

Date: 15 October 2007

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, 23RD OCTOBER, 2007** 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 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, together with a copy the Council Vision are attached.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 5 - 9)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 31 July 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.

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 10 - 13)

To receive and consider report 86/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

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

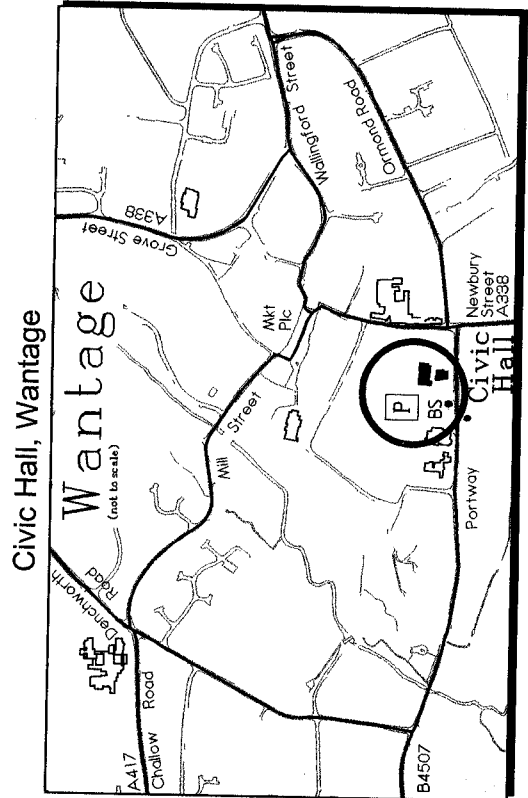
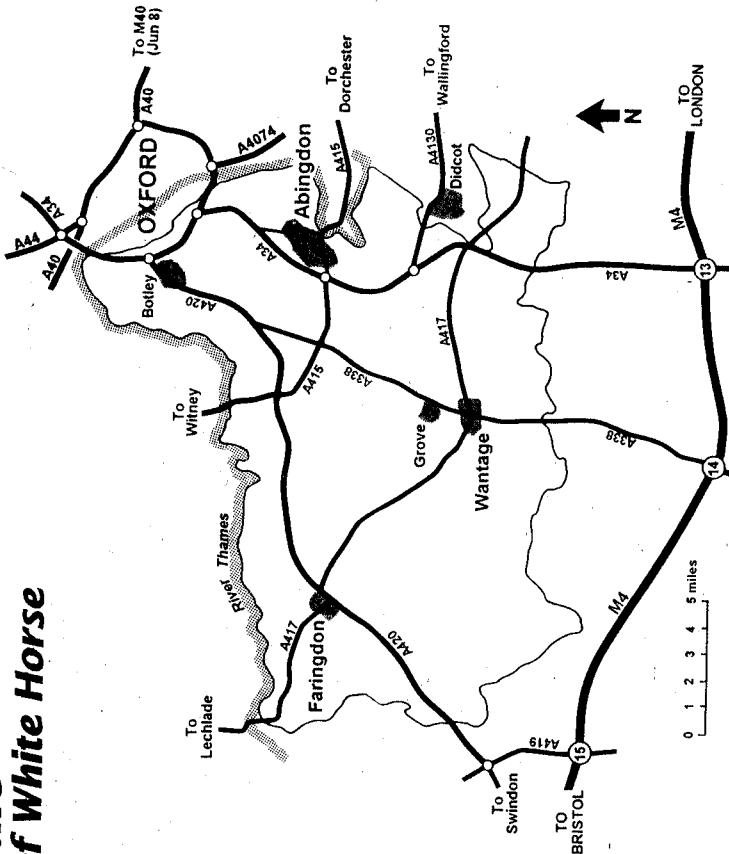
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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



SE.1

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

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY, 31ST
JULY, 2007 AT 7.00PM**

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillors Terry Cox, Andrew Crawford, Richard Farrell, Terry Fraser, Jenny Hannaby, Joyce Hutchinson, Sue Marchant, Bill Melotti, Jim Moley, Mike Murray, Zoë Patrick, Julia Reynolds, Margaret Turner and Reg Waite

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Culliford and Toby Warren

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

SE.1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

RESOLVED

that Councillor Jim Moley be elected as Chair of the Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

SE.2 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED

that Councillor Joyce Hutchinson be elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

SE.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anthony Hayward.

SE.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13 March 2007 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Terry Fraser and Jenny Hannaby both declared personal and prejudicial interests in item 10 'Community Grants' in relation to the application from the Wantage War Memorial Committee (minute SE.10 refers). Councillors Jenny Hannaby, Joyce Hutchinson, Jim Moley and Julia Reynolds all declared personal interests in the service level agreement grant application by the Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association. Councillor Terry Fraser declared a personal interest in the service level agreement grant application by the Hendreds Twinning Group. Toby Warren also declared an interest in the application from the Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon project in

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that he knew one of its representatives, Liz sale, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Vale Partnership.

