

Date: 6 March 2006

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, 14TH MARCH, 2006** at **7.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, 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 Carole Nicholl, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 547631.

Map and Vision

(Page 3)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision are attached.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2006, (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 22 March 2006).

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.

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.

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. 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.

6. 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.

7. Community Grants

(Pages 4 - 11)

To receive and consider report 252/05 of the Strategic Director.

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

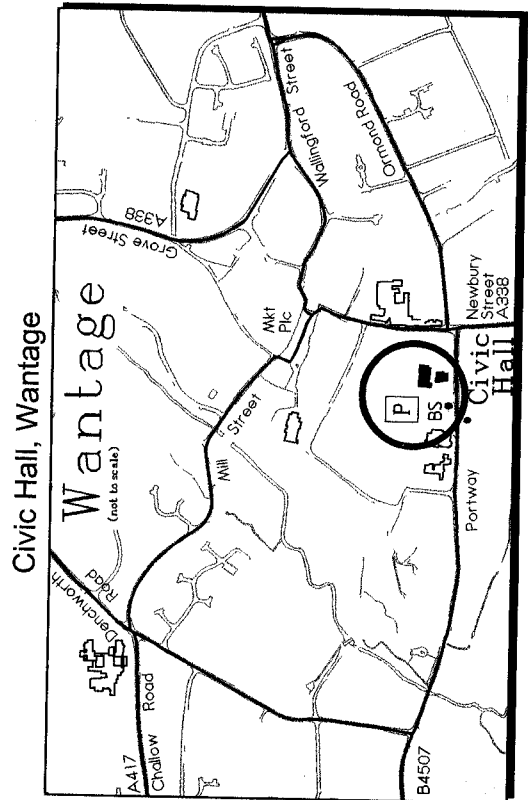
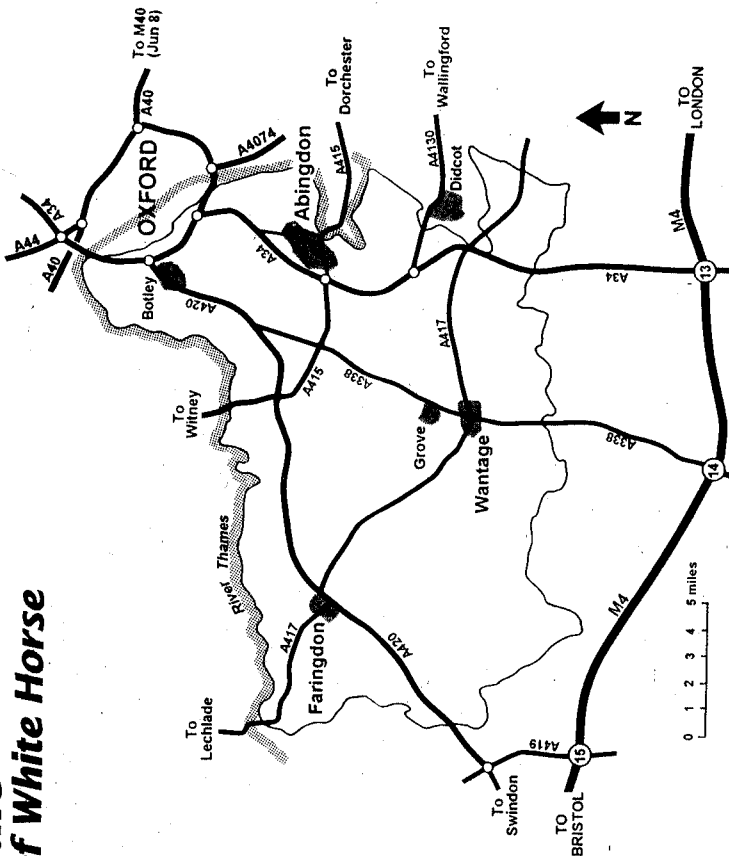
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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



LOCATION MAP



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 2006

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer, (Tel: 01235 547626).

