Wantage Area Committee

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy
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To: Wantage area committee
DATE: 19 September 2016

New Homes Bonus and Capital Grants (round two) 2016/17

Recommendations

(a) that the Wantage area committee considers the three applications for New Homes Bonus (NHB) grants and makes awards in line with the approved policy (2015).

(b) that the Wantage area committee considers the four applications for capital grants (CG) and makes awards in line with the approved policy (2015).

Purpose of report

1. To give the committee the information needed to award New Homes Bonus (NHB) and capital grants (CG) for their area.

Strategic objectives

2. Under the 'sustainable communities and well-being' corporate priority in our 2016-2020 corporate plan we commit to support community groups through our grants schemes.

Background

3. We opened both schemes between 6 June 2016 and 29 July 2016.

4. We received three NHB applications for the Wantage area (including one district-wide application whose request we've split proportionately between all three committees). The total NHB grants requested from this committee during round two is £23,542, against a budget of £39,830.

5. We received four CG applications for the Wantage area requesting a total of £16,912 against a budget of £13,994.

6. Officers have evaluated the applications using the scoring matrices in the agreed policies, approved in August 2015. See appendix one for the NHB evaluations, appendix two for a breakdown of the additional homes in the district broken down by each parish and appendix three for the CG evaluations.

7. In line with the policies, officers have suggested scores and awards for the committee to consider and amend as necessary. The final score for each project dictates the priority level when considering award decisions.

Financial implications

8. In February 2016 the council set a 2016/17 NHB budget of £100,000 and the Wantage area committee was allocated 39.83 per cent of this (£39,830) for the year. Their available budget for this round of funding is £39,830. As per the agreed policy these grants can fund either revenue or capital projects.

9. At the same meeting, the council set a 2016/17 CG budget of £100,000 for capital grants. The total remaining budget for this scheme is currently £48,759. As per the policy, the Wantage area committee receives 28.70 per cent of the available budget during each round, giving them a budget of £13,994 for this round of funding.

Legal implications

10. The council's legal powers to award these grants are contained in section one of the Localism Act 2011 that gives a general power of competence for local authorities.

11. In May 2016 full council delegated authority to three area committees to determine NHB and CG applications within the parameters of each grant policy.

Risks

12. There are no overarching risks of awarding these grants. Officers have highlighted any risks to a particular project in their evaluation reports.

Conclusion

13. That the committee awards NHB and CG in line with the approved policies.

Background papers

Cabinet approval of the new homes bonus and capital grant policies (Aug 2015).

APPENDIX ONE Wantage Area NHB Grants 16/17 (round two) Officer Evaluations

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Officer score	Officer award amount
VN1R\28	Grove Rugby Club	Replacement coaches kit	£3,500	£1,750	50 %	**7** (medium priority)	**£1,312** 37.48% of total cost (75% of request)
VN1R\20	Milton Parochial Church Council	Creation of a servery, toilet and flexible community space	£158,200	£20,000	12.64%	**12** (high priority)	**£20,000** 12.64% of total cost (100% of request)
VN1R\22	Community First Oxfordshire	Village hall and community buildings support officer	£9,000	£1,792 from this committee (£4,500 in total)	19.91% this area 50% in total	**12** (high priority)	**£1,792** 50% of total cost (100% of request)
			TOTAL	£23,542		**Total**	£23,104
						Budget	£39,830
						Balance	£16,726

Officer recommended award levels (budget permitting)

10-15 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50 per cent of total cost)
6-9 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75 per cent of requested amount
0-5 points	Low priority - no funding

Scoring and award matrices

Scoring matrix:

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
% of additional occupied homes in the parish where the project will take place?	None	1-10 per cent	11-50 per cent	51 per cent or more
New facilities or activities	The project offers very little if any new activities or facilities	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue	The project improves an existing facility or activity	The project will provide a new facility or will allow new activities to take place
Community benefit	The project offers little if any benefit to the community	A single sport or special interest group will benefit	More than two community groups or a minority group will benefit from the project	The whole community will benefit/the project will help to integrate new and existing communities
Funding the project	They haven't secured much if any of the other funding needed for the project	They've secured some of the other funding needed but still have some to find	They've secured most of their other funding and have a plan in place for raising the rest	They've secured all the other funding needed for the project
Organisation's contribution	They aren't contributing to the project	They're contributing less than 25% of the project cost	They're contributing between 25 and 50% of the project cost	They're contributing over 50% of the project cost

Award matrix:

10-15 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50 per cent of total cost)
5-9 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75 per cent of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Grove RFC	**Ref**	VN1R\28
Replacement coaches kit		

Total project cost	£3,500	
Amount requested	£1,750	
Organisation's contribution	£1,750	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £10.44 (although statements showed over £7,700 in June)

