

Date: 14 March 2008

TO: All Members of the Abingdon 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 **ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **TUESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2008** at **7.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

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

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Claire Litchfield, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 547631 / Claire.Litchfield@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 Head of Democratic Services know beforehand and she will do her very best to meet your requirements.

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and Vision

(Page 5)

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 Section I Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee Abingdon Area Committee held on 25 October 2007 (previously circulated with the Council Summons dated 4 December 2007).

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 Member 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 Member 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 Member 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 Member can also attend the meeting for that purpose. However, the Member 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 Member 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 Chair's Announcements

To receive notification of any matters, which the Chair determines, should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances, which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

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 6 - 19)

To receive and consider report 176/07 of the Head of Community Strategy and the Monitoring Officer (attached).

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for the remainder of 2007/08 and in 2008/09, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting, to invite Members to decide on their principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and to determine the applications received for this purpose.

The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626)

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's remaining budget for 2007/08 is £12,271.63*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
 - (i) **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, £500**, towards the cost of a replacement map for the village, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Abingdon, £8,000**, towards the cost of essential repairs to a listed building and redevelopment of the Community Room, Environmental and Social Agendas, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £800**, towards potential losses on a concert, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) **Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club, £470**, towards the purchase of kit for young people on their Youth Development Programme, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) **Abingdon Band, £1,000**, towards the purchase of instruments for use by new members, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (c) *Members are asked to note that the Abingdon Area Committee's budget for 2008/09 is £25,997*
- (d) *Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09*
- (e) *Members are asked to determine their principle for awarding grants for Additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and invited to determine these grants to be paid from the 2008/09 budget.*

8. **Abingdon Area Forum and The Community Strategy**

(Pages 20 - 24)

To receive and consider report number 175/07 of the Head of Community Strategy and the Monitoring Officer (attached).

Introduction and Report Summary

This report provides information about the responses at the Abingdon Area Forum held on 14th November 2007 and the preparation of the Vale Sustainable Community Strategy.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy, Tel: 01235 547695, Email toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Recommendations

that members note the information contained in the report

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

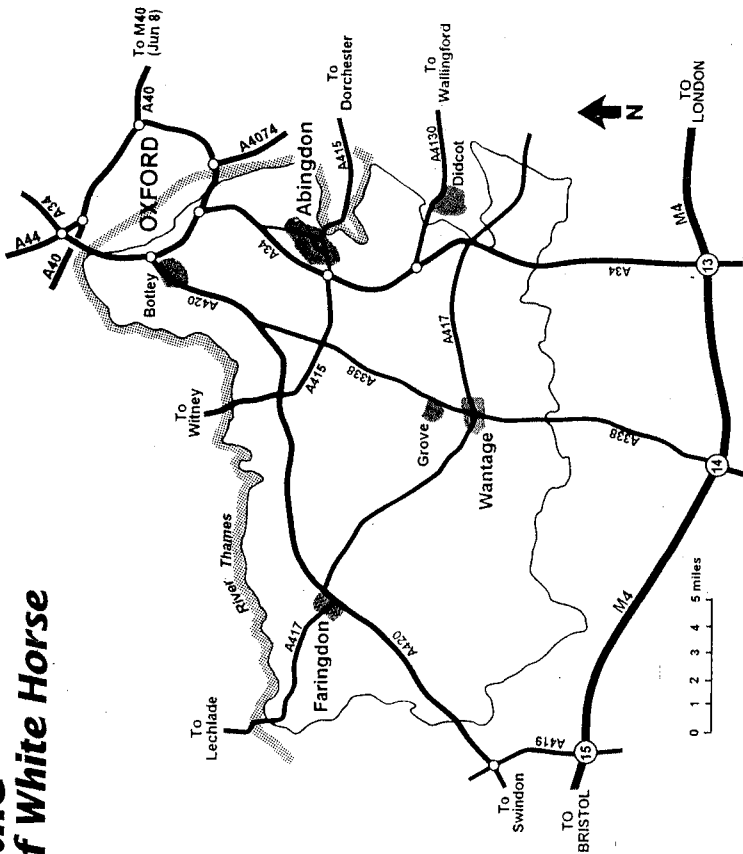
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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

