

Date: 2 June 2008

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, 10TH JUNE, 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

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 Claire Litchfield, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 540306; e-mail: 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 Democratic Officer know beforehand and he will do his very best to meet your requirements.

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. **Election of Chair**

2. **Election of Vice Chair**

3. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

4. **Minutes**

(Pages 6 - 10)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2008 (attached).

5. **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

6. **Urgent Business and Chairman's Announcements**

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

receive any announcements from the Chairman.

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

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

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

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

9. **Community Grants**

(Pages 11 - 19)

To receive and consider report 27/08 of the Head of Community Strategy and the Strategic Director.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position at the beginning of 2008/09 for this Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received.

The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626), **e-mail address lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.co.uk.**

Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the budget position for the South East Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year*
- (b) *that Members agree in principal to the payment of the SLA grant to the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group, subject to the required monitoring information having been received*
- (c) *that Members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
 - (i) **Challow & Childrey Cricket Club, £1,500**, towards the refurbishment of a synthetic pitch, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Blewbury Pre-school Playgroup, £3,000**, towards a replacement boiler, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Wantage Music Festival, £500**, towards the 2008 Festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

10. South East Area Forum and Community Strategy

(Pages 20 - 22)

To receive and consider Report number 28/08 of the Head of Community Strategy

Introduction and Report Summary

This report provides information about the responses at the South East Area Forum held on 13th May 2008 and the preparation of the Vale Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2016.

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

Recommendations

(d) *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

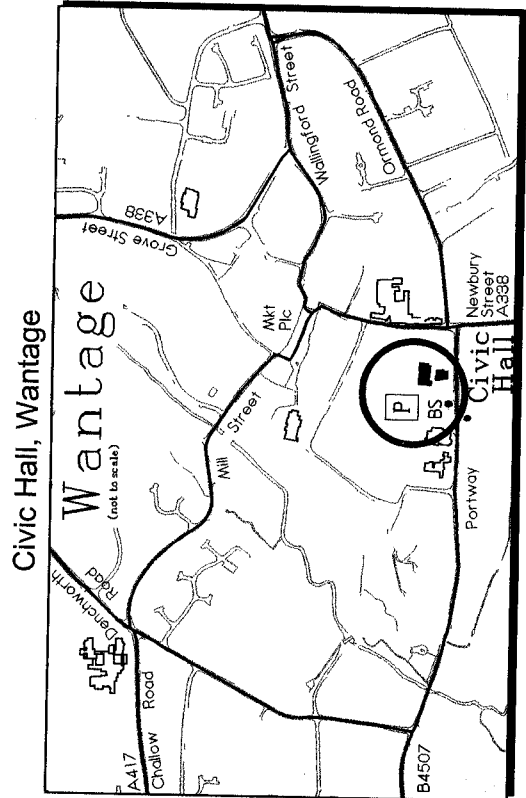
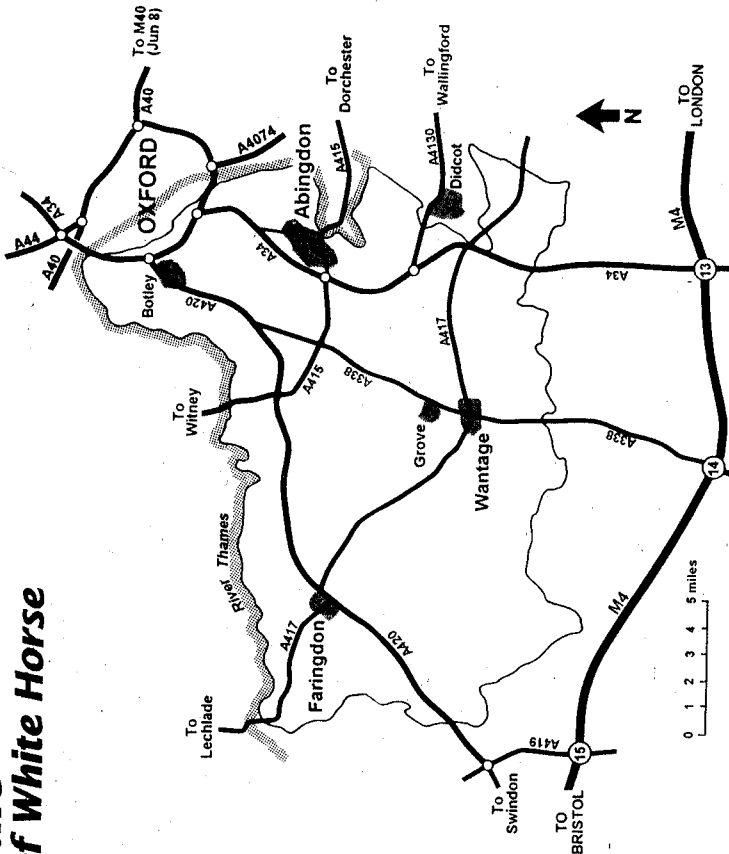
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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



