

Date: 1 June 2009

TO: All Members of the South East
Area Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **CIVIC HALL, WANTAGE** on **TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2009** at **6.30 PM**.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 540307; e-mail: steve.culliford@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

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

Map and Vision

(Page 4)

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

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

1. Election of a Chair(man)

To elect a Chair(man) to serve the South East Area Committee for the municipal year 2009/10

2. Election of a Vice Chair(man)

To elect a Vice Chair(man) to serve the South East Area Committee for the municipal year 2009/10

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

4. Minutes

(Pages 5 - 10)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Section I Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee South East Area Committee held on 10 March 2009.

5. Declarations of Interest

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

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

6. 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.

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

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

8. **Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32**

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

9. **Community Grants**

(Pages 11 - 20)

To receive and consider report 09/09 of the Head of Corporate Strategy regarding the awarding of Community Grants.

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

None.



OUR VISION AND AIMS

Our Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community

The Vale of White Horse District Council aims to:

Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives

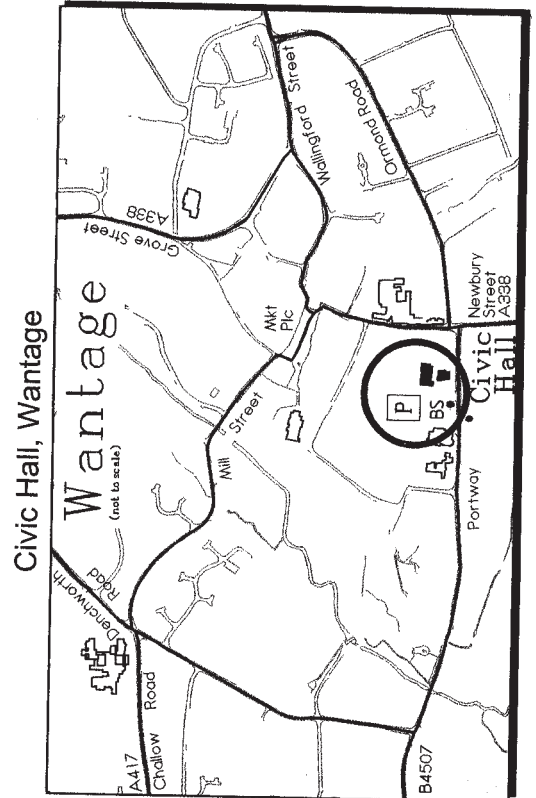
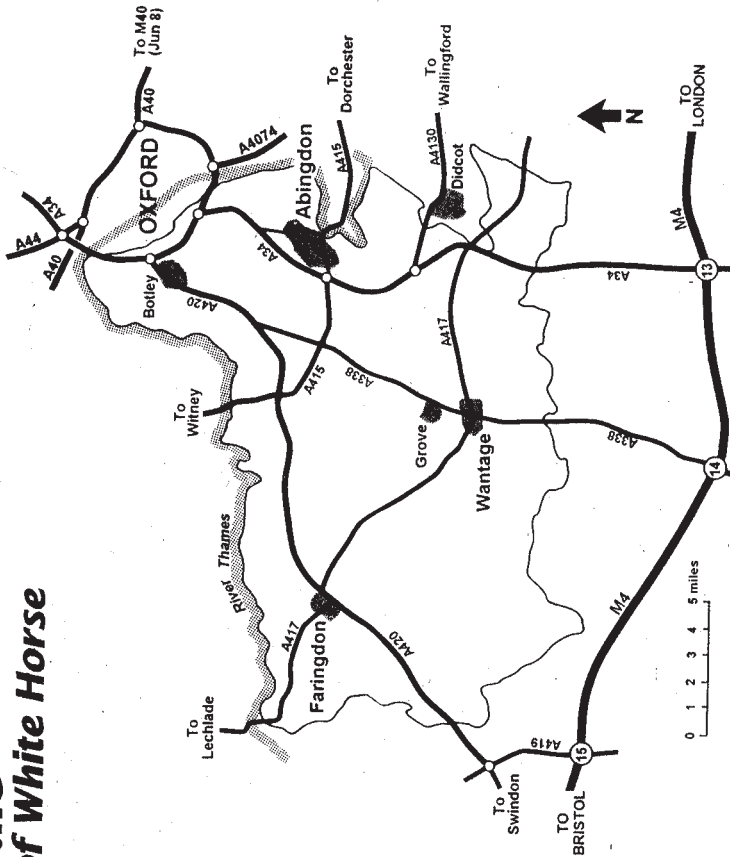
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale

Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale

Protect and improve our built and natural environment



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



SE.12

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY, 10TH
MARCH, 2009 AT 7.00PM**

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Zoe Patrick, Reg Waite, Mike Murray, Julia Reynolds, Bill Melotti, Terry Cox, Richard Farrell, Margaret Turner and John Morgan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

SE.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce Hutchinson, Anthony Hayward, James McGee, Sue Marchant and Terry Fraser.

In the absence of Councillor Hutchinson, Councillor Julia Reynolds took the Chair.

SE.19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 October 2008 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bill Melotti declared a personal interest in item 7 "Community Grants" in that his son was a member of Wantage Town Football Club, one of the organisations seeking grant funding.

SE.21 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

SE.22 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER

32

The Committee noted that one member of the public had given notice that he wished to make a statement in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 32.

Mr Ian Turner made a brief statement in support of the application for grant funding by Childrey Playing Field Trust. He advised that land had been acquired by the community 12 years ago and was managed by a Trust. He confirmed that it was in the process of applying for funding from various agencies for a play project and confirmed that they had already secured in the region of £60,000 of the £73,000 required.

He advised that the Committee had been approached to assist with the fencing off of the children's play area. He read a letter to the Committee from the Little Ducks Nursery School, which supported the need for fencing around a safe outdoor play area for children and advised of the benefits of providing such equipment and an environment which enabled children to develop essential motor skills.

SE.23 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None.

SE.24 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered report 167/08 of the Strategic Director on Community Grants.

Councillor Bill Melotti had declared a personal interest in this item in so far as it related to an application from Wantage Football Club and his son was a member.

It was noted that the Committee was requested to consider three applications from local groups in the South East area of the Vale and an additional 4 applications which had been referred by the Executive back to each of the Area Committees for possible additional support.

One Member commented that the referral back to the Area Committees for possible additional support by the Executive gave the Committee difficulty. He commented that there was an assumption that the Area Committees had equal budgets; however this was not the case as the South East Area Committee often spent its entire budget whereas other Area Committees did not.

The Committee agreed that it would consider each of the three applications and should there be remaining budget it would consider the applications which had been referred to the Committee from the Executive.

The Committee agreed to firstly consider whether to award a grant in principle and having considered all three then return to each one to consider the level of support it was prepared to give.

Wantage Town Football Club

The Committee noted that the application was for towards funding the costs of purchasing equipment to be used on the new football pitches. It was noted that Wantage Town Council had given support to the Football Club. One Member suggested that the Football Club should approach Waitrose supermarket in Wantage, as they offered support to local clubs, societies and charities.

One Member questioned whether the Football Association had been approached, given that it had resources.

The Committee agreed in principal to support the application.

Childrey Playing Field Trust

One Member wished to seek clarification on a point raised by Mr Turner, who had spoken earlier in the meeting. The Chair proposed that the meeting be adjourned to enable clarification to be sought on a point raised by the applicant.

RESOLVED

(a) that the meeting of the Committee be adjourned for 5 minutes to enable clarification to be sought from a member of the public.

The meeting adjourned at 7.10pm and reconvened at 7.15pm

One Member commented that he hoped the Committee would look favourably on this application as for small villages with small population bases it was difficult to raise the funds for such a project. Another Member agreed and in addition commented that support for the fencing off of children's play areas had traditionally been a priority.

The Committee agreed in principle to support the application.

1861 Wantage Air Training Corps. (ATC)

Several Members commented that the ATC did an excellent job with young people. It was suggested by one Member that the organisation approach the surrounding parishes for support.

The Committee agreed in principle to support the application.

Additional Parish Cleansing Grants

Members commented that although the Vale was paying for parish cleansing through the waste contract it was not always being carried out on a frequent basis in the villages. The Community Strategy Officer advised that the Waste Team had advised that the public should contact them with any concerns.

One Member questioned whether all parishes were aware of the possibility of additional support for parish cleansing. It was confirmed by Officers that a letter had been sent to all of the parishes inviting applications and had been given a deadline by which to respond.