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's remaining budget for 2005/06 is £7,689.88*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Wantage War Memorial Committee, £5,000***, towards refurbishment of war memorial, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) ***Challow and Childrey Cricket Club, £1,000***, towards the purchase of a mobile batting cage, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality
- (c) *Members are asked to note that the budget for the South East Area Committee for 2006/07 will be advised verbally at the meeting following the resolution by the Executive on 3 March*
- (d) *Members are asked to determine whether the grant application from Wantage Summer Festival should be considered from the 2005/06 or 2006/07 budget and to determine the agenda and Council priority for the application, included on Appendix A as item (iii)*
- (iii) ***Wantage Summer Festival 2006, £3,000***, towards publicity and administration costs, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (e) *Members are asked to consider and determine the bids for parish cleansing which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget*
- (f) *Members are asked to note that additional guidance for grants supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing is in preparation and will be distributed at the meeting*
- (g) *Members are asked to consider whether they would like a draft prospectus of the Committee's priorities for grant assistance to be prepared for discussion at the next meeting*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

4.0 Community Grants

4.1 The current budget position for the South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as follows:

Budget b/f 2004/05	Budget 2005/06	Total budget 2005/06	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£3,473.32	£24,948.00	£28,421.32	£8,731.80	£8,731.80 (+ £6,858.20 from discretionary)	£2,494.80	£8,462.92
	Allocated	£20,731.44	£ 5,141.44	£15,590	£0	£6,858.20
	Remaining	£7,689.88	£3,590.36	£0	£2,494.80	£1,604.72

Applications have been received in respect of the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A to the report:

- (i) **Wantage War Memorial Committee, £5,000**, towards refurbishment of war memorial, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Challow and Childrey Cricket Club, £1,000**, towards the purchase of a mobile batting cage, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality

Members are invited to consider and determine the applications listed above and to determine the Council agenda and priority.

4.2 An application has been received from Wantage Summer Festival (WSF) for a grant towards the costs of the 2006 festival which begins on 10 June. WSF has already been awarded a grant in the current financial year towards the 2005 festival last summer. The grants criteria do not allow more than one award to be made to the same organisation in one year for the same project. If the Committee considers that the Wantage Summer Festival, as a recurring event, is in effect the same project, then a grant award could be considered and made now from the 2006/07 budget, on the understanding that the payment of any grant is only made in the new financial year. The grant being sought is towards publicity and administration costs and as such these costs need to be incurred well in advance of the event. If the application is only considered at the first meeting of the new financial year, the costs would have been incurred which would render the application ineligible for consideration.

4.3 If the Committee decides that the Wantage Summer Festival 2006 is in essence not "the same project" as the Wantage Summer Festival 2005 for which a grant has been awarded in the current financial year, Members are invited to consider and determine the following application with the two listed above from the 2005/06 budget.

- (iii) **Wantage Summer Festival 2006, £3,000**, towards publicity and administration costs, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.0 Parish cleansing bids for 2006/07

- 5.1 For some years, a number of parish councils have opted to carry out street cleansing activities in addition to the service provided by the district council's contractor. The district council has, for some time, provided discretionary grants towards the cost of additional street cleansing carried out by parish councils on relevant land, that is, land for which the responsibility for cleansing rests with the district council.
- 5.2 In past years some of the area committees have been concerned that the application process has obliged them to award cleansing grants of 50%.
- 5.3 This year parish councils have been requested to submit their applications before the beginning of the financial year and it has been made clear that the Council wishes to continue to support additional parish cleansing on relevant land but that determination of a grant will be at the discretion of the area committee concerned and will depend on the individual merits of the application and the budget available.
- 5.4 The following bids have been received for the South East Area Committee:

Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours	Rate	Total Amount	Amount Requested	Officer comment
Ardington & Lockinge	All paths, roads verges	On demand	15	£7.843	£117.65	£117.65	Annual schedule & responsive as necessary
Charney Bassett	Village	Continuous	60	£5.05	£320.00	£303.00	
Childrey	High Str & Chapel Way	Twice per year	Not stated	Not stated	£150.00	£150.00	Not valid. Insufficient detail. Funding requested for weed removal which is a county council function
Harwell	All roads, verges & f/paths	Variable	467	£6.36	£2970.00	£2970.00	General criteria met. 1.5 people involved. Frequency varied according to other groundsman's duties.
Milton	Roads in Milton & Milton Heights	Twice weekly	180	£5.00	£900.00	£900.00	Reference made to litter from McDonalds.
Blewbury	Village footpaths	Weekly	50	£7.50	£375.00	£375.00	
Appleford	Pavement at The	Monthly (Nov, Dec,	6	£7.50	£45.00	£45.00	Seasonal leaf clearance

Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours	Rate	Total Amount	Amount Requested	Officer comment
	Knapp	Jan)					from pavement
West Hendred	Bus stops & playing field	Monthly	48	£6.25	£300.00	£300.00	Not valid. Playing field not Vale land. Appn rec'd after deadline.