SE.6 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

SE.7 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

Bill Proctor made a statement on behalf of the Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project in support of its grant application. The project had started in 2002 with the aim of helping disabled people to try sailing. A pontoon was designed with wheelchair accessible ramps and anchored hoists to allow easy access for disabled people. The pontoon had also allowed other uses too. The area of the reservoir within the pontoon also allowed a safer area for children. The pontoon itself also allowed bird watchers to get closer to the birds. The total cost had been estimated at £200,000 but the project would be carried out in phases. An electric lift had been installed which helped lower wheelchair users into boats when the water level was low. The majority of the structure could be built without the lift and would cost £120,000. £107,000 had been raised so far. It was hoped that work would start later in the autumn and the pontoon would be operational by the spring 2008. A fund raising initiative had been introduced allowing people to sponsor a plank of wood for the pontoon's decking. This would cost £200 per plank but would allow the sponsor to have the plank engraved.

SE.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None

SE.9 COMMUNITY GRANTS CRITERIA

The Head of Community Strategy reported on the various elements of the Council's Community Grants criteria. Tabled at the meeting were copies of the updated criteria which Members could take away but they were asked to return them before the next meeting to allow updating. Members noted the grants criteria.

SE.10 COMMUNITY GRANTS

(Councillors Terry Fraser and Jenny Hannaby both declared personal and prejudicial interests in relation to the application from the Wantage War Memorial Committee and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they left the meeting during its consideration. Councillors Terry Fraser, Jenny Hannaby, Joyce Hutchinson, Jim Moley and Julia Reynolds all declared personal interests in other applications and in accordance with Standing Order 34, they remained in the meeting during their consideration. Toby Warren also declared an interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 35 he remained in the meeting during its consideration.)

The Committee received and considered report 47/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer. The report set out the Committee's grants budget position for

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2007/08 and set out the details of five grant applications as well as two twinning partnership grant applications.

The Committee carefully considered each application. In several cases, Members took the view that a reasonable grant contribution should also be made by the relevant town or parish council and that this should be a condition of the grant. In each of these cases, authority to approve the grant was delegated.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the South East Area Committee's remaining community grants budget for 2007/08 of £20,414.88 be noted;
- (b) that the payment of the following twinning partnership grants as part of service level agreements be agreed in principle, subject to the receipt of the required monitoring information:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association</i>	<i>£2,000</i>
<i>Hendreds Twinning Group</i>	<i>£500</i>

- (c) that the following grants be approved:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>East Hendred Community Centre</i>	<i>Replacing window panels and fire exits</i>	<i>£1,500 (by 10 votes to 2) (Environmental Agenda; Town and Village Vitality Priority)</i>
<i>Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project</i>	<i>Construction of a Pontoon for sailors with disabilities</i>	<i>£4,000 (by 10 votes to 3 with 1 abstention) (Social Agenda; Access priority)</i>

- (d) that authority be delegated to the Head of Community Strategy, in consultation with the Committee Chair, to approve the following applications:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>Wantage Diving Club</i>	<i>Replacing diving equipment</i>	<i>£500, subject to reasonable contributions being made by both Wantage Town Council and Grove Parish Council (Social Agenda; Town and Village Vitality Priority)</i>
<i>Wantage War Memorial Committee</i>	<i>Refurbishment of War Memorial</i>	<i>£1,000 subject to a reasonable contribution being made by Wantage Town Council (by 10 votes to nil) (Environmental Agenda; Town and Village Vitality Priority)</i>
<i>Milton Community Centre</i>	<i>Replacing curtains and soft furnishings</i>	<i>£1,000 subject to a reasonable contribution being made by Milton Parish</i>

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<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant</u>
		<i>Council. The applicants are also recommended to apply to Oxfordshire County Council for a grant. (by 8 votes to 2) (Social Agenda; Town and Village Vitality Priority)</i>

SE.11 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VALE PARTNERSHIP AND THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Committee received and considered report 37/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer. The report set out progress made on the review of the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Community Strategy and provided an opportunity for Members to influence the social issues and priorities for the South East area of the District. These would be linked to the Core Strategy of the emerging Local Development Framework, the replacement for the Local Plan. This was welcomed by the Committee.

Members considered the strategic matrix appended to the report and made the following suggested amendments:

- Reference should be made to the need for proper sustainability testing of major infrastructure projects such as Thames Water's proposed reservoir and the need for other improvements to the road network
- Reference should be made to the County Council's new Health and Wellbeing Board in the list of partners/consultees on health and wellbeing aspects
- Reference should be made to drug and alcohol abuse
- The NHS Vale of White Horse Health Profile data source should be used
- Schools should be included as partners under health and wellbeing
- A principle partner/consultee under the heading of mental health should be the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Care Trust
- There needed to be more thought about the facility needs of the elderly when drafting Section 106 planning agreements with developers and the needs of the elderly in rural areas
- Children living in rural areas away from their school should have equal opportunity to take part in extra curricula activities and work experience also
- Young people should be encouraged to take part in voluntary work
- On flooding issues, add the County Council's Highway Drainage Team as a partner and the Highways Agency in respect of some trunk roads (A34)
- Eco-friendly homes and reduced water consumption in homes should be included
- Encouraging businesses to recycle and use less packaging should be included also

It was also suggested that the Vale Partnership Board should include industry representation from the Wantage and Grove area. However, it was recognised that it was up to the Board to set its membership. Therefore, it was agreed that this should be suggested to the Board.