Previous grants

None

Scoring

% of the Wantage area's total additional occupied homes seen in the parish where the project will take place		
Grove saw 0.31 per cent of the total additional homes in the area during the relevant period.	**Score**	1/3
New facilities or activities		
The project will purchase replacement existing kit for the coaches at the club, so the score is limited to one point.	**Score**	1/3
Community benefit		
The main benefit is to the club's coaches (and players) whose sense of unity and team spirit should increase as a result. As the benefit is to a single sport club, the score is limited to one point.	**Score**	1/3
Funding the project		
The organisation is planning to fund the balance themselves however, officers aren't clear if they have enough in the bank to cover this, so limited their score to one point. They reported a current bank balance of £10 at the time of application but the supporting bank statements from June showed a balance of over £7,700 If they can confirm they have the funds by the time the committee meet this score could increase.	**Score**	1/3
Organisation's contribution		
The organisation is planning to contribute 50 per cent to the project, although officers aren't sure if they have the funds available yet.	**Score**	2/3
Consultation		
They've spoken to their members and coaches who support the purchases.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their intended purchase date works with the time limits for our scheme, assuming they have their contribution in time.		
Financial and project management plans		
They'll purchase future replacements from their reserves as and when necessary.		
OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**7/15**
Based on the officer's score this is a medium priority for funding and (budget permitting) could receive up to 37.48 per cent of the total cost (capped to a maximum of £1,312), which is 75 per cent of the amount requested.	**Recommended Grant**	**£1,312** 37.48% of total cost

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)	
Details of the project	We would like our coaches matching kits to give a sense of unity, professionalism and team spirit. At the moment they have to use miss-matched and old kits. The club has been going through major refurbishment so that at the clubhouse can generate enough money to support itself but this leaves no money in the pot for kit.
Financial statement from the organisation	We have very little available cash. We have been concentrating on updating the clubhouse for the last couple of years. The rugby club is used by many different areas of Grove. The bridge club, church youth club, ladies' and men's darts teams use it as well as lots of rugby. The clubhouse is also used for wedding receptions and parties. Money is spent on making sure it keeps running.
Statement about town/parish support	We have approached the parish council to help us with main building works required at the clubhouse.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The Coaches and children from Grove RFC will benefit from the grant. There are a lot of families that bring their children to the club. The club has gone through great hardship the last two years and have managed to pull themselves up again. The hardship has meant that the clubhouse has used any available cash that was left.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	I have spoken to all the parents over last year and the coaches. We visit many clubs in the area and they all do things differently but coaches are looked after and so the moral within teams is kept up. It would be great to get help so we as a club can feel part of a team.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	This is not really applicable.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	This is not really applicable.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The new kit will give the coaches and their teams (over 300 players) pride and unity in their appearance and give a professional image to others. For children and coaches to have pride in this it helps when they are all dressed the same. The coaches give their time freely and enjoy what they do and we would love them to stand out.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	We already offer huge benefits to any child/coach who takes part in the club. We would just like to offer the coaches an extra benefit. They all feel great pride in the club, having a smart new kit would be great.

Milton Parochial Church Council	**Ref**	VN1R\20
Creation of a servery, toilet and flexible community space.		

Total project cost	£158,200	
Amount requested	£20,000	
Organisation's contribution	£90,000	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £116,873
Other funding	£79,000	None secured when they applied (only need £48,200 if this request is successful)

Previous grants

None but they have applied to both capital and NHB this round. We can only fund the project from one scheme.

Scoring

% of the Wantage area's total additional occupied homes seen in the parish where the project will take place		
They've taken 0.31 per cent of the areas total increase in housing during the relevant period.	**Score**	1/3
New facilities or activities		
The project will create a new toilet and servery and replace some pews with flexible seating, allowing the community to use the space for a wider range of activities. They are installing underfloor heating and improved lighting to help the building be more sustainable following a TOE2 audit of their needs.	**Score**	3/3
Community benefit		
The whole community will benefit from the new space. The village doesn't have another community building, although the primary school in Milton Heights has a community space available for hire.	**Score**	3/3
Funding the project		
They are contributing a reasonable amount and have the funds in the bank. They've ring-fenced over £96,000 of their £116,873 bank balance for building work (including £90,000 towards this project). Part of the remaining money (£12,181) is in a restricted bell fund and the rest will help cover their annual running costs. They've planned how where they'll raise the rest of the money, including contingencies for unsuccessful applications, but haven't secured any funds yet. They have applied to both capital and NHB schemes (for different amounts due to the budget limits for each scheme). Due to the score and available budgets, officers recommend funding the project from the NHB scheme.	**Score**	2/3
Organisation's contribution		
The church is contributing 56.89 per cent of the cost.	**Score**	3/3
Consultation		
The community identified a need for the project in their 2016 community led plan.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their start date works with the time limits for our scheme, but depends on them securing their other funding.		
Financial and project management plans		
They have a reasonable fundraising plan for the project and will include the ongoing maintenance costs in their annual budget and work plan.		

OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**12/15**
Based on the officer's score this is a high priority for funding and can receive up to 12.64 per cent of the total cost (capped to a maximum of £20,000), which is 100 per cent of the amount requested.	**Recommended Grant**	**£20,000** 12.64% of total cost

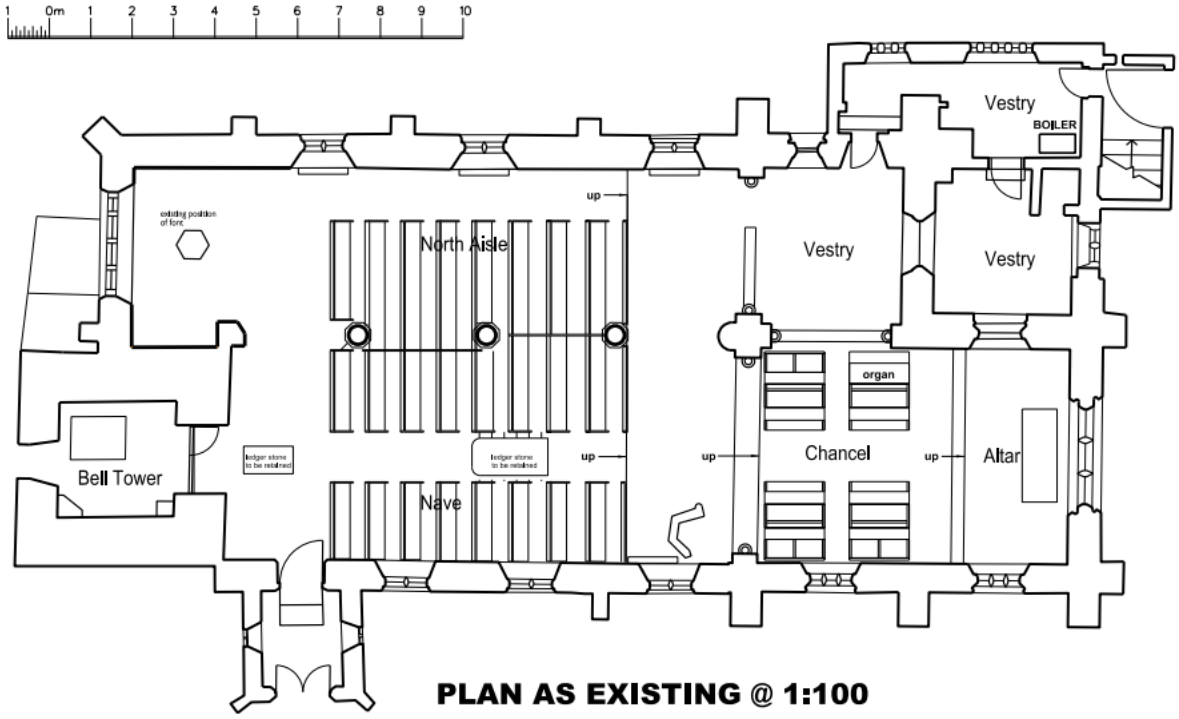
Photos of Milton Parochial Church

The new toilet will go in this alcove

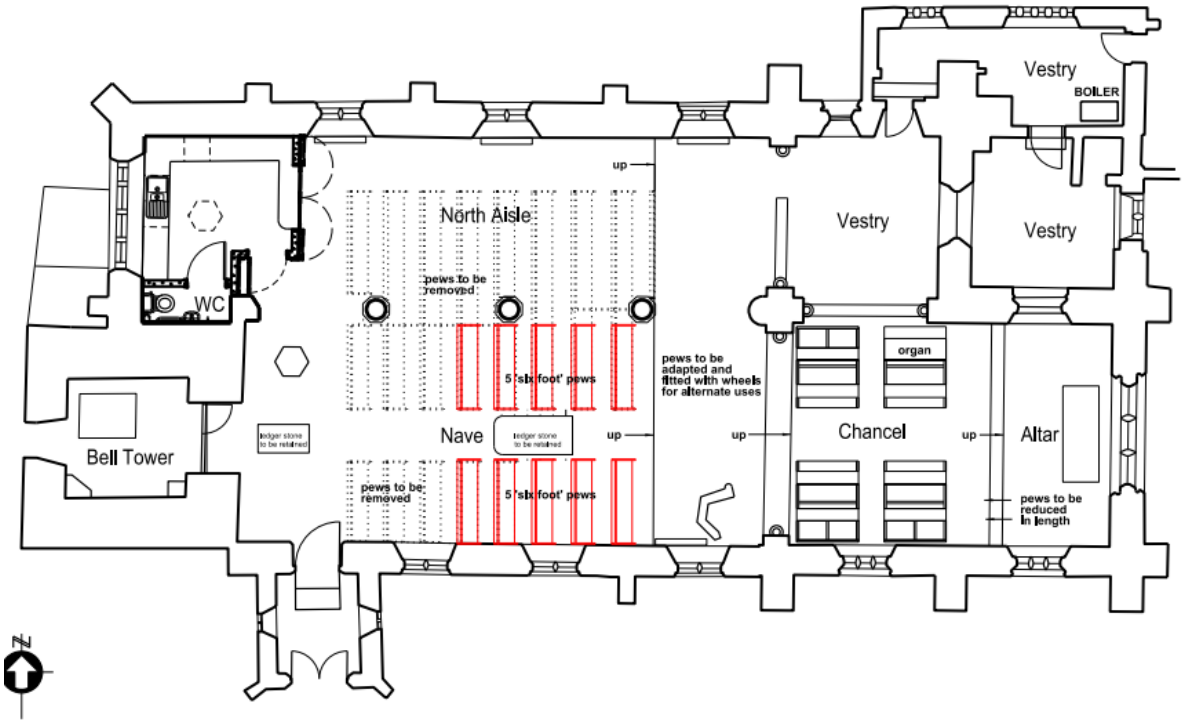
The servery will go in this corner and the font will move closer to the front door

They'll replace most of the pews with seats and some mobile pews that they can move as necessary for different events and usage.