Having considered the three new applications by 9 votes in favour and 0 votes against it was

RESOLVED

(b) that the remaining budget for the South East Area Committee for 2008/09 in the sum of £6,945.15 be noted

(c) that the grant applications to the Committee be determined as follows:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
Wantage Town Football Club	Grant towards equipment for the new football pitches	£2,315.05	Social Agenda Town and Village Vitality Priority
Childrey Playing Field Trust	Grant towards the provision of fencing around the children's play area	£2,315.05	Environmental Agenda Town and Village Vitality Priority
Wantage ATC	Grant towards the purchase of a second hand mini bus	£2,315.05	Social Agenda Access Priority

(d) that no additional support be provided by the Committee to those applications referred by the Executive due to the Committee having no remaining budget;

(e) that the Community Grant's budget for the South East Area for 2009/10 be noted as £22,728;

(f) that any unallocated grant money which remains unclaimed for the period 2008/9 be carried forward; and

(g) that additional parish cleansing grants in 2009/10 be allocated as follows:

Parish	Grant
Ardington and Lockinge	£28.80
Blewbury	£120.00
Chilton	£124.80
Harwell	£973.20
Letcombe Regis	£374.40
Milton	£550.00
West Hendred	£28.80
Total	£2,200

SE.25 TARGETING GRANTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOUTH EAST AREA

The Committee received and considered report 168/08 of the Strategic Director which proposed a prospectus for the targeting of grants in the South East Area.

Officers advised that the purpose of the prospectus was to give an idea to parishes and community groups what sort of applications were particularly welcome in the South East Area. It was confirmed that it was not the intention to impose additional criteria; it was simply to guide applicants.

One Member questioned whether the costs of producing and publicising the prospectus would come out of the South East Area Committee budget. Officers confirmed that the costs would be covered by a separate budget.

One Member commented that he considered the prospectus a good idea, however felt that some of the priorities were beyond the remit of the Committee, for example, the provision of affordable homes. He expressed concern that this may create expectations which could not be met.

One Member commented that he felt the prospectus was too detailed, taking up Officer time and resources in terms of its production for a grants budget that was fairly small. Officers responded that the production of the prospectus was in conjunction with looking at the work of the community strategy as a whole. One Member advised that the production of the prospectus would help with encouraging more focussed applications.

The Committee considered each of the proposed priorities for the South East Area 2009/10. The Committee wished it to be noted that although the following would be removed from the prospectus each application would be considered on its merits.

RESOLVED

(1) that the prospectus be agreed subject to the following priorities be removed;

(i) Safer Communities – reassuring people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime.

(ii) Affordable Homes

(iii) Good Quality Homes – providing pro-active housing advice for “hard to reach” groups, (young, disabled, ethnic minorities)

(iv) Building on our economic strengths

(v) Addressing economic weaknesses

(vi) Using resources wisely

(2) That the following amendment be made to the priority “A high quality natural and historic environment” to read:

“Enhancing public buildings that are open to the public” and;

“Enhancing public parks and gardens that are open to the public”.

(3) that the following amendment be made to the priority “Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale’s market town centres” to read:

“Encouraging residents to support shops and other businesses in the area’s villages and towns”

(4) that the priority “A low carbon vale” make reference to the encouragement of small scale projects, promoting more efficient energy use.

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

None.

The meeting rose at 8.15 pm

Report to the SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE



9TH June 2009

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy

Report No. 09/09

Author: Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer

Telephone: **01235 540626**

Wards Affected
All wards in the South
East Area

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Recommendation

- (a) *that Members note the budget position for the South East Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year*
- (b) *that Members determine the amount of grant to be awarded to the Wantage Summer Festival, having agreed by e-mail that a grant should be awarded*
- (c) *that Members consider and determine the following grant applications:*
 - (i) **Grove Parish Council, £4,000**, towards a replacement fence for a children's play area
 - (ii) **Wantage Displays, £2,500**, towards town centre lights and flower displays

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for Community Grants at the beginning of the financial year 2009/10, to invite Members to determine the amount of grant to be awarded to an applicant whose application has recently been considered by e-mail and to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.