LOCATION MAP



SE.9

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

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY,
11TH MARCH, 2008**

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Terry Cox, Councillor Richard Farrell, Councillor Terry Fraser, Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Councillor Joyce Hutchinson, Councillor James McGee, Councillor Reg Waite and Councillor Margaret Turner.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lorna Edwards, Claire Litchfield and Toby Warren.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

SE.19 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Committee noted with sadness that the Chair, Councillor Jim Moley, had passed away in January.

Councillor Joyce Hutchinson, the Vice Chair took the Chair for the meeting and acknowledged Councillor Moley's significant contribution to this Committee.

SE.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anthony Hayward, Andrew Crawford, Bill Mellotti, Zoe Patrick and Michael Murray.

SE.21 MINUTES

The minutes of the South East Area Committee meeting held on 23 October were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Terry Cox declared a personal interest in item 8, "Community Grants", in particular in relation to the application from the Charney Hall and Field Trust's application, in that he was the District Council's representative on the Parish Council for over 20 years.

Councillor Julia Reynolds declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8, "Community Grants", in particular in relation to the application from the Wantage Summer Festival 2008, in that she was involved in its organisation.

Councillor Richard Farrell declared a personal interest in item 8, "Community Grants", in particular in relation to the Parish Council Cleansing grants in that he was a member of Blewbury Parish Council.

SE.23 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

SE.24 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

Ms Julia Edwards had given notice that she wished to make a statement to the Committee on behalf of the Grove Church of England Primary School grant application.

Ms Edwards explained that the school was a partnership foundation unit, which catered for children aged 2-5 and was seeking a grant from the Committee towards the cost of the creation of a sensory garden, which would have all weather access. She advised that it was intended that children from neighbouring schools would be able to enjoy the garden. She confirmed that the school had raised £7000 itself, and the grant would assist in the development of the project. She confirmed that it was hope that there would be planting projects for the children, and that there was no other such garden for young school children to enjoy in Grove.

Ms Edwards passed some photographs of the area amongst the Committee Members.

SE.25 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None

SE.26 COMMUNITY GRANTS

(Councillor Julia Reynolds had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, in particular the application from the Wantage Summer Festival. In accordance with Standing Order 32, she left the meeting during its consideration.)

The Committee received and considered report 152/07 of the Head of Community Strategy and the Monitoring Officer.

A statement was made by a member of the public earlier in the meeting to which the Committee had regard when considering the applications.

Each of the applications were considered in detail and the following comments were made:-

Wantage Counseling Service

The Community Strategy Officer advised the Committee that this grant application was towards half of the resulting deficit attributable to low income clients residing in the Vale.

Members agreed that this was a worthwhile cause and the service was desperately needed in the area.

Charney Hall and Field Trust

It was noted that the Trust had raised £12,000 towards this project. Members considered that this was commendable. The Committee was sympathetic to the plight of villages that were at risk of losing facilities and noted that it was expensive to ensure that village halls complied with health and safety regulations.

Grove Church of England Primary School

One Member commented that this was an exciting project. Another Member advised the Committee that it was important as a showcase for sustainability and would be a useful tool in educating people about climate change. One Member questioned whether the School should be approaching other bodies for funding, such as Sure Start.