Plans for Milton Parochial Church



PLAN AS EXISTING @ 1:100



PLAN AS PROPOSED FOR A CHURCH SERVICE @ 1:100

The new layout will see the existing pews replaced with seats and some smaller, mobile pews so they can clear the space for community use, classes etc.

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)	
Details of the project	There is no community building in Milton Village. This project plans to make interior adjustments to the parish church to create a community space. This work includes installation of a toilet, kitchen and servery; removal of some pews with the remaining pews made mobile; installation of under-floor heating and re-flooring the nave and north aisle. This will create a flexible facility that can be used for a wide variety of community events.
Financial statement from the organisation	The CBF Bells account is only available for work related to the bells. Ongoing financial commitments including Parish Share and church activities need to be met from the current account and CBF Deposit account. The CBF Lands account is restricted account to be spent on the building. A balance of £10,000 will be kept to meet annual commitments for maintaining the building. The rest of this money is available to spend on the project.
Statement about town/parish support	We have approached the Parish Council and whilst they are supportive of the project they have no funding that they can currently commit to the project. However, two small village charities for which the Parish Councillors are Trustees (The Milton Charity and Milton Amenity Trust) may be able to make small grants toward equipment for the Community Space.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	All members of Milton village will benefit from this facility through the provision of new activities. Having activities near at hand in the daytime will be particularly beneficial for older people and others alone in the day, providing a social network for otherwise isolated individuals. Existing activities in the village e.g. Mums and Toddlers Group, Book Club, Community Choir, Milton MICE will benefit from having a better space in which to hold activities.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	Ongoing discussions in the village over the 25 years since the village hut was demolished have identified a need for a community space. Most recently this has been highlighted by the survey for the Community Led Plan (CLP). A section of the questionnaire was devoted to the proposed community space and is reported in section 8 of the CLP. This indicated 71% support the proposal to re-order the church to create a community space.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	This project is making more efficient use of an existing building rather than adding a new building and as such is a sustainable development. The lighting in some parts of the church will need to be improved and we will seek to use energy efficient lighting wherever possible.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	The project plans have been designed in discussion with the church architect. Discussions have taken place with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (of the Oxford Diocese) including an expert on pews. The Victorian Society have been consulted. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the project and their advice notes are attached. An application for a Faculty is the final stage of the church approval process and this is underway.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The project will fund a toilet and kitchen facility and will create a flexible space that can be used both as a large community room or as a church. This space will need a new floor and installation of under-floor heating will enhance the existing radiator heating system (the existing boiler is sufficient for this extra load).
What new activities will take place because of this project?	From the Community Led Plan CLP) there was support for the following new activities (see page 14 of the CLP for details) Christmas craft fair, concerts, exercise classes, film club, wine-tasting, quiz nights, dance classes, parties, guest speakers, sales, craft tuition, meetings, coffee mornings, Bingo, afternoon tea, Youth group, Knitting group, Whist/bridge club, exhibitions and displays and offer more appropriate space for space for existing activities such as Mothers and Toddlers group and Community choir.

Community First Oxfordshire	**Ref**	VN1R\22
Village hall and community buildings support officer		

Total project cost	£9,000	
Amount requested	£1,792 from this committee (£4,500 from all committees)	(Other committees: £1,365 from Abingdon and £1,343 from Faringdon)
Organisation's contribution	£4,500	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £382,687

Previous grants

We give the organisation a partnership grant each year of £8,250 towards their Village Shop Officer (£4,000) and for Community Led Planning support (£4,250).

Scoring

% of the Wantage area's total additional occupied homes seen in the parish where the project will take place		
As the post will cover the whole district, officers awarded it full marks in this area.	**Score**	3/3
New facilities or activities		
The grant will fund their existing village halls officer post to work in our district one day each week. Because this grant will enable an existing post to continue officers limited their score to one point.	**Score**	1/3
Community benefit		
Any community building (and their users) in the district could benefit. It's also likely their advice will encourage more halls to apply to our grant schemes.	**Score**	3/3
Funding the project		
The post covers all Vale district, so officers split the request between the three committees using the same percentage we use to split the NHB grant budget. The £9,000 total cost is a proportionate annual cost to provide the post one day a week in our district although the intention is that the post will be full time, covering the whole county (at a cost of £45,000 over the year). They are funding the rest of the cost of the Vale proportion from their reserves and it appears they could potentially fund more (or all) of the post without external funding. Their bank balance was £382,000 when they applied (with £284,000 in unrestricted funds), although some of this will go towards their annual running costs (for example unrestricted expenditure in 2015 was £122,000). We assume they'll approach the other districts towards the other four days the officer doesn't work in our district.	**Score**	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
They are funding 50 per cent of the cost to provide the post one day a week in Vale.	**Score**	2/3
Consultation		
They've not included any evidence of consultation to support the need for the post but report over 300 enquiries from halls each year (across the whole county).		
Project completion within timeframe		
The grant will fund the post for a year between November 2016 and October 2017, which works with the time limits for our scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
Not provided with this application.		

OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**12/15**
Based on the officer score this is a funding priority and could receive up to 50 per cent of the total cost (of the Vale post), capped to £4,500 across all the committees. This is 100 per cent of the amount requested and would mean a grant of £1,792 for this committee.	**Recommended Grant**	This area **£1,792** total **£4,500** 50% of total cost

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)

Details of the project	Community First Oxfordshire support and advice community buildings to run efficiently, so that the whole community can benefit from the community space. There are 60 community buildings in the Vale, all of which can benefit from advice on energy saving, DDA advice, business advice, insurance, legal issues and specific training events. We would like to offer expert support and advice work in the Vale district, where we do not receive direct funding for the service.
Financial statement from the organisation	We have a limited budget to carry out our community development support services, as most of our funds are ring fenced for reserves. However, we can utilise some funding from Defra and the community building affiliation scheme, which enables us to contribute financially to the community building support service.
Statement about town/parish support	We have not directly asked town or parish councils to fund this project, however, we do operate a CFO membership which over half of the local councils are members of, and a community building affiliation scheme. This helps us match fund the grant funding we receive to carry out this support service.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	There are 60 community halls in the Vale district. CFO will support and advice the hall committee members. There are on average 6 volunteer members to each committee, which is an estimated total number of 600 committee members in the Vale area. We will offer operational and professional advice on: energy saving, getting the best price for insurance, legislation, marketing your hall and reducing community hall hire costs - benefiting all local communities.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	CFO carry out a community building service for the rest of the county and we receive over 300 enquiries from halls a year, which is clear evidence of need. We have not proactively supported halls in the Vale for a number of years. Many of the village halls in the Vale (41%) have not carried out energy audits or reviewed their running costs. We will actively advise on why and how to do this.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	We will, as part of the support service, contact the community halls that have not carried out an energy audit and we will offer advice on energy audits and generally how to make the hall as energy efficient as possible. This will help halls reduce their running costs and these savings will benefit the communities that the halls serve.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	N/A
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The community hall advice and support service does not directly create new facilities, though the service does provide legislation advice and guidance on obtaining and running facilities for the community. This includes new build and ways to market your hall facilities to attract more bookings.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	Funding will allow CFO to provide a proactive advice and support service for the 60 village and community halls in the Vale district. This will increase our capacity to help ensure community halls run as businesses, to enable them to run the community space as efficiently as possible in order to keep hire costs at a reasonable rate, so everyone can afford to use it. This benefits all the local communities.

APPENDIX TWO - Breakdown of Additional Homes in Area by Parish

The Wantage area saw 39.83 per cent of the overall additional homes occupied in the district during the relevant 12 month period.

Minus figures mean there has been a reduction in occupied homes in that parish during the relevant 12 month period. The recent parish boundary changes may account for a number of these reductions.

Area committee	Parish/town	2014 total occupied homes	2015 total occupied homes	Total parish increase	Percentage of area's total increase
Wantage	Ardington And Lockinge	219	220	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	Blewbury	769	779	**10**	3.10%
Wantage	Childrey	223	224	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	Chilton	592	643	**51**	15.79%
Wantage	Denchworth	79	79	**0**	0.00%
Wantage	East Challow	323	377	**54**	16.72%
Wantage	East Hanney	356	363	**7**	2.17%
Wantage	East Hendred	494	501	**7**	2.17%
Wantage	Grove	3,009	3,010	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	Harwell	1,030	1,103	**73**	22.60%
Wantage	Kingston Lisle	105	104	**-1**	-0.31%
Wantage	Letcombe Bassett	73	75	**2**	0.62%
Wantage	Letcombe Regis	370	379	**9**	2.79%
Wantage	Milton	468	469	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	Sparsholt	136	137	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	Steventon	658	684	**26**	8.05%
Wantage	Upton	179	178	**-1**	-0.31%
Wantage	Wantage	5,093	5,170	**77**	23.84%
Wantage	West Challow	84	87	**3**	0.93%
Wantage	West Hanney	224	225	**1**	0.31%
Wantage	West Hendred	148	148	**0**	0.00%
	Area committee total	**14,632**	**14,955**	**323**	
	District Total	**52,543**	**53,354**	**811**	

APPENDIX THREE Wantage Area Capital Grants 16/17 (round two) Officer Evaluations

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Suggested score	Suggested award
VC1R\70	Milton Parochial Church Council	Creation of a servery, toilet and flexible community space	£158,200	£11,000	6.95%	**11** (high priority)	**£0** – fund from NHB scheme
VC1R\82	Blewbury Parish Council	Resurfacing Tickers Folly Field car park	£2,000	£1,000	50%	**10** (high priority)	**£1,000** 50% of total cost (100% of request)
VC1R\57	East Hanney Parish Council	Install new, accessible swing in the play area	£7,248	£3,624	50%	**9** (high priority)	**£3,624** 50% of total cost (100% of request)
VC1R\60	Blewbury Brass Band	Purchase of eight band instruments	£2,578	£1,288	49.96%	**7** (medium priority)	**£966** 37.48% of total cost (75% of request)
			TOTAL	£16,912		**Total**	£5,590
						Budget	£13,994
						Balance for redistribution between the committees in round three	£8,404

