parent. The majority of the families have been to court to secure these contact times.

The grant would be used to offset the hire of the hall, insurance for children and volunteers, and renewal of equipment.

The total number of families and the total number of children assisted from the Vale in the calendar year 2004 was sixteen and nineteen respectively. These children and families made one hundred and thirty four visits in total during the year. The number of the children and families from the Abingdon Area for this period was twelve of each.

The centre is run by volunteers who have given up their time to train for this service. They feel that the nature of their work prevents them from raising funds themselves. The parents that use the services of the Centre are, in the main, in financial difficulties so are unable to contribute to the service costs.

There are other centres in Didcot, Oxford and Swindon.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,073 for calendar year 2005; £5,500 approx for five calendar years 2005 – 2009
Balances	£3,151.93 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£683 at 31.12.04 but rent was artificially low due to inconvenience caused by building work.
Own Contribution	Balance after grants and donations; also volunteers give their time
Grant Sought	£1,500 for a period of five calendar years
Previous Awards (Vale)	£1,000 in 2001/02
Town Council Support	£500 Abingdon Town Council 2004/05
Other Support	Applied to Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility (outcome awaited) Abingdon Deanery Synod (outcome awaited)

Officer comment (Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise):

The work of the Centre contributes to the Health & Well Being strand of the Vale Community Strategy.

**(ii) Tree Preservation Grant: Applicant: Mr Kirby, Sympson Close, Abingdon**

The owners of 6 Sympson Close are seeking a grant towards crown reduction and dead wooding of a large chestnut tree plus the installation of a cable brace. Additional routine maintenance work is also required to a yew tree.

Financial Information:

Total cost of work: £1,603.88

Grant sought: £ 641.60

Officer Comment: (George Reade, Arboriculture Officer)

The reduction, dead wooding, and cable brace fitting for the Chestnut tree are required on safety grounds.

### **(iii) Applicant: Abingdon Marathon**

The Abingdon Marathon Committee is seeking financial assistance to organise its annual race. The grant would help to pay for police cover, the arrangement of road closures and the provision of full support and assistance to the participants. The costs associated with the road closures and police cover have increased significantly over the last two years.

The race starts and finishes at Tilsley Park, passing through Abingdon, Drayton, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay. It is the only race held in this part of the country, and was rated amongst Britain's top ten marathons in a survey conducted by Runner' World Magazine. The race attracts around 900 competitors and is always oversubscribed. There is an entry charge of £18 per runner.

The hosting and organisation of the Abingdon Marathon does much to benefit both the running community and the community at large in the Vale. Local hotels, pubs, restaurants and shops also benefit from the large number of runners and their supporters attracted to the area as a result of the marathon.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Health & Wellbeing, Environment.

#### Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£15,500 incl VAT; £13,500 excl VAT
Balances	£3,852 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£12,465 for year 01.01.04 – 31.12.04
Own Contribution	Balances after entry fees, sponsorship, grants and sales
Grant Sought	£ 750
Previous Awards (Vale)	£ 350 (2004/05) £ 250 (2003/04)
Town Council Support	Have applied to Abingdon Town Council (outcome awaited)
Parish Precept	Abingdon Town Council: £706,402.00 (Band 'D' £57.87)
Other Support	An entry fee of £18 is charged per runner; in 2004 £1,100 in sponsorship was obtained.

#### **(iv) Applicant: Abbey Sailing Club**

Abbey Sailing Club is seeking grant aid towards the purchase of two new sail boats to enable young people and their families to take part in the sport of sailing. At present all of the boats at the club are privately owned, this means that any novice sailor has to find a boat owner willing to take them out or they have to buy their own boat which can be very expensive.

The purchase of two new boats would encourage new members to the club, and make sailing accessible to all.

The Club is well-established, having been in existence for seventy years, and has a mix of male and female, sailing and non-sailing members, ranging in age from 6 – 80+ years who come from all over the Vale. The membership stands at around 90 people and the annual membership costs are as follows: adults £30, £45 family (children under 18) and £10 for juniors. There are approximately 20+ junior members at the club.

The Club has received a number of enquiries over the last couple of years from young people who wish to learn to sail and recently with Great Britain's Olympic successes, many more people have shown an interest.

Abbey Sailing Club has carried out extensive research into the most appropriate kind of boat to purchase based on reliability, price and flexibility. The Club has organised fundraising events to help reach the target of £4,056 required to buy the two boats.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Health & Wellbeing, Safe and Supportive Communities, Town & Village Vitality.

#### Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£4,056 incl VAT; £3,452 excl VAT
Balances	£5,845.40 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£10,154.03 for year 01.01.04 – 31.12.04
Own Contribution	£1,500 from fundraising
Grant Sought	£2,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Town Council Support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council (outcome awaited)
Parish Precept	Abingdon Town Council: £706,402.00 (Band 'D' £57.87)
Other Support	Have investigated Awards for All but see this as a next stage; when they have their own boats they intend to investigate being more accessible to people with disabilities and base a bid to Awards for All on this.

#### **(v) Historic Building Grant Application: Pusey Cottage, Drayton**

Mr Bax is seeking a grant towards the re-thatching of the rear elevation of his property. Pusey Cottage was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is Grade II listed. Its roof is described in its listing as “thatch, half hipped to left, with some areas of old plain tile; brick ridge stack to centre”. It is prominently situated along a public road and is within the Drayton Conservation Area.