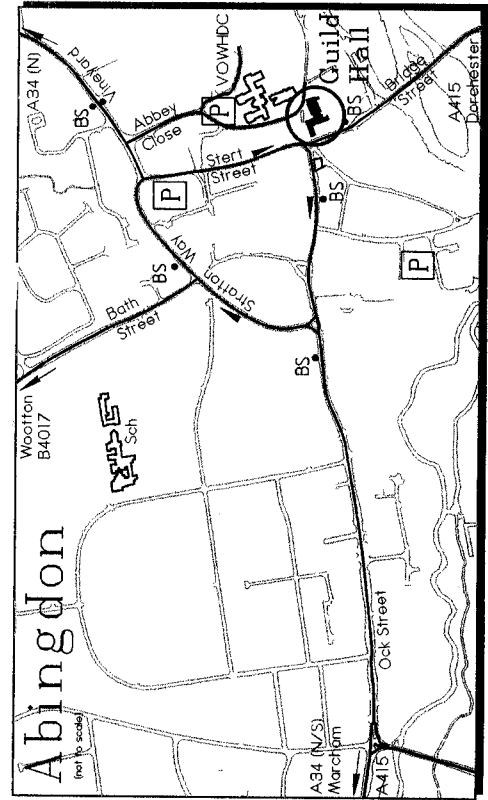
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

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



Abingdon, Guildhall



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

25 MARCH 2008

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants for the remainder of 2007/08 and in 2008/09, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting, to invite Members to decide on their principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and to determine the applications received for this purpose.
- 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 2007/08 is £12,271.63*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, £500**, towards the cost of a replacement map for the village, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Abingdon, £8,000**, towards the cost of essential repairs to a listed building and redevelopment of the Community Room, Environmental and Social Agendas, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £800**, towards potential losses on a concert, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) **Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club, £470**, towards the purchase of kit for young people on their Youth Development Programme, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) **Abingdon Band, £1,000**, towards the purchase of instruments for use by new members, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (c) *Members are asked to note that the Abingdon Area Committee's budget for 2008/09 is £25,997*
- (d) *Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09*

(e) Members are asked to determine their principle for awarding grants for Additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and invited to determine these grants to be paid from the 2008/09 budget

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

3.1 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 policy.

4.0 Community Grants

4.1 Budget

The current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants is as follows:

Budget b/f 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Total budget 2007/08	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£11,398.63	£28,388.00	£39,786.63	£9,935.80	£9,935.80	£2,838.80	£5,677.60 + £11,398.63 =£17,076.23
	Allocated	£27,515.00	£665.00	£26,850	£0	£16,914.20 to Social
	Remaining	£12,271.63	£9,270.80	£0	£2,838.80	£162.03

4.2 Community Grants

4.3 Members are advised that a grant of £400 was awarded to Abbey Brass under officer delegation at the end of May and was omitted from the report to the Committee in July due to an oversight. As the Committee had not elected a Chair at that stage, the award had been made by the Head of Community Strategy in consultation with the Leader of the Council. The grant was awarded towards the cost of an advertising campaign to raise awareness about the band amongst a wider audience and thereby to attract new people to this type of music. This sum has been included in the figure for the budget allocated in the table above.

4.4 An application has been received in respect of the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A:

- (i) **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, £500**, towards the cost of a replacement map for the village, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **The Church of St Michael & All Angels, Abingdon, £8,000**, towards the cost of essential repairs to a listed building and redevelopment of the Community Room, Environmental and Social Agendas, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £800**, towards potential losses on a concert, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

- (iv) **Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club, £470**, towards the purchase of kit for young people on their Youth Development Programme, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **Abingdon Band, £1,000**, towards the purchase of instruments for use by new members, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.0 The 2008/09 Community Grants Budget for the Abingdon Area Committee

- 5.1 Following full Council on 27th February 2008 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2008/09, members are advised that the Community Grants budget for the Abingdon Area Committee in 2008/09 will be £25,997.
- 5.2 The Abingdon Area budget for 2008/09 has been calculated based on the electorate in the Abingdon Area on 1 January 2008. The same principle has been applied to determine the budget for the other Area Committees.
- 5.3 The details for the Abingdon Area and other Areas are shown at Appendix B.