Officer recommended award levels (budget permitting)

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Scoring and award matrices

Scoring matrix:

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
New facilities or activities	The project offers very little if any new activities or facilities	The project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue	The project improves an existing facility or activity	The project will provide a new facility or will allow new activities to take place
Community benefit	The project offers little if any benefit to the community	A single sport or special interest group will benefit	More than two community groups or a minority group will benefit from the project	The whole community will benefit/the project will help to integrate new and existing communities
Funding the project	They haven't secured much if any of the other funding needed for the project	They've secured some of the other funding needed but still have some to find	They've secured most of their other funding and have a plan in place for raising the rest	They've secured all the other funding needed for the project
Organisation's contribution	They aren't contributing to the project	They're contributing less than 25% of the project cost	They're contributing between 25 and 50% of the project cost	They're contributing over 50% of the project cost

Award matrix:

9-12 points	High priority – award as requested (up to 50% of total cost)
5-8 points	Medium priority – award between 50 and 75% of requested amount
0-4 points	Low priority - no funding

Milton Parochial Church Council	**Ref**	VC1R\70
Creation of a servery, toilet and flexible community space		

Total project cost	£158,200	
Amount requested	£11,000	
Organisation's contribution	£90,000	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £116,873
Other funding	£79,000	All of which is unsecured (only need £57,200 if this request is successful)

Previous grants

None

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will create a new toilet and servery and replace some pews with flexible seating, allowing the community to use the space for a wider range of activities. They are installing underfloor heating and improved lighting to help the building be more sustainable following a TOE2 audit of their needs.	**Score**	3/3
Community benefit		
The whole community will benefit from the new space. The village doesn't have another community building, although the primary school in Milton Heights has a community space available for hire.	**Score**	3/3
Funding the project		
They are contributing a reasonable amount and have the funds in the bank. They've ring-fenced over £96,000 of their £116,873 bank balance for building work (including £90,000 for this project). Part of the remaining money (£12,181) is in a restricted bell fund and the rest will help cover their annual running costs. They've planned how where they'll raise the rest of the money, including contingencies for unsuccessful applications, but haven't secured any funds yet. They have applied to both capital and NHB schemes (for different amounts due to the budget limits for each scheme). Due to the score and available budgets, officers recommend funding the project from the NHB scheme.	**Score**	2/3
Organisation's contribution		
The church is contributing 56.89 per cent of the cost.	**Score**	3/3
Consultation		
The community identified a need for the project in their 2016 community led plan.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their start date works with the time limits for our scheme, but depends on them securing their other funding.		
Financial and project management plans		
They have a reasonable fundraising plan for the project and will include the ongoing maintenance costs in their annual budget and work plan.		

OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**11/15**
Based on the officer's score this is a high priority for funding and could receive the full amount requested, however officers recommend funding their NHB application instead to give them the highest award possible.	**Recommended Grant**	**£0** Fund from NHB

See NHB evaluation for photos and plans.

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)	
Details of the project	There is no community building in Milton Village. This project plans to make interior adjustments to the parish church to create a community space. This work includes installation of a toilet, kitchen and servery; removal of some pews with the remaining pews made mobile; installation of under-floor heating and re-flooring the nave and north aisle. This will create a flexible facility that can be used for a wide variety of community events.
Financial statement from the organisation	The CBF Bells account is only available for work related to the bells. Ongoing financial commitments including Parish Share and church activities need to be met from the current account and CBF Deposit account. The CBF Lands account is restricted account to be spent on the building. A balance of £10,000 will be kept to meet annual commitments for maintaining the building. The rest of this money is available to spend on the project.
Statement about town/parish support	We have approached the Parish Council and whilst they are supportive of the project they have no funding that they can currently commit to the project. However, two small village charities for which the Parish Councillors are Trustees (The Milton Charity and Milton Amenity Trust) may be able to make small grants toward equipment for the Community Space.
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	All members of Milton village will benefit from this facility through the provision of new activities. Having activities near at hand in the daytime will be particularly beneficial for older people and others alone in the day, providing a social network for otherwise isolated individuals. Existing activities in the village e.g. Mums and Toddlers Group, Book Club, Community Choir, Milton MICE will benefit from having a better space in which to hold activities.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	Ongoing discussions in the village over the 25 years since the village hut was demolished have identified a need for a community space. Most recently this has been highlighted by the survey for the Community Led Plan (CLP). A section of the questionnaire was devoted to the proposed community space and is reported in section 8 of the CLP. This indicated 71% support the proposal to re-order the church to create a community space.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	This project is making more efficient use of an existing building rather than adding a new building and as such is a sustainable development. The lighting in some parts of the church will need to be improved and we will seek to use energy efficient lighting wherever possible.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	The project plans have been designed in discussion with the church architect. Discussions have taken place with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (of the Oxford Diocese) including an expert on pews. The Victorian Society have been consulted. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the project and their advice notes are attached. An application for a Faculty is the final stage of the church approval process and this is underway.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The project will fund a toilet and kitchen facility and will create a flexible space that can be used both as a large community room or as a church. This space will need a new floor and installation of under-floor heating will enhance the existing radiator heating system (the existing boiler is sufficient for this extra load).
What new activities will take place because of this project?	From the Community Led Plan CLP) there was support for the following new activities (see page 14 of the CLP for details) Christmas craft fair, concerts, exercise classes, film club, wine-tasting, quiz nights, dance classes, parties, guest speakers, sales, craft tuition, meetings, coffee mornings, Bingo, afternoon tea, Youth group, Knitting group, Whist/bridge club, exhibitions and displays and offer more appropriate space for space for existing activities such as Mothers and Toddlers group and Community choir.