2. Relationship with Corporate Plan

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

3. The Community Grants Budget

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

Budget b/f 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Total budget 2009/10	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£0.00	£22,495.00	£22,495.00	£7,873.00	£7,874.00	£2,249.00	£4,499.00
	Allocated	£2,200.00	£2,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Remaining budget	£20,295.00	£5,673.00	£7,874.00	£2,249.00	£4,499.00

- 3.2 The sum of £2,200.00 was allocated from the 2009/10 budget at the March meeting of the Committee towards additional parish cleansing.
- 3.3 In addition, an application from Little Pippins Pre-School is currently being considered under officer delegation and the outcome will be reported verbally at the meeting. If this application is successful the remaining budget may be reduced by up to £500.00.

4. Application by e-mail

- 4.1 A grant application for £3,500 towards the organisation of the Wantage Summer Festival 2009 was received after the last meeting of the South East Area Committee. It was agreed with the Chair of the Committee that the application should be considered and determined by e-mail for the following reasons:
- The festival starts on 6 June, three days before the next meeting of the South East Area Committee; if the application is not considered before the festival begins it would not meet the eligibility criteria of the Community Grants Scheme
 - The Committee has recognised the importance of the festival for the town and residents and has supported it with a grant for a number of years
 - The Council has made provision for considering grant applications outside a Committee meeting
- 4.2 In compliance with the process for determining grants by e-mail, as agreed by the Executive on 5 January 2007, a narrative of the application was circulated firstly to the Chair, then to the ward councillors, in this case all the Wantage councillors. The narrative included a recommendation from officers to award a grant, the suggested amount of grant (£2,000) and the condition that a reasonable grant is awarded by

Wantage Town Council in addition to the standard conditions which apply to all grants awarded. The Chair was asked whether she agreed with the recommendations from officers. The Chair's response was communicated to the ward councillors, namely that she was in agreement with the recommendations with the exception that she proposed a grant of £2,500 instead of £2,000.

- 4.3 The ward councillors, who had declared that they did not have a prejudicial interest in this application, all supported the award of a grant but they were not in agreement on the amount.
- 4.4 The officers' recommendation and details of the amendments to the amounts were circulated to the remaining members of the committee with the request that they state whether or not they supported the award of a grant and if so, whether they were in agreement with a grant of £2,500, proposed and seconded by two of the ward councillors.
- 4.5 Twelve responses were received from a possible fifteen Members who were eligible to vote. The unanimous response was that a grant should be awarded. However, the responses were not unanimous on the amount to be awarded, nor was there a clear majority for a particular amount. The amounts proposed ranged from £2,000 to £2,500. As a result of there being no clear majority on the amount of grant to be awarded, the amount to be awarded is to be determined at this meeting.
- 4.6 Members of the South East Area Committee have given a clear response that they support the application in principle and that the level of support they consider appropriate ranges from £2,000 to £2,500. The applicant has been advised of this. Members are requested to agree the amount of grant they wish to award. A grant narrative for Wantage Summer Festival 2009 is included at Appendix A.

5.0 New grant applications

- 5.1 Applications totalling £6,500 have been received from the following applicants and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix B.
- (i) **Grove Parish Council, £4,000**, towards a replacement fence for a children's play area
 - (ii) **Wantage Displays, £2,500**, towards town centre lights and flower displays

6.0 Financial, legal and any other implications

- 6.1 None

Background Papers: Grant applications and associated documents

Applicant: Wantage Summer Festival 2009

Years in existence: 14 years

Type of organisation: Umbrella facilitating and co-ordinating organisation run by volunteers

Project, service or event details: Wantage Summer Festival is seeking a grant towards the cost of coordinating the festival which will take place from 6 June – 5 July 2009 in Wantage and surrounding area.

Following the well-tried and successful practice of previous years, the project provides:

- a) a co-ordinating framework to service individual performances, exhibitions, workshops and other live events with publicity, insurance, ticket and programme preparation
- b) support for the Youth's contribution of family entertainment (a special festival event which displays the range of music talent in the area)

As in previous years, the month-long programme of activities has been devised and supervised by local volunteers. The festival confirms Wantage and the Vale as a centre of local artistic excellence and opportunity, enhancing community spirit and reinforcing individual group efforts. It involves a large number of schools, churches and artistic groups and societies. The Vale & Downland Museum plays an active role with gallery talks, walks, displays, craft, music and family-friendly events. The environment features strongly this year and there is an educational element in many of the events.