6.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09.

7.0 Parish Cleansing bids for 2008/09

- 7.1 At the meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee on 28 March 2006 the members of the Committee considered two applications for additional parish cleansing. In view of the modest amount requested the Committee awarded the full amount requested, namely £500 to Drayton Parish Council and £45 to Appleford Parish Council.
- 7.2 At the meeting of the Committee on 22 March 2007 Members agreed that they did not wish to adopt a principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing but would determine each application on its merits.
- 7.3 The bids for additional parish cleansing which have been received by the deadline are listed in the table at Appendix C. The amount of grant requested for 2008/09 totals £1,450.
- 7.4 Members of the Committee are invited to consider whether they wish to adopt a principle for awarding grants towards additional parish cleansing grants in 2008/09 and to determine the bids received, noting that any grant awarded will be allocated from the 2008/09 budget.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Appendices A and C - Application Details

(i) Applicant: Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

Years in existence: Since 1894

Type of organisation: Local Authority

Project, service or event details: Sutton Courtenay Parish Council is seeking a grant towards the cost of a replacement village map and frame to affix to an existing stand on the Village Green. The map shows footpaths, bridleways, the river Thames and historic features and points of interest. The map serves as an information point for local people and visitors to the area. The original map was erected many years ago and has faded, is covered in verdigris which is difficult to clean off and is in need of replacement.

The replacement village map is to be affixed to an existing stand. This will keep costs down because the manufacturer who supplied the original map and frame will provide the new map which has the same fixings and connection points. If a different manufacturer were selected, the costs would double as a new stand would be required as well as the map.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:

Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town and village vitality; Environment

Area of the Vale covered: Sutton Courtenay, but of benefit to all visitors from the wider Vale and beyond.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: All residents in the village and visitors

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

Total estimated project cost: £1,035 excluding VAT; £1,192.50 including VAT (can reclaim VAT)

Own Contribution: £500 - £550

Grant Sought: £500

Previous Awards (Vale): The Parish Council applied in 2007 on behalf of the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Management Committee for financial support towards improvement works to the village hall. £6098.40 was awarded

Parish Council Support: Yes - £500 - £550 will come from the Parish Council

Parish Precept: £34,513 (Band 'D' £34.53)

Other Support: Only the Vale of White Horse District Council as this project is to benefit Vale residents and supports tourism in the Vale.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£500
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town and village vitality; Environment
Remaining budget	£12,271.63
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£10,270
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	The replacement map will be of benefit to residents of and visitors to Sutton Courtenay. The parish council has not sought support from other funders but parish councils may not be eligible for other funding.

(ii) Applicant: The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Park Road, Abingdon

Years in existence: The Church was first consecrated on 25 January 1867

Type of organisation: Churches are treated as charities, although no church in the Church of England is registered as such.

Project, service or event details: The Church is seeking a grant towards essential repair works and the development of the Church Room into a community facility for the neighbourhood and beyond.

In 2006 the church's architect advised that the joists under the wooden flooring, which had served the Church well for 140 years, needed to be replaced within the following eighteen months. It was decided to use this misfortune as an opportunity to renew and restore the Church more generally so that this beautiful and historic listed building would not only continue to serve the worshipping congregation and those who attend baptisms, weddings and funerals, but also become a Community Centre.

The development includes an enlarged and fully equipped kitchen as well as new facilities for the disabled. The pews will be replaced with stacking chairs to provide maximum flexibility for users. A new system of heating, including a replacement boiler, will be installed to replace the present inadequate and inefficient piped wet radiator system. The current lighting system will also be modified.

The church plans to make the church available to a wide variety of local people and organisations, for example, holiday clubs for young people, events linked to DESIRE (a network of Christian youth workers), a drop-in meeting place for mothers and carers taking children to and from the local primary school, nurseries and playgroups; it also hopes to offer a regular programme for older people with lunch and a talk or activity.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:

Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town and village vitality; Education & Lifelong Learning; Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: The immediate area, the whole of Abingdon and beyond.