Wantage Summer Festival (to be determined out of 2008/09 budget)

The Committee was asked to consider a grant towards the cost of publishing promotional material. Some Members questioned whether the Festival had raised any of its own funds, and felt that this should be encouraged. It was explained that this was an umbrella group for individual arts groups which would be involved in the festival. Several Members considered that it was important, in view of the budget decreasing, that groups were encouraged to raise their own funds, in addition to applying for grants.

Parish Cleansing Grants

The Committee considered the Officer's report. Officers explained that in the case of West Hendred, if the principle were used the grant would be £115, however only £50 was requested and therefore this was the amount awarded.

RESOLVED

- (a) that it be noted that the Committee's remaining budget for 2007/08 is £8,635.88.*
- (b) that the grant applications are determined as follows:-*

| Applicant | Reason for Grant | Agenda and Council Priority | Grant Awarded |
|---|--|--|---|
| Wantage Counseling Service | Grant towards running costs of the service. | Cleaner, Greener, safer & healthier community and environment. | £1500 |
| Charney Hall & Field Trust | Grant towards the project to redevelop the village hall, | Cleaner, Greener, safer & healthier community and environment. | £2500 |
| Grove C of E School | Grant towards the creation of a sensory garden | Education and Lifelong Learning, Health and Wellbeing. | £1500 |
| Wantage Summer Festival (to be taken out of the 08/09 budget) | Grant towards the publication of promotional materials | Cleaner, Greener, safer & healthier community and environment. | £2250 (with an additional £500 if matched by the applicant's own fundraising) |

- (c) that the budget for 2008/09 is noted as being £22,587
- (d) that this Committee requests that the Executive approve the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08
- (e) the principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 be agreed on the same basis as in 2007/08, namely that grants will be awarded but that the level of grant shall be limited to 40% of the total cost where the total is calculated on an hourly basis of an hourly rate of a maximum of £6.00.

| Parish | Grant Awarded |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| West Hendred | £50 |
| Ardington and Lockinge | £28.80 |
| Harwell | £784.80 |
| Charney Bassett | £132.48 |
| Chilton | £124.80 |
| West Hanney | £60.00 |
| Milton | £424.00 |
| Blewbury | £120.00 |
| TOTAL | £1724.88 |

The Head of Community Strategy advised the Committee that the Forum had taken place on the 7 November and had given the public an opportunity to discuss the Sustainable Community Strategy.

He advised that local concerns had been highlighted which were consistent with other Area Committees.

The Committee was advised that the next Area Forum would take place on 13 May at Civic Hall, Wantage between 7pm and 9pm.

RESOLVED

that the content of the report be noted.

The meeting rose at 8.20pm

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
10 June 2008**

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position at the beginning of 2008/09 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 the budget position for the South East Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year*
- (b) *that Members agree in principal to the payment of the SLA grant to the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group, subject to the required monitoring information having been received*
- (c) *that Members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
 - (i) **Challow & Childrey Cricket Club, £1,500**, towards the refurbishment of a synthetic pitch, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Blewbury Pre-school Playgroup, £3,000**, towards a replacement boiler, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Wantage Music Festival, £500**, towards the 2008 Festival, Social 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

4.2 The budget position at the beginning of 2008/09 for the South East Area Committee is as follows:

| Budget b/f 2007/08 | Budget 2008/09 | Total budget 2008/09 | Environment al Agenda Proportion | Social Agenda Proportion | Economic Agenda Proportion | Discretionary Proportion |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| £635.88 + £500 | £22,587.00 | £23,722.88 | £7,905.45 | £7,905.45 | £2,258.70 | £4,517.40 + £1,135.88 |
| | Allocated | £6,974.88 | £1,724.88 | £5,250.00 | £0 | £0 |
| | Remaining | £16,748.00 | £6,180.57 | £2,655.45 | £2,258.70 | £5,653.28 |

4.3 A grant of £500 awarded to the Wantage Diving Club in 2007/08 has been returned to the budget as the Club has advised that it no longer needs the grant. This has been added to the carry forward budget as shown in the table.