5.5 Members are asked to consider and determine the bids listed above which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget.

6.0 Review of criteria for grants supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing

6.1 Members are asked to note that leaflets detailing additional guidance for grant supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing are in preparation. These will be available to councillors at the meeting and will be available for residents on Valeweb and in hard copy format by the end of March.

6.2 Grants towards work on historic buildings will continue to be processed by the Principal Planning Officer (Environmental Policy) whereas applications that were previously considered as Village Environmental Improvement Grants will now be processed in the same way as other community grants in that applicants will be required to complete the standard community grants application form. This will be processed by the Community Strategy Officer and comments sought from the Principal Planning Officer (Environmental Policy).

6.3 Members may wish to consider the benefits of publishing a 'prospectus' so that local communities are aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the Area Committee. The document would not need to be overly long and it could be structured around the nine strands of the Vale Community Strategy:

Transport
Access to Services
Recreation, Culture & Leisure
Safe & Supportive Communities
Town & Village Vitality
Environment
Housing
Education & Lifelong Learning
Health & Wellbeing

Members are asked to consider whether they would like a draft prospectus to be prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Applications

APPENDIX A

(i) Applicant: Wantage War Memorial Committee

The Wantage War Memorial Committee was set up about eight years ago to refurbish the war memorial which is situated in the closed churchyard of St Peter and St Paul Church in Wantage. The district council does not own the churchyard or memorial but it is responsible for their general maintenance and upkeep. Refurbishment of the memorial is not included in this responsibility.

As a first stage of the refurbishment five brass plaques, etched and filled with the names of those serving in the First and Second World Wars, were commissioned. A grant of £3,000 was received from JET towards the plaques.

The second stage of the refurbishment involves Roman stonework at the base of the memorial and will include the fixing of the brass plaques and this is the object of the current grant application.

Many of the residents of Wantage are relatives of the service personnel who gave their lives for their country. Other residents recognise the importance of recording and marking their sacrifice. At least five hundred people have helped in confirming the names to be included on the plaques, indicating the widespread commitment to the project.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Town and Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning and Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£9,423 excl VAT; £11,071.88 incl VAT
Balances	£1,490.16 at 02.03.06
Running Costs	General maintenance and upkeep provided by District Council
Own Contribution	£1,000
Grant Sought	£5,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Applied to Wantage Town Council (outcome awaited)
Parish Precept	£120,000; Band D: £31.52
Other Support	Local businesses have been contacted for donations (responses awaited). Donations have been received from individuals including pensioners and families whose relatives are included on the plaques.

Officer comment (Grant Audley-Miller, Section Head (Environmental Planning and Conservation)):

The restoration of the war memorial and the provision of new plaques will enhance this very prominent churchyard located in the conservation area.

(ii) Applicant: Challow and Childrey Cricket Club

The Challow and Childrey Cricket Club is seeking a grant towards the purchase of a wheeled alloy mobile batting cage. This piece of equipment allows players of all ages to practice batting and bowling safely on the cricket pitch as it prevents balls going astray or flying around dangerously. The cage can be positioned for use on both prepared grass and artificial playing strips and removed when not in use. It is a coaching tool which encourages higher quality practice as it can be used on the actual cricket playing surface, mimicking game conditions.

The new cage is intended for use by all Club members, in particular the Youth Section members, and will serve to enhance participation and promote enjoyment of the game of cricket as well as sporting success.

The Club has a cricket-playing membership of 125 and a non-playing membership of 146. The Club runs teams at under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17 age levels as well as four senior teams at the weekend. The vast majority of the younger members of the Club (up to 20 years of age) come from Challow and Childrey, Wantage and Grove and the surrounding villages such as Denchworth and Letcombe.

The success of the England Ashes winning team has prompted a surge in interest in local cricket. In 2005 up to forty youngsters frequently attended midweek training sessions. In addition the Club's under 13 and under 17 sides reached county finals in 2005 so the Club is anticipating further increases in numbers in the 2006 season. The Club works with the Vale's Sports Development Team and also loans its facilities to local schools such as King Alfred's as well as organisations.

The Club has increased its fundraising activities. As well as a 100 Club there is currently also a Bat Raffle. At the beginning of the year a limited edition Club Calendar for 2006 was produced and has sold well. The intention is to organise additional social events with the funds raised contributing to the purchase of the proposed equipment.

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

Financial information

Total project cost	£1,200 excl VAT; £1,410 incl VAT (VAT can be reclaimed)
Balances	£3,298.07 at 31.03.05
Running costs	£74,906.97 for year ending 31.03.06
Own contribution	£200
Grant sought	£1,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	2002/03: £5,000 towards extension and modernisation of the club changing rooms
Parish Council Support	Letter of support received from East Challow Parish Council; however unable to provide financial support as they provided funding towards the extension in the recent past
Parish Precept	£17,000; Band D: £42.29; West Challow: £1,250; Band D: £13.75; Childrey: £10,500; Band D: £44.52
Other Support	Club has successfully applied to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts in recent years but they don't fund small projects such as the batting cage.

Conducted search of GrantNet and looked at Sport England and npower but didn't meet the criteria. Also looked at Awards for All but not able to submit application before submitting Vale application.

Officer comment (Helen Wynn, Sports Development Officer):

Challow & Childrey Cricket Club are an active member club of the Vale of White Horse Cricket Development Group. Their involvement highlights their commitment to providing the highest quality cricket opportunities for all members of the community including children, young people as well as adults. The club has a number of fully qualified coaches and is well on the way to achieving 'Clubmark' (a quality kite mark that recognises the club as a safe, effective, child friendly club). Challow & Childrey Cricket Club are fully supportive of the Sports Development Holiday activities and sessions are regularly hosted by the club who also take this opportunity to encourage new members into the club. The club also has links with local primary and secondary schools and again use these links to encourage both young people and their parents into the club.

(iii) Applicant: Wantage Summer Festival 2006

The Wantage Summer Festival is seeking a grant towards the cost of publicity and administration which supports the organisation of the festival, the programme creation and ticketing for the community groups involved in the festival. All entrance and ticket fees go to the individual groups involved.

The 2006 festival will be held from Saturday 10 June – Sunday 9 July and will include music, singing and dancing to suit all tastes, art and photographic exhibitions as well as theatre, poetry and a festival of flowers.

The purpose of The Wantage Summer Festival (WSF) is to encourage local (Wantage and district) people's voluntary, creative and performing arts groups to work together in the spirit of the community and to foster artistic and creative development. The festival committee is constantly seeking out new artistic opportunities and ways to improve traditional ones. Increasing emphasis is being given to working with the Youth Service to provide a showcase for youth music groups and to providing at least one event of a "family nature" where parents with young children can be thoroughly at ease.

For the 2006 festival the Youth Service has indicated that it will provide a financial contribution to the special youth event weekend activities at the end of the festival.

Since the festival began eleven years ago, support and participation has grown year on year. An increasing number of schools, churches and artistic societies and groups are getting involved in the festival each year which enhances community spirit and promotes artistic excellence in the area.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure and Education & Lifelong Learning.

Financial information

Total Project Cost	£7,900 excl VAT
Balances	£3,985 at 30.09.05
Running Costs	£5,638 for 2005 festival
Own Contribution	£1,800 plus time and labour provided by the committee of volunteers

Grant Sought	£3,000	
Previous Awards (Vale)	2003/04: £3,500 2004/05: £3,500 2005/06: £2,500	
Parish Council Support awaited)	Applied to Wantage Town Council for £1,100	(outcome
Parish Precept	£120,000; Band D: £31.52	
Other Support	Youth Service has indicated funding of £2,000 towards youth event weekend – to be confirmed	
	WSF was successful in obtaining a grant of £3,500 from Awards for All (Lottery) but the criteria exclude applications for the same type of event year after year.	

Officer comment (Abigail Brown, Strategic Arts Development Officer):

The Wantage Summer Festival is an essential event in the cultural calendar of Wantage and surrounding area, bringing together all the local performing arts groups to create a focus for their achievements. The grant is spent on the publicity and marketing of the festival events, which helps to attract and involve local residents and visitors to events and activities.