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

There are in excess of 200 people on the Church Family Roll with an age range of 0 to 100. It is estimated that the new facilities will attract many more people from the wider community who are not members of the church.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event: None but donations are accepted if offered. In the year ended 31/12/06 the church received £2,549 from church hall lettings.

Total estimated project cost: £336,000 excluding VAT; £400,000 including VAT (VAT can be reclaimed on part of the works)

Balances: £65,336 total funds of which £28,694 are unrestricted (at 31/12/06)

Own Contribution: Currently £200,000

Grant Sought: £8,000.

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: Applying to Abingdon Town Council for £4,000

Parish Precept: £854,185 (Band 'D': £68.57)

Other Support: Having only recently received permission from the church authorities to proceed, the steering group is just embarking on approaching other potential funders. They expect to raise about £25,000 - £30,000.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£8,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town and village vitality; Education & Lifelong Learning; Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£12,271.63
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£2,770
Recommended conditions to grant award	Subject to the appropriate planning and building control consents.
Other comments	This project benefits residents of Abingdon.

(iii) Applicant: Abingdon & District Musical Society (ADMS)**Years in existence:** 60 years**Type of organisation:** Musical Society with orchestra and choir. Registered charity.**Project, service or event details:** ADMS is seeking a grant towards the forecast loss of £850 on a concert being staged on 5 April 2008 at the School of St Helen and St Katherine in Abingdon. This will be an orchestral concert with works by Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Rimsky-Korsakov. These are expensive pieces of music to stage but will offer much to the performers and audience.

ADMS is a musical society with a choir and orchestra. It was set up in 1946 to “foster public knowledge and appreciation of music and to develop local musical amateur talent both choral and instrumental”. Each year ADMS stages 4-5 concerts for people in the district including an annual charity concert in Trinity Church, Abingdon. They hire local professional musicians as conductor, orchestra leader and choir accompanist for weekly rehearsals with about 75 members of the choir and about 35 members of the orchestra.

ADMS sometimes collaborates with the choral society in Wantage. They held a joint concert in May 2006 which was very successful.

The Society continues as a result of its subscriptions. Grants help to put on concerts and to keep the subscriptions at a reasonable level, thus making the society accessible to the greatest number of people.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:

Area of the Vale covered: Predominantly Abingdon and surrounding villages

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 110

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Membership subscriptions are £90 per year. This covers rehearsal hall costs, admin costs and the weekly rehearsal fees for the professional musicians hired to lead. There will be a charge for entry to the concerts of £10 for tickets purchased beforehand or £12 at the door. Children's tickets cost £1.

Total estimated project cost: £2,350 excluding VAT

Balances: to be provided at the meeting

Own Contribution: See other support

Grant Sought: £800

Previous Awards (Vale): 2007/08: awarded £677 but only £579 claimed towards losses on May concert

Parish Council Support: A grant of £400 was received towards ADMS's Autumn concert and general running costs.

Parish Precept: £854,185 (Band 'D' £68.57)

Other Support: Ticket and programme sales for the concert and interval drinks sales plus adverts in the programme – expect to raise £1,500. Small amounts also raised at social events through raffles etc.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	Maximum £800
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	
Remaining budget	£12,271.63
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£9,970
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	This concert benefits residents of the

(iv) Applicant: Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club

Years in existence: Established 2006

Type of organisation: The Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club is a formally constituted association. The Club is affiliated with the English Cricket Board and the Oxfordshire Cricket Board.

Project, service or event details: The Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club is seeking a grant towards the cost of providing the equipment necessary to kit out the junior players of the club, the Junior Club Bag.

From its outset the Club has been committed to incorporating a programmed designed specifically for young people of the village. They started this process in 2007 with a competition at the local primary school to design the Club's shield. Following an informal survey during the 2007 season it was estimated that about 15-20 young people would like to learn to play cricket. It is expected that more young people would be interested as a result of a targeted publicity campaign in schools and youth centres. Currently the Club is negotiating an introductory match with the local Damascus Youth Service to generate more interest.