Since the festival began, fourteen years ago, it has seen a steady increase in the number of participants yet the festival's continuation is continually in question as financial constraints bite deeply. The Committee continues to seek out new initiatives and artistic opportunities in order to enhance the festival's success and to help it survive as long as possible.

Area of the Vale covered: Takes place in Wantage, involves many local people but event is open to anyone.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: Several thousand people of all ages are expected to attend.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: All services provided by the Festival Committee are free to participating organisations. There is a charge to the public to attend most events and the income from ticket sales goes to the participating groups. Participants are encouraged to be inclusive by pitching any necessary ticket charges at the lowest feasible level whilst maintaining high performance standards.

Total estimated project cost: £4,375 incl VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)

Balances: £3,337 at 30.09.08

Running costs: £3,068 year ended 30.09.08

Own Contribution: Volunteer time and labour. The organisation has no income and for several years has steadily eroded its reserves, particularly with its support of youth activities.

Grant Sought: £3,500

Previous Awards (Vale): £2,225 2008/09
£2,500 2007/08, 2006/07 and 2005/06
£3,500 2004/05

Parish Council Support: Applied to Wantage Town Council for £1,100 (awaiting decision)

Parish Precept: £121,000 (Band D: £31.30)

Other Support: RSRL (formerly UKAEA) has provided sponsorship of £300. The local youth organisation (Sweatbox) will again make a major contribution to the festival's increasing promotion of youth and family activities.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Work in partnership to sustain vibrant market towns
Supports Sustainable Community Strategy action(s)	Fostering a greater sense of community
Remaining budget for 2009/10	£20,295
Remaining Committee meetings	3
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	N/A as no other applications being considered.
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions and subject to a reasonable grant from Wantage Town Council.
Other comments	The festival is a very important event for Wantage, however, in view of WSF's healthy balances, the estimated income for the co-ordination of the festival and the Committee's modest budget for the rest of the year, officers are unable to recommend the full amount requested. Officers suggest that WSF considers the introduction of a modest charge to participating groups as a contribution

	towards the support provided by WSF; WSF is also encouraged to seek funding advice from OCVA to try and identify other potential funders.
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APPENDIX B

(i) Applicant: Grove Parish Council

Years in existence: Since 1894

Type of organisation: Parish Council

Project, service or event details: Grove Parish Council is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing a fence surrounding the Mary Green play area, a children's play area in Grove. The existing fence was erected more than 25 years ago and is now considered beyond repair.

The new fence with three self-closing gates, which conform to current health and safety legislation and play safety regulations, will protect the play area from dogs and dog waste.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

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

Area of the Vale covered: Grove

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 800

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

Total estimated project cost: £10,111.83 excl VAT; £11,628.60 incl VAT.
VAT is reclaimable.

Balances: £6,111.83

GRANT REQUESTED: £4,000

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: £2,111.83

Parish Council precept: £226,071 (Band 'D' £79.13)

Other Support: Friend and developer has donated £4,000

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

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£4,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale; Keeping the Vale a clean place to live
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£20,295
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£2,000
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions.
Other comments	The existing fence has lasted a long time and its replacement is essential to provide a secure and clean playing area for the children in the parish.

(ii) Applicant: Wantage Displays

Years in existence: 15 years

Type of organisation: Association

Project, service or event details: Wantage Displays is responsible for hiring the Christmas lights and buying the flowers for Wantage in Bloom flower displays. Lights and flowers have been provided for many years in Wantage town centre and have proved very popular with the local community, to such an extent that the community has asked for the Christmas lights and flowers to be extended into other roads.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	X
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	

Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	X
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: Wantage

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

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

Total estimated project cost: £11,500 excl VAT; £13,225 incl VAT. VAT is not reclaimable.

Balances: To be reported verbally

Running costs: To be reported verbally

Own Contribution: Volunteers provide administrative support and collect sponsors for advertisements.

GRANT REQUESTED: £2,500

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: Wantage Town Council approx £2,000

Parish precept: £126,700 (Band 'D' £32.25)

Other Support:

JET	£1,000
Chamber	£1,000
13 x £60 sponsorship	£ 780
Other	£2,000

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

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	See recommended conditions.
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Supporting a vibrant local economy
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£20,295

Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£4,000
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions. In addition, Wantage Displays needs to have a constitution to comply with the grants criteria.
Other comments	The applicant is advised to apply to the Joint Economic Forum.