Blewbury Parish Council	**Ref**	VC1R\82
Resurfacing Tickers Folly Field car park		

Total project cost	£2,000	
Amount requested	£1,000	
Organisation's contribution	£1,000	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £108,315

Previous grants

2015/16 NHB £7,500 Village Hall redevelopment project

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will resurface the existing car park at Tickers Folly Field. No new facilities or activities will take place as a result so their score is limited to one point.	**Score**	1/3
Community benefit		
Anyone from or visiting the parish can access the car park.	**Score**	3/3
Funding the project		
The organisation is funding the rest of the project themselves and appears to have enough in reserve to cover their contribution and potentially the whole project. They had bank balances over £108,000 at the time of application and refer to some other financial commitments (values unspecified). The committee may wish to amend the score to reflect the fact they may not need external funding for the project.	**Score**	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
They are planning to contribute 50 per cent of the cost, but may be able to afford the whole project without external funding.	**Score**	3/3
Consultation		
They refer to feedback from the community requesting improvements to the surface in the application but they didn't provide any formal evidence of this or any health and safety inspections recommending the work.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their intended start date works with the time limits for our scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
They plan on covering the ongoing costs from their annual precept and letting income.		

OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**10/12**
Based on the officer's score this is a high priority for funding and could receive up to 50 per cent of the total cost (capped to £1,000), which is 100 per cent of their request. However they may not need external funding based on the financial information provided. If the committee feels they can afford it without a grant they could decide not to fund it despite its score.	**Recommended Grant**	**£1,000** 50% of total cost

Photo of car park

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)	
Details of the project	This Car Park is used extensively by both parishioners and visitors to our adventure play area. It is also used year round by hikers as it is the closest access to walks on the Ridgeway. High usage has led to an urgent requirement to restore the car parking area and maintain this facility for years to come.
Financial statement from the organisation	The constraints are principally to remain within budgeted expenditure within amounts raised through the precept and avoidance of diminishing essential reserves.
Statement about town/parish support	
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The children and parents of the Parish and the surrounding villages and towns. Ramblers from far and wide visiting the AONB.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	The community has heavily used the facilities adjacent to the site and have expressed a wish that necessary refurbishment is carried out. The usage has vastly exceeded the expectations of the Council and the Adventure Play area adjacent is seen as one of the best in the Vale.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	Not applicable
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	None
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	It will improve the existing facilities and extend the life for a number of years
What new activities will take place because of this project?	None

East Hanney Parish Council	Ref	VC1R\57
Install new, accessible swing in the play area		

Total project cost	£7,248	
Amount requested	£3,624	
Organisation's contribution	£0	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £73,144
Other funding	£3,624	Unsecured from S106 contributions

Previous grants

None

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will install a new piece of accessible play equipment in their play area extending the range of equipment on offer, which limits the score to two points.	**Score**	2/3
Community benefit		
The play area is open to the whole community, although the primary benefit is to young people. Because young people make up a large proportion of the community and because access to the play area isn't limited by membership, fees or booking availability we have awarded it full marks.	**Score**	3/3
Funding the project		
They are planning to use S106 funds to pay for the rest of the project, but they haven't applied for the funds yet as they won't become available until Autumn 2016. The organisation has confirmed that they could cover the S106 contribution from their reserves if required, so officers have awarded full points. The organisation had over £73,000 in the bank when they applied so could potentially contribute despite their other financial commitments (valued at £53,000).	**Score**	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
The organisation isn't planning contributing to this project unless they can't secure the S106 money, when they would cover the rest of the cost from their reserves. As they have confirmed they could contribute if necessary officers have awarded 1 point. If, when the committee meet, they confirm the S106 money can't be used for the project and that they'll use their own funds this score could increase to 2 points. Their financial statement didn't give enough detail about their other commitments to know if they could potentially fund the whole project.	**Score**	1/3
Consultation		
They included consultation on the play area as part of their neighbourhood plan, which is still in development.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their start date works with the time limits for our scheme, if they secure the other funding in time.		
Financial and project management plans		
They'll include the ongoing maintenance as part of their annual play maintenance budget.		

OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Based on the officer's score this is high funding priority and could receive up to 50 per cent of the total cost (capped to £3,624), which is 100 per cent of their request.	**Total score**	**9/12**
	Recommended Grant	**£3,624** 50% of total cost

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)	
Details of the project	The parish playground equipment will be added to expand and extend the facilities for young people in the villages of East and West Hanney .
Financial statement from the organisation	The PC will be funding a project to secure access to its playing fields, at c. £3000; the development of its Neighbourhood Plan at c. £19000. The budgeted costs for running the Council in 2016-17 c. £31000. The PC retains reserves of c. £200 to ensure continuity of service.
Statement about town/parish support	
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	Young people and families.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	The PC held a consultation event as part of its development of a Neighbourhood Plan aim specifically at young people. At that event, the young people fed back that they would like some new pieces of play equipment, with the cantilever being the most popular.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	The item of play equipment requires no power to be used.
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	None.
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The PC is to add a new piece of play equipment (a cantilever swing) to the playground this is in response to feedback from young people in the village.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	The piece of equipment is new and has been suggested in feedback from young people in the village. It is anticipated that this new piece of play equipment will be well use by local children and teenagers.

Blewbury Brass Band	**Ref**	VC1R\60
Purchase of eight instruments		

Total project cost	£2,578	
Amount requested	£1,288	
Organisation's contribution	£590	**Organisation's latest bank balance** £8,606
Other funding	£700	All secured from Upton No Good (£500) and Tony Loy Trust (£200)

Previous grants

2012/13 capital £3150 instrument purchases

Scoring

New facilities or activities		
The project will increase the range of instruments the band can loan/rent to members. They're buying: one xylophone (£328), five horns (£1,650) and two trombones (£600). As the purchases will add to their existing stock of instruments rather than create a new facility, their score is limited to two points.	**Score**	2/3
Community benefit		
Officers limited their score to one point as the benefit is limited to the band (a single group), specifically band members without their own instrument who want to play one of these instruments. The wider community already benefit from the band's playing at functions etc. so this project will not increase the benefit for them.	**Score**	1/3
Funding the project		
They have secured all their other funding, including their own contribution. Their bank balance when they applied was £8,606 and their financial statement does not make it clear if they could contribute more to this project as it doesn't say how much they need for their other expenditure in the year.	**Score**	3/3
Organisation's contribution		
They are contributing 22.88 per cent from their reserves and have the funds available now.	**Score**	1/3
Consultation		
They've not carried out any consultation to identify a need for this project.		
Project completion within timeframe		
Their intended purchase dates work with the time limits for our scheme.		
Financial and project management plans		
They will cover any ongoing maintenance form their annual membership income.		
OFFICER RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	**Total score**	**7/12**
Based on the officer's score this is medium funding priority and (budget permitting) could receive up to 37.48 per cent of the total cost (capped to £966), which is 75 per cent of their request (budget permitting). However, they may not need external funding based on the financial information provided. If the committee feel they can afford it without a grant they could decide not to fund it despite its score.	**Recommended Grant**	**£966** 37.48% of total cost

Applicant responses (taken directly from their application form)

Details of the project	To purchase eight additional instruments to enable the band to cater for new members (children) expected to join the Blewbury Learner Band when they finish the current school year and cease to enjoy the free tuition and instruments currently provided by the Blewbury School and Blewbury Brass Band. The instruments that they currently use will pass to the next year's class who will in turn receive free tuition and instruments.
Financial statement from the organisation	We fund our activities solely from membership fees, performance fees (including Christmas carolling), donations, grants and rent from our band room which we make available to other organisations with in the area. We are a village band and perform mainly at local fetes and other events either for free or a small fee. We have no on-going financial commitments other than the usual day-to-day running costs (music, instruments, insurance, and utilities) associated with running the band.
Statement about town/parish support	Yes we have approached the Blewbury Parish Council but they declined to contribute saying: "Your grant request was discussed at the last PC meeting and was sympathetically received. We used to have a small budget for local grants but this has not been the case for several years now."
Community benefit	
Who will benefit from your project?	The beneficiaries of this project are the: - Children of Blewbury Primary School who will be able to continue to build upon their musical skills, - Various local organizations and churches who benefit from having the learner band play at their fetes, services and other events, - members.of.the.local.community.who.makeup.the.audience.at.our.playing.events - Numerous brass band spread over the country to which these budding players will eventually migrate when they grow up and set up home in other areas.
How did you identify a need in the community for your project or service?	Our previous project, the provision of free instrument tuition in school ,was set up in conjunction with the Headmistress of Blewbury Primary School (who also supports this current project) was aimed at satisfying a perceived need for musical education which was not then being met. Our current project, the provision of additional instruments to enable on-going tuition for keen pupils, is a logical follow-on from the first project, and builds on its success.
What sustainable and/or energy saving measures does your project include or offer?	N/A
Consultation	
What consultation have you carried out with the community or professional advisors?	N/A
New facilities/Activities	
What extra facilities (or equipment) will the project provide?	The free tuition provided at Blewbury Primary School uses cornets as the learning instrument as these are small and easily handled and are relatively cheap. Once the rudiments of reading and playing music are mastered, pupils are able to "progress" to other band instruments. This project will enable us to purchase and make available these additional instruments to the new learners which in turn will result in a more "balanced" better-sounding learner band.
What new activities will take place because of this project?	Brass band music is a harmonic mixture of sounds produced by the various instrument types. In most case the more instrument types, the more harmonious the sound and the greater the "presence" that the band can project and the large the audience/venue it can satisfy. By increasing the number and variety, of instruments within the learner band, this project will enable it to take on more challenging engagements which it might otherwise have to decline.