The Club has decided to implement their Youth Development Programme in the coming 2008 season. This brings with it increased responsibility and increased costs particularly for participation on mandatory accredited courses and CRB checking. The development program is aimed at 12 – 20yr old male and females who would like the opportunity to learn the skills of playing cricket and the social values that participating in a team game bring.

It is essential for safety and performance reasons to provide right fitting and sized cricket kit and equipment. Young people cannot effectively or safely use adult equipment. The junior bag would include bats, balls, padding, wicket keeping equipment, wicket keeping gloves and inners, batting gloves and inners, protective equipment, thigh pads, helmets etc. The cost of a junior bag would be a one off as the equipment would last for several seasons, apart from cricket balls, before it needed to be replaced.

The Club's aim is to provide a constructive alternative recreational option for young people so that they are less likely to want to just "hang around".

The Junior Club Bag is a small part of a package of funding priorities identified by the Club for the 2008 season including the purchase of two sight screens to increase safety for the players and the laying of a synthetic surface for two practice pitches (essential for young people to learn the skills of batting and bowling).

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, culture and leisure; Safe and supportive communities; Health and wellbeing; Town & Village Vitality

Area of the Vale covered: Sutton Courtenay village initially, surrounding villages would be welcome to join the club in the future.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:
Approx 20 potential players in the first instance

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Currently the Club charges membership fees, match fees and other charges in order for the club to play and practice during the season.

Total estimated project cost: £2,780 excluding VAT; £3,266.50 including VAT. Of this, £400 excluding VAT; £470 including VAT is for the Junior Club Bag (VAT cannot be reclaimed)

Balances: £121.12 at 31/12/07

Own Contribution: The Club has a number of fundraising activities planned for the coming season. In addition, members of the club maintain the recreation ground (which is used by the Club) particularly during the season which represents a significant contribution.

Grant Sought: £470.00

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: A grant of £500 has been awarded towards operating costs in 2008/2009.

Parish Precept: £34,513 (Band 'D' £34.53)

Other Support: Is actively seeking other support including from Oxfordshire County Council and local businesses.

Has applied to N Power Trust for £587.50 to cover the cost of accredited training, CRB vetting for club members to supervise young people joining the Youth Development Programme.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£470
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Safe & Supportive Communities; Health &

	Wellbeing; Town & Village Vitality
Remaining budget	£12,271.63
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£10,300
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	This is a positive activity for young people and is of potential benefit to the whole community of Sutton Courtenay.

(v) Applicant: Abingdon Band

Years in existence: 40+ years

Type of organisation: Club

Project, service or event details: Due to a recent publicity campaign by the members of the band there has been an increase in interest and membership of the training band. As a result the range and quality of the instruments needs to be updated and additional music needs to be bought in order to retain the new members and encourage their development and progression into the main band. Some of the instruments used by the training band are now beyond economical repair and need to be replaced in order for the band to continue to train to the standard required to participate in events in Abingdon.

The band encourages younger members of society to mix with older generations. Musical instruments and uniforms are provided free of charge to make the band accessible to a wider audience. The band is open to all ages and subscription charges can be reduced for those on a low income. Being a member of the band promotes an interest in and enjoyment of music.

Abingdon Band is invited by Abingdon Town Council to take part in local events such as Remembrance Day Parade, Mayor making and last night of the proms which always attract large audiences and local support.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:

Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town & Village Vitality; Education & Lifelong Learning

Area of the Vale covered: Predominantly Abingdon and surrounding area; audiences from Abingdon area and beyond.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 35 new members but much larger potential audiences

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Subscriptions - £60 p.a. full band member; £45 p.a. training band member

Total estimated project cost: £3,400

Balances: £907.69 at 30/09/07

Own Contribution: details to be provided at meeting

Grant Sought: £1,000

Previous Awards (Vale): 2006/07 - £500 towards the purchase of band ties, music, advertising costs and a computer programme for music

Parish Council Support: Has applied to Abingdon Town Council for £1,000 (outcome awaited)

Parish Precept: £854,185 (Band 'D' £68.57)

Other Support: Details to be provided at meeting.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£1,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes, once missing information has been received.
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town & Village Vitality; Education & Lifelong Learning
Remaining budget	£12,271.63
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£9,770
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	Awaiting information on other funders which have been approached and details of own contribution. This project benefits residents of the Abingdon area.

Community Grant Budget Apportionment 2008/09

Area committees share of budget is apportioned to take account of the electorate in each area on 1st January

Area	Electorate 1st January 2006	Electorate 1st January 2007	Electorate 1st January 2008	Difference 07 to 08
Abingdon	27,956	29,158	29,402	244
North East	19,808	21,012	21,068	56
South East	25,371	25,569	25,545	-24
West	16,594	16,274	16,370	96
Total	89,729	92,013	92,385	372

Area	% of Electorate	% of Electorate	% of Electorate	Apportionment	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09 (reduced by £ 10k overall)	Change from 07/08 to 08/09
Executive	01.01.06	01.01.07	01.01.08				
	n/a	n/a	n/a				
Abingdon	31.50%	31.70%	31.83%	21.00%	£23,814	£21,714	-£2,100
North East	22.00%	22.80%	22.80%	25.03%	£28,388	£25,997	-£2,391
South East	28.00%	27.80%	27.65%	18.04%	£20,458	£18,628	-£1,830
West	18.50%	17.70%	17.72%	21.95%	£24,895	£22,587	-£2,308
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	£113,400	£103,400	-£10,000
NB Percentage figures have been rounded to two decimal places							

To areas 2008/09 79% £81,686

APPENDIX C

Parish Cleansing bids for Abingdon Area Committee for 2008/09

Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours per annum	Rate	Cost	Grant Requested for 08/09	Grant awarded in 07/08	Comments
Appleford on Thames	Recreation ground and the Knapp	1.25 hrs per week	65	£10.00	£650.00	£650.00	£650.00	
Drayton	Village	20 hrs per month	240	£7.50	£1,800.00	£800.00	£525.00	In process of purchasing additional litter bin for inside the play area to help reduce litter in the area. Local Brownie group have been raising funds as part of a badge and will contribute 1/2 the cost of the new bin.
Total						£1,450.00	£1,175.00	

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
25th MARCH 2008

The Abingdon Area Forum and the Sustainable Community Strategy

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 This report provides information about the responses at the Abingdon Area Forum held on 14th November 2007 and the preparation of the Vale Sustainable Community Strategy.

1.3 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy; Tel: 01235 547695, Email toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

2.0 Recommendations

(a) *that members note the information contained in the report*

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 policy.

4.0 Background

4.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires that district councils produce a community strategy for their area in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector service providers.

4.2 Following the publication in the autumn of 2006 of the white paper about the future of local government ('Strong & Prosperous Communities') the Vale Partnership Board (which is made up of the District Council and key agencies which influence quality of life in the Vale) commenced a review of the Vale Community Strategy 2004-2008.

4.3 The white paper specifies that all community strategies should be sustainable. Sustainable communities balance and integrate social, economic and environmental components of their community; meet the needs of existing and future generations; and respect the needs of other communities in the wider region.