4.4 The table also shows that £6,974.88 has already been allocated from the 2008/09 budget. Of this a total of £1,724.88 was awarded towards additional parish cleansing at the meeting of the Committee on 11 March. A grant of £2,250 was awarded at that meeting towards the Wantage Summer Festival 2008 with a further £500 to be provided if matched by the applicant's own fundraising. The remaining £2,500 is allocated to twinning partnership grants.

4.5 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 have 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

4.6 The original SLAs ran from 2004-2007 and came to an end on 31 March 2007. The Executive has agreed that all SLAs should be extended. 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. This information will be requested from the twinning associations.

4.7 Members are asked to agree to the payment of the SLA grant to the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group in due course, subject to the required monitoring information having been received.

4.8 Members are asked to note that, after the allocations for twinning SLAs, the parish cleansing awards and the grant towards the Wantage Summer Festival 2008, the budget for 2008/09 stands at £16,748.

5.0 New grant applications

5.1 Applications totalling £5,000 have been received from the organisations listed below. This represents 30% of the Committee's remaining budget for the year.

- (i) **Challow & Childrey Cricket Club, £1,500**, towards the refurbishment of a synthetic pitch, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Blewbury Pre-school Playgroup, £3,000**, towards a replacement boiler, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(iii) Wantage Music Festival, £500, towards the 2008 Festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.2 Grant narratives for these applications are set out in Appendix A to this report.

5.3 Members are invited to consider and determine the applications.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

STEVE BISHOP
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Grant applications

APPENDIX A

(i) Applicant: Challow & Childrey Cricket Club

Years in existence: 61 years

Type of organisation: Sports and Social Club

Project, service or event details: Challow & Childrey Cricket Club is seeking a grant towards refurbishing and upgrading the club's synthetic match pitch as part of its ongoing development plan. The synthetic pitch is almost 15 years old and showing obvious signs of wear such as holes and tears. The aim is to replace the synthetic carpet and resurface the base underneath, bringing it up to a modern, high-class standard. With regular maintenance the pitch should have a lifetime of 15-20 years. A synthetic pitch can be used much more heavily than a grass pitch with minimal preparation, and even in normally adverse weather conditions.

The new facility will provide a better and safer environment to play and practise. The renovations reflect the ambition of the club, which has recently been awarded Sport England's Club Mark accreditation indicating a vibrant and healthy cricket club infrastructure. An endorsement has been received from the Vale's Sports Development Officer emphasising that Challow & Childrey Cricket Club has been an active club in the Vale Development Group (endorsed by the Group Chairman) and is used by King Alfred's School for all its home cricket matches. The club has also provided its facilities without charge for the district council's Easter and summer holiday cricket courses.

The club has seen a significant increase in its youth membership over the last few years with a very well-established junior section comprising teams ranging from U9s – U17s. This is in addition to the three Saturday sides and one Sunday side at senior level. High quality practise and match facilities will help support the cricketing development of these members, as well as the development of the club as a whole. This will in turn encourage participation and overall enjoyment of the game as players relish using good facilities. Challow and Childrey Cricket Club also foresees that improved facilities will cement its position as an Oxfordshire Cricket Board Focus Club.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town & Village Vitality.

Area of the Vale covered: The majority of members are from the South-East area of the Vale, including approximately 90% of the youth members.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 194 (cricket members) not including numbers from other organisations.

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

Total estimated project cost: £5,000 excl VAT, £5,875 incl VAT (Vat can be reclaimed)

Balances: £2,795.61 (as at March 2007)

Own Contribution: The club intends to use funds from established fundraising events to make up the balance required.

Grant Sought: £1,500

Previous Awards (Vale): £500 in 2006 towards a mobile batting cage.
£5,000 in 2002-2003 towards the building of an extension to the changing facilities at the Clubhouse.

Parish Council Support: Applications have been submitted to Childrey, East and West Challow Parish Councils and to date £250 has been awarded.

Parish Precept: £21,000; (Band 'D' £52.65)

Other Support: An application to the Lord's Taverners charitable organisation (closely affiliated with the England and Wales Cricket Board) was unsuccessful as they had already distributed their entire budget for 2008. Therefore a larger application to Awards for All, part of which covers a contribution to this current project, has been submitted.

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Recommend support | Yