

South East Area Committee Agenda



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Date: 2 October 2009
Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

A meeting of the
South East Area Committee
will be held on Tuesday, 13th October, 2009 at 6.30 pm
Civic Hall, Wantage

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Joyce Hutchinson (Chair)
Richard Farrell (Vice-Chair)
Terry Cox
Andrew Crawford
Terry Fraser
Jenny Hannaby
Anthony Hayward
James McGee

Bill Melotti
Sue Marchant
John Morgan
Mike Murray
Zoe Patrick
Julia Reynolds
Margaret Turner
Reg Waite

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in the code of conduct adopted on 30 September 2007 and standing order 34 regarding the declaration of personal and prejudicial interests.

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and vision

(Page 4)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached. A link to information about nearby car parking is http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car_parking/default.asp

The council's vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the committee meeting held on 9 June 2009 (previously circulated).

3. Declarations of interest

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. 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.

5. Statement, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the South East Area Committee

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

6. Community grants

(Pages 5 - 17)

To receive and consider report 57/09 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

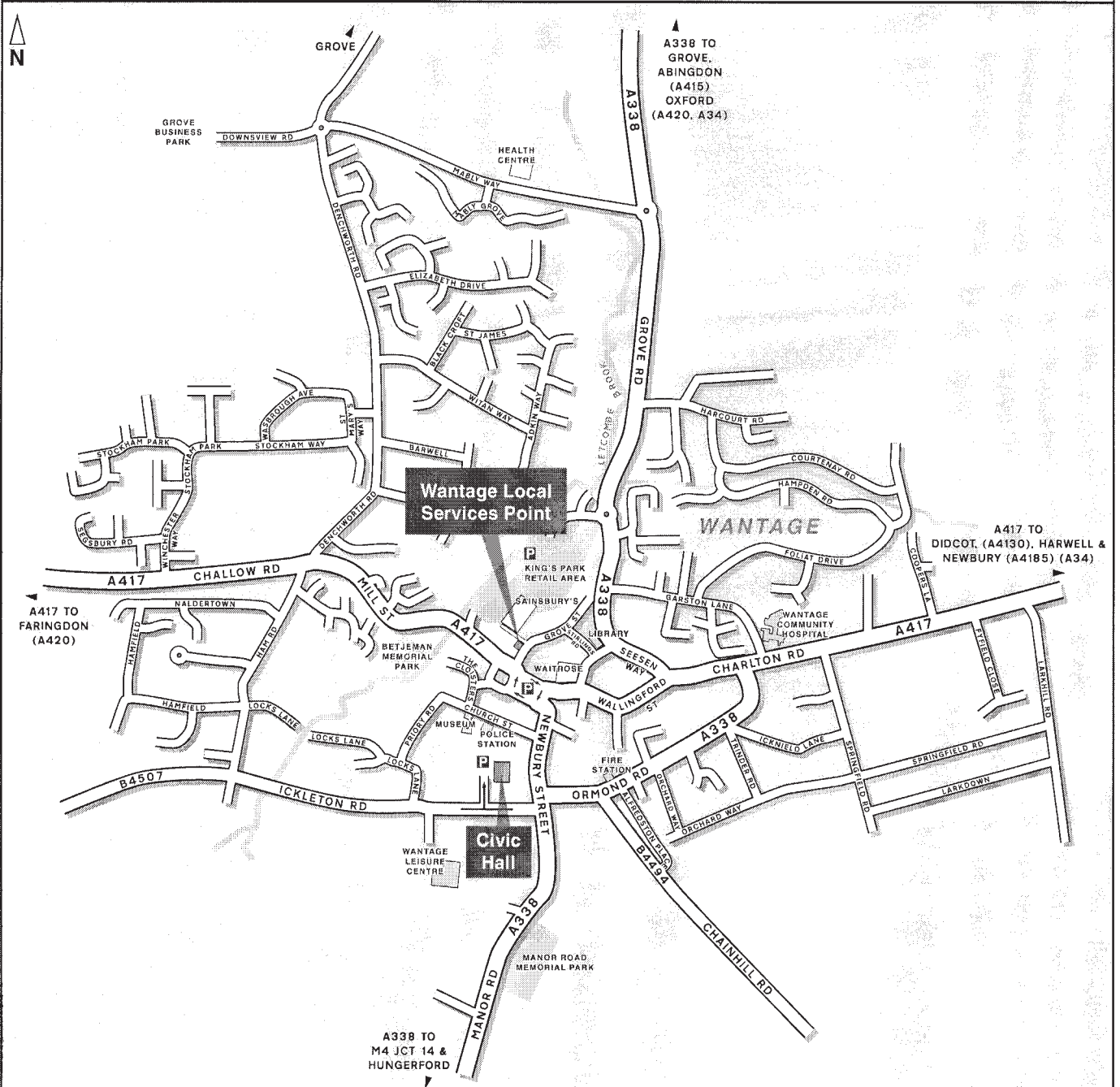


**Vale
of White Horse**

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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1 Grove Street,
Wantage OX12 7AB
Tel: 01235 772372

Wantage Civic Hall
Portway, Wantage
OX12 9BX
Tel: 01235 763456



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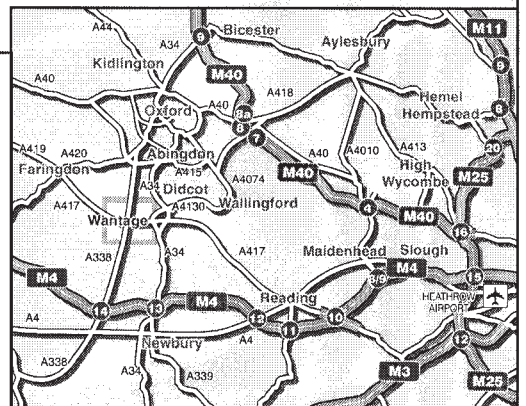
OS data PU100040256. Crown © 2008.



By rail - The nearest main line railway stations to Wantage are either Didcot Parkway (10 miles) or Oxford (15 miles). For details of train times visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484950

By bus - There are bus routes running to Wantage from Abingdon, Didcot and Oxford. For details of services and timetables, visit Oxfordshire County Council's website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk. Contact details for bus operators can be found on the travel information pages on our website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Parking - The Council has car parks on Portway and Limborough Road, both of which give easy access to the town centre. Details of charges for parking can be found on our website.



Report to the SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE



13 October 2009

Report of **Head of Corporate Strategy**

Report No. 57/09

Author: **Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer**

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Telephone: **01235 540391**

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Wards Affected
All wards in the South
East Area

Community Grants

Recommendations

- (a) that the South East Area Committee notes the remaining budget for community grants in 2009/10 for the south east area of the Vale*
- (b) that the South East Area Committee considers and determines the SLA grants to twinning associations*
- (c) that the South East Area Committee considers and determines the new applications that have been received and appraised*

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the South East Area Committee in respect of community grants and to invite the committee to consider and determine the grant applications received.

2. Relationship with Corporate Plan

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

3. The community grants budget

3.1 The table below shows the budget position for the South East Area Committee after the last meeting of the committee in June 2009. The figure for the remaining budget is likely to change following the meeting of Executive on 2 October as explained under paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 below. The new figure for the remaining budget will be confirmed verbally at the meeting.

Budget b/f 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Total budget 2009/10	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£0	£22,495	£22,495	£7,873	£7,874	£2,249	£4,499
	Allocated	£10,700	£6,200	£2,500	£2,000	£0
	Remaining budget	£11,795	£1,673	£5,374	£249	£4,499

3.2 The South East Area Committee is aware that the council is facing a difficult financial situation. Budget monitoring of the cost centre from which community grants are funded has identified a deficit of £12,000 which there is still time to mitigate. This deficit has arisen due to a commitment to increase grant payments to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau and Wantage Independent Advice Centre by the annual rate of inflation.