- 4.4 A sustainable community strategy also recognises that the Local Development Framework must be a key component in the delivery of the sustainable community strategy, setting out its spatial aspects and providing a long-term spatial vision.
- 4.5 The new Vale Sustainable Community Strategy will set out the vision for the future of the Vale, identify the issues that will affect our future and identify the priority actions that will help us to achieve that vision. The strategy will be based on evidence that demonstrates particular local needs and also takes into consideration the resources that are available and the aspirations of local residents, employers and community organisations.
- 4.6 In the autumn of 2007 the Council and its partners published a joint 'Issues and Options' report. The report outlines the issues that the Council and Vale Partnership has identified so far and starts to consider ways in which they might be dealt with. Some issues will be tackled through policies and proposals in the Local Development Framework; others will be addressed through the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 4.7 The Council and its partners understand the importance of involving residents in the preparation of important strategies and officers arranged a number of consultation events during the eight week period of public consultation on the joint 'Issues and Options' report. These events included meetings with younger people, older people, housing association tenants, businesses and faith groups. A public forum was also organised in each of the Vale's four areas; Abingdon, North East, South East and West
- 4.8 Each area forum was chaired by the chair of the area committee and the meetings, which focused on round table discussion between residents, councillors, partners and officers were facilitated by a specialist company called 'Dialogue'. 'Dialogue' was commissioned to ensure that an independent party recorded the public response at each forum.
- 4.9 At each area forum each discussion table was provided with a sheet listing nineteen key issues and challenges for the future that had been identified by the Council and its partners:
- Meeting the needs of an ageing population
 - Meeting the needs of a migrant population
 - Fostering a greater sense of community
 - Tackling health problems and inequalities
 - Reducing crime and the fear of crime
 - Helping young people get the skills for work

- Involving young people in the life of the Vale
- Providing open space, sport, recreation and cultural facilities
- Helping those without cars access jobs and services
- Providing good quality affordable housing
- Helping businesses and the local economy to prosper
- Improving the economic vitality of the local town centres
- Tackling the causes of climate change
- Adapting to more extreme weather conditions
- Using natural resources wisely
- Reducing the amount of waste and increasing recycling
- Protecting the natural environment
- Enhancing the built heritage
- Tackling low income and deprivation

5.0 Abingdon Area Forum Consultation Responses

5.1 The Abingdon Area Forum was held at the Guildhall and involved about fifty-five local residents and councillors.

5.2 Participants identified the following Vale wide and local issues as being particularly important:

- Fostering a greater sense of community
- Providing open space, sport, recreation and cultural facilities
- Providing good quality affordable housing
- Helping businesses and the local economy to prosper
- Improving the economic vitality of local town centres

5.4 There were a number of common positive attributes that were highlighted across the Vale during discussion on the 'Vision for your Area':

- the surrounding countryside
- a strong community spirit
- beautiful rural setting.

5.5 There were a number of common negative attributes that were highlighted across the Vale during discussion on the 'Vision for your Area'

- lack of facilities
- lack of variety in employment
- limited public transport/dependency on cars
- house prices
- lack of/closing of shops

At the Abingdon Area Forum participants felt that there was a need to tackle traffic congestion and reduce the difficulties involved in cycling in the town.

- 5.6 Participants wanted to preserve the history and archaeology of Abingdon and promote tourism. The River Thames was seen as a major tourism asset for the town.
- 5.7 The proximity of Oxford was seen as a problem for local shops because many local residents shop in Oxford rather than Abingdon.
- 5.8 Participants wanted to see a revitalisation of the town centre with a better transport strategy, free car parking (for at least two hours), a good information centre and an arts/performance centre. The possibility of another bridge over the Thames was raised.
- 5.9 Participants wanted local people to become more involved in the local community and more people should be able to live, work and shop locally.
- 5.10 Some participants felt that the Church has a role in building community spirit and that neighbours should be encouraged to get to know each other.

6.0 Abingdon Area Forum Conclusions

- 6.1 There were a number of issues for the future that were clear at all the area forums including the Abingdon Area Forum:
- A need for more good quality affordable housing in the Vale
 - A need for initiatives to attract new business and sustain existing local enterprise and employers in the Vale.
 - A need for a coordinated approach to and increased investment in public transport across the Vale
 - A need for new local facilities and a sustained effort to maintain community spirit
 - A need for improved access to community facilities and services for all

7.0 The Next Stage in Preparing the Sustainable Community Strategy

- 7.1 The public consultation period for the joint 'Issues and Options' report ended on 31st December 2007. As well as the responses to from the area forums and other consultation events the Council received written responses from a large number of residents and organisations. The Council is also surveying the 'Vale Voice' citizens' panel. All responses are being analysed and discussed within the Council and with partner organisations. The responses will inform the draft Vale Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 7.2 Once the draft strategy has been prepared it will be subject to public consultation and another round of area forums is being organised.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: None