#### Financial Information

The level of grant offered under the Historic Building Grant Scheme is normally 25% of the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £1,250.

The work has been estimated at £12,800 excluding VAT.

#### Officer Comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer)

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its Historic Building Grant Scheme: The building is listed, within a Conservation Area, readily visible from the street and the owner has lived there for over 3 years. The re-thatching work also includes the restoration of a local historic feature found in the district.

#### Recommendations

*Mr Bax be offered the maximum grant of £1,250 towards the cost of re-thatching subject to the normal Historic Building Grant conditions plus the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.*

## **(vi) Applicant: The NET Management Committee**

### Brief outline of the project

The Net Management Committee is seeking a grant towards the cost of expanding the current summer holiday scheme run at The NET. The project is currently aimed at 'at risk' sixteen year olds from the South of Abingdon. The Committee is seeking to make the holiday activities available to a wider age range, namely 13-19 years. The young people to be targeted fall into the category of the most deprived young people in Abingdon, who are concentrated in the south of the town.

The summer holiday period means that these young people are particularly susceptible to risks from crime, drug and alcohol abuse, parental neglect, emotional and physical abuse. The project would be a diversionary project but would also provide support and practical advice. Those needing additional support from specialist agencies will be signposted and supported appropriately. By attending the project the young people will not be congregating on the streets or in places where the elderly and other residents feel intimidated by their presence. Attendance will also reduce the opportunity for crime.

A minimal charge of £1.00 is payable for each course and activities include: sports and arts courses, educational visits and also residential courses, which can enhance team building and life skills.

To ensure the scheme is sustainable, the workers at the centre often use the relationships they have built with the young people to engage with the families and their support networks, long after the scheme has ended.

This application supports the following strands of the Community Strategy: Safe & Supportive Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning.

Note to the figures below: In costing the project, the applicant has found it difficult to separate out VAT for each item as VAT can only be claimed back through Oxfordshire County Council if the applicant is invoiced for purchases, which for most purchases does not happen; also some items do not attract VAT. The applicant has deducted the £8,000 received from the County Council towards the project and estimated the VAT on the applicable proportion of the remaining £5,000 at £437 to arrive at the grant requested of £4,563.

### Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£13,000 (see note above)
Balances	£14,007.29 at 31.03.05 for all projects including this one
Running Costs	£13,000 for this project
Grant Sought	£4,563
Own contribution	£3030.50
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Town Council Support	Applying to Town Council
Parish Precept	£706,402 (£57.87 as per Band D)
Other Support	£8,000 Oxfordshire County Council Community Safety Department

### Officer comment (Liz Hayden, Drug & Alcohol Misuse Co-ordinator):

The Community Safety Partnership supports this funding bid:

In terms of ranking across Oxfordshire, Abingdon Caldecott is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> most deprived out of 137 super output areas. During the summer months many young people engage in drinking and smoking drugs on the streets. Detached youth workers have worked hard over the course of the last year to build up positive relationships with these young people. The aim is to continue working with the young people and enable them to engage in more positive activities during the summer holidays. Referrals will be made to other agencies such as the Youth mentoring scheme and Face to Face (youth counselling service) as necessary. There is no doubt that the character building activities suggested can have a profound effect on the development of individuals. The developmental courses will offer the young people an opportunity to experience new interests. In addition they will provide an opportunity for self confidence and motivation building through out door pursuits provided in a safe and stimulating environment.

## (vii) Applicant: The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oxford)

### Background

An application from the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre for £2,000 towards the cost of replacing the front door of the centre was considered at the South East Area Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2005 and a grant of £1,000 was awarded. The Committee recommended that the Centre approach the Vale's West and Abingdon Area Committees for additional funding (as well as South Oxfordshire District Council) since the users of the centre come from Faringdon and Abingdon (and Didcot) in addition to Wantage.

### Brief outline of project

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the existing front door of the Centre with an electrically operated automatic door to make it safer for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. The door replacement would serve to enhance an extension scheme which has now been completed. No funds had been allocated for the replacement of the door under the extension project.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre is a small local charity, established in 1984, and is principally a self-help group for people suffering with multiple sclerosis for which there is no cure. The Centre provides friendship, understanding and a positive outlook on life as well as a range of therapies.

Thirty to fifty people regularly use the Centre and they come from Wantage, Faringdon and Abingdon.

The Centre is funded solely by voluntary contributions, donations and fundraising events. It owns the building but not the land on which it stands. The landlord supports the charity and provides the land rent-free.

### Financial information

Total Project Cost	£3,000
Balances	£17,863 + £30,000 capital reserves as at 31/12/03 (the accounts show that this was identified at the end of 2003 to be used to finance the expansion in 2004, referred to above)*
Running Costs	£30,699 as at 31/12/03*
Own Contribution	£1,000
Grant Sought	£750
Previous Awards (Vale)	£2,000 in 2000 for waiting room chairs and other furniture <b>£1,000 in 2004/05 (S E Area Committee) towards replacement front door</b>
Parish Council Support	£50 Milton Parish Council
Other Support	The landowner provides the land rent-free.

\* to be updated verbally at the meeting