RESOLVED

- (a) *that report 37/07 be noted;*
- (b) *that the suggested changes to the strategic matrix, as set out above, be taken into consideration for the revised document before consultation takes place on this as part of the Local Development Framework's Issues and Options Report in the autumn; and*
- (c) *that it be suggested to the Vale Partnership Board that it considers representation from industry in the Wantage and Grove area.*

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

None

The meeting rose at 9.00 pm

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
23 OCTOBER 2007**

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 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received.
- 1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626), **e-mail address lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.co.uk.**

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note that the budget position for the South East Area Committee for the remainder of the financial year is £11,557.88*
- (b) *that Members consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*

(i) Vale and Downland Museum Trust, Wantage, £10,000, towards a major refurbishment to the building, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

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

This report supports the Council’s Vision and Priorities and the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council Strategies.

4.0 Community Grants

4.1 Budget

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

Budget b/f 2006 /07	Budget 2007/08	Total budget 2007/8	Environment al Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£2,902.88	£24,895.00	£27,797.88	£8,713.25	£8,713.25	£2,489.50	£7,881.88
	Allocated	£16,240.00	£4,883.00	£11,357.00 (including £2,643.75 from Discretionary)	£0	£2,643.75 to Social Agenda

	Remaining	£11,557. 88	£3,830.25	£0	£2,489.50	£5,238.13
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4.2 Since the last meeting of the Committee the following two grants have been awarded by the Head of Community Strategy under officer delegation in consultation with the Chair: a grant of £367 towards new goalposts to the East Hendred Boys Football Club and a grant of £490 to the Independent Advice Centre in Wantage towards the building of a ramp for disabled volunteers and clients of the centre. These grants have been deducted from the budget leaving a balance of £11,557.88 for the rest of the financial year.

5.0 New grant applications

5.1 One application has been received from the organisation listed below and a grant narrative is provided in Appendix A to this report:

(i) Vale and Downland Museum Trust, Wantage, £10,000, towards a major refurbishment to the building, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.2 Members are invited to consider and determine the application.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Grant applications

APPENDIX A

(i) Applicant: Vale and Downland Museum Trust, Wantage

Years in existence: 32 years

Type of organisation: Charity

Project, service or event details: The Vale and Downland Museum Trust is seeking a grant towards the cost of a major refurbishment to the building fabric of the Old Surgery and the adjoining Visitor Centre. The buildings form part of the Vale and Downland Museum complex, the freehold being owned by the District Council. The Old Surgery is c.17th Century and is a listed grade 2, whereas the visitor centre community area is c.1970s. To ensure the safety of visitors and to enable a rolling five-yearly programme of planned maintenance, major works need to be carried out.

The visitor centre is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop on the reception desk. The museum is part of the "Family Friendly" Scheme which necessitates demonstrating that all ages are catered for. It recently won an award for its commitment to work experience. The museum and visitor centre was short listed for the 2007 Grant Thornton Tourism Oxfordshire Awards and was runner-up in 2004 Tourism South East Excellence Awards.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Town & Village Vitality, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide, but an estimate of where the visitors came from over a recent 5 month period showed that more people came from the Wantage area than anywhere else.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 45,000 visitors of all ages and sexes approx. per year.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Free admission to the Visitor Information Point, Downland Kitchen cafe and temporary exhibitions. Modest admission charge to the permanent galleries. All tickets valid for 12 months with unlimited access to the permanent galleries.

Total estimated project cost: £95,000.00 excl VAT; £110,000.00 incl VAT (VAT can be reclaimed)

Balances: £57,634 at 31/03/06

Running costs: £162,000 for year ending 31/03/06

Own Contribution: Balance after other grants

Grant Sought: £10,000.00

Previous Awards (Vale): The Vale and Downland Museum has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) of £32,200 p.a. with the District Council towards its annual running costs of £162,000.

Parish Council Support: Wantage Town Council has written to confirm its support for the project but has declined to award a grant as it already provides an annual grant of £15,275 to the museum.

Parish Precept: £118,000 (Band 'D': £30.43)

Other Support: WREN: £30,000.00

Vale & Downland Museum (Trading) Ltd £10,000.00,

Friends of the Vale & Downland Museum: £2,000.00

Arbery Bequest to museum £25,000.00

TOTAL £67,000.00

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£ 7,500
Reasons:	The museum plays an important role in the vitality of Wantage and the cultural and historical identity of the Vale. This capital project could not be funded from the museum's annual service level agreement grant. The annual grant is a contribution to revenue costs. It should be noted that further grant applications are anticipated in the remainder of the year. This means the recommendation is not for the full amount requested.
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Town & Village Vitality, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning
Remaining budget	£11,557.88
Remaining Committee meetings	1
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	No other applications
Recommended conditions to grant award	
Other comments	