3.3 Executive will consider a report on 2 October which includes a recommendation to reduce the community grant budget by £15,000 to address the deficit of £12,000 with an allowance for any unforeseen costs.

3.4 The report proposes that the budget reduction is apportioned between the Executive and the area committees in the same way that the annual community grants budget is apportioned. The Executive receives 21 per cent of the budget and the remainder is apportioned according to the percentage of the electorate in each area on 1 January 2009. Therefore the proposed budget reduction is apportioned as follows:

	Reduction	Remaining
Executive	£3,150	£8,314
Abingdon area committee	£3,786	£10,830
North East area committee	£ 2,710	£13,670
South East area committee	£3,264	£8,531
West area committee	£2,090	£413
Total	£15,000	£41,758

3.5 If the Executive agrees to the budget reduction and the proposed apportionment of the reduction, the South East Area Committee's remaining community grants budget for 2009/10 will be £8,531.

3.6 In the past the budget has been apportioned into different agendas and a discretionary proportion in order to guide Executive and area committees in the allocation of the budget. However, the community grants scheme is a discretionary scheme and Executive and area committees are advised to allocate the budget to support the Corporate Plan and Vale Sustainable Community Strategy. Executive will consider a report on 2 October recommending that the apportioning of the budget into different agendas is no longer required. Officers will advise the South East Area Committee on

the outcome. In the meantime, the apportionment is shown according to agendas in the table under paragraph 3.1.

4. Twinning partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

In accordance with the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex.83) twinning associations are partners in service provision and signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to this effect. The funding for the SLA is allocated from Area Committee budgets. In the South East Area the allocation is:

Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group £500

- 4.1 The original SLAs ran from 2004-2007 and came to an end on 31 March 2007. The Executive agreed that all SLAs should be extended. The SLAs have been extended on an annual basis for the last two years pending a review of all service level agreements. The twinning associations, in common with all SLA partners, are asked to provide specified information to enable officers to monitor that the partnership is meeting its commitments under the SLA. Both twinning associations have submitted the required monitoring information for 2009/10.
- 4.2 Members are asked to consider and determine the SLA grants to the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group.
- 4.3 If the budget reduction, outlined above under item 3, is agreed by the Executive and if the allocations for twinning SLAs are agreed in full by the South East Area Committee, the remaining budget for the committee will be £6,031.

5 New grant applications

- 5.1 Applications totalling £12,200 have been received from the following applicants. Narratives providing additional details are in Appendix A:
- **Wantage and Grove Street Pastors, £5,000**, towards running costs, Social Agenda
 - **East Hendred Community Centre, £500**, towards replacement fencing, Environmental Agenda
 - **Wantage Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry, £6,700**, towards pre-festival events, Social Agenda
- 5.2 Members are requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

6. Options

- 6.1 There are no alternative options to the consideration and determination of the grant applications received.

7. Financial, legal and any other implications

- 7.1 Grant awards, if any, will be allocated from a South East Area community grants budget and prior to determination the committee will be advised of the amount available to allocate.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The South East Area Committee is requested to consider and determine the SLA grant to the two twinning associations located in the south east area of the Vale and to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Background Papers

Community grant applications and supporting documents

Appendix:

Narratives summarising the applications received

APPENDIX A

APPLICANT – WANTAGE AND GROVE STREET PASTORS

Years in existence

Three months

Type of organisation

In the process of applying for charitable status

Project, service or event details

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors is a scheme set up by a group of Christian communities in Wantage and Grove. The scheme is seeking a grant towards the cost of providing administrative support to volunteers and to provide equipment such as uniforms and mobile 'phones. The project trains and equips volunteers to provide care, support and help on the streets between the hours of 10pm and 2am, initially on Friday nights only. The project will extend to Saturday nights as it gains momentum. The volunteers will provide help where needed and where it is accepted, such as helping someone to walk home, engaging those on the streets in conversation, or sitting with someone who is waiting for a taxi or bus alone. Statistically speaking, the people to be found on the streets at the times in question tend to be young people of lower income, of low attainment and skills or of an ethnic minority group.

In other locations these simple actions have been shown to have a significant and positive effect on the atmosphere of the town and to result in a reduction in crime.

The project organisers intended to recruit twenty volunteers in the first year, but in the first three months twenty-two people have already come forward to volunteer. Following training by the Ascension Trust, a registered charity which operates the street pastors initiative, the first presence on the streets of Wantage is planned for October.

This is the first street pastors initiative in the Vale and the pilot project for the county. It has widespread support from politicians at all levels, statutory agencies, the Vale Partnership as well as the faith community.

Supports the 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	
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

The initial focus of activity will be in Wantage town centre, based on advice from the Wantage Police. Ultimately the aim is to cover Wantage and Grove as appropriate.

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

Five hundred (250 male and 250 female) across a wide age range

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?

None

Total estimated project cost

£12,710 for 2009-2010

Balances

£ 507.57 on 1 September 2009

Running costs

£12,710 per year

Own contribution

Volunteers are expected to pay a contribution towards their training and uniform – likely to be £50 – leading to an expected £1,000 income for the year.

Wantage Baptist church is providing use of their hall free of charge. This will be used as a base for the street pastor operations whenever they go onto the streets.

Churches which have signed up to the scheme are offering (on average) a subsidy of £150 per person for training – leading to an expected £3,000 income for the year.

Each volunteer spends twelve days in training and forty-eight hours p.a. on the streets. The management committee is comprised of volunteers. The Chair of the management committee,

who is a leader of one of the participating churches, spends time on the project at the expense of the church he leads.

Grant requested
£5,000

Previous awards (Vale)
None

Parish council support
Wantage Town Council has awarded a grant of £400

Town/Parish council precept
Wantage Town Council: £126,700, Band D: £32.25

Other support
VOWHDC Community Safety Partnership has granted £2,000 for 2009/2010
General church funding/donations - £1,000
Thames Valley Police is exploring funding options and is positive

Officer recommendation

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£4,500
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	To be advised verbally at the meeting
Remaining committee meetings	To be confirmed
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£1,300
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	This project not only meets a corporate priority for the council, it also meets several priorities of the Sustainable Vale Community Strategy. It addresses community safety issues and helps to foster a greater sense of community as well as providing support to the most vulnerable people, particularly young people.

Applicant – EAST HENDRED COMMUNITY CENTRE

Years in existence

35

Type of organisation

Registered charity

Project, service or event details

East Hendred Community Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of removing the existing badly-damaged steel fencing at the eastern boundary of Snells Hall, and replacing it with a new steel railing fence.

The district council's officers have identified the current fence as in need of urgent renovation to enhance the area as it spoils the visual appearance of this attractive part of the village conservation area. It is adjacent to a footpath which is well used by villagers and visitors.

Snells Hall is used by the village residents for meetings, classes and a wide range of recreation and leisure time occupations. This new fence will enhance the hall's environment.

Supports the following Vale community strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	X
Fostering a greater sense of community	
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	X
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	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	X

Area of the Vale covered

East Hendred primarily, however the Hall is used by groups from neighbouring villages and towns including groups such as Wantage Morris Men, Guild of King Alfred Players etc.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit in the Vale

Three hundred and ninety regular users of the Hall, split across both males and females, and a broad age range, however the facilities are used by groups from other areas of the Vale, and the improvement to the village conservation area will benefit all of the village residents.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?

Hall fees are set at a level to cover the running costs of the building

Total estimated project cost

£1,756 excluding VAT; £1,997 including VAT. VAT cannot be reclaimed.

Balances

£2,281 as at 31 December 2008

Running costs

£11,943 for the year ending 31 December 2008

Own contribution

Balance remaining after all grants received. Expected to be £997

Grant requested

£500

Previous awards (Vale)

2004/05 - £3,000

Parish council support

East Hendred Parish Council: £500

Town/Parish council precept

Precept: £20,000, Band D: £41.78

Other support

East Hendred Community Centre has applied to Oxfordshire County Council and UKAEA at Harwell but both applications were rejected.

Officer recommendation

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£300
Reasons:	
Meets community grant criteria?	Yes
Supports corporate priorities?	No
Supports community strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	To be advised verbally at the meeting
Remaining committee meetings	To be confirmed
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£5,500
Recommended conditions to grant Award	Standard conditions
Other comments	Although this application does not meet a corporate priority, it meets several priorities in the Sustainable Vale Community Strategy. In view of this and the reduced budget a modest grant is recommended.

Applicant – WANTAGE BETJEMAN FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND POETRY

Years in existence

New organisation set up in June 2009

Type of organisation

Organising Committee for Literary Festival

Project, service or event details

The Wantage Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry is seeking a grant towards the organisation and staging of a new festival designed to celebrate the work of Sir John Betjeman and other authors and poets with local connections to the Wantage area. The organising committee plans to use the festival to encourage greater interest in poetry and literature especially amongst children and young people, to raise the cultural profile of Wantage locally and nationally, and to foster a sense of pride in the cultural heritage and history of Wantage.

The main festival is planned to take place over a 10 day period in September 2011. It will include many performances from both leading national celebrities and local amateur organisations, and will include an extensive educational outreach programme to schools in the area, focussing on addressing aspects of low attainment in reading.

The organising committee is also planning to stage several pre-festival events throughout 2010 to raise awareness of the festival.

Local poet Pam Ayres and singer Sandie Shaw have agreed to be patrons of the festival.

Supports the following Vale community strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	
Improving quality of life for older people	X
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	X
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	X
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	X
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

Whilst the festival will attract visitors from across the Vale and beyond, the main cultural and economic benefits are expected to be for the residents and businesses of Wantage and the surrounding villages.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit in the Vale

Twenty four thousand males and females across a broad age range.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?

Many events will be free of charge and open to all members of the public. Any proceeds from ticket revenue for other events involving national celebrities will be carried to future festivals.

Total estimated project cost

£17,000 excluding VAT; £20,000 including VAT over three years (2009-10). VAT cannot be reclaimed. Estimated expenditure is £2,000 in calendar year 2009, £5,000 in 2010 and £13,000 in 2011.

Balances

£0 as new project

Running costs

£20,00 for the full event

Own contribution

£100 on initial running expenses

Grant requested

£6,700

Previous awards (Vale)

None

Parish council support

Wantage Town Council has not yet been approached.

Other support

Midland Co-operative has donated £300. Other approaches have been made but responses to date have been negative.

Officer recommendation

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£1,000 – see comments
Reasons:	
Meets community grant criteria?	See recommended conditions
Supports corporate priorities?	Supporting a vibrant local economy.
Supports community strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	To be advised verbally at the meeting.
Remaining committee meetings	To be confirmed
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£4,800
Recommended conditions to grant Award	In order to meet the grant scheme criteria, any grant awarded should be subject to a reasonable grant from Wantage Town Council and applications being made to other funders in the current financial year. A grant award should be subject to detailed proposals as to how this funding will be used in the remainder of 2009/10. Otherwise, standard conditions.
Other comments	As the festival is being planned over 3 years and will not take place before the financial year 2011/12, it is only appropriate to consider a grant towards expenditure which will be incurred in the current financial year. This seems to amount to £2,000. A modest grant is recommended in view of the committee's very limited budget and the lead time to the festival. It would not be appropriate to tie up a significant proportion of the committee's budget now. Subject to budget, the committee could consider an application in 2010/11 and 2011/12 by which time the organisers will have had time to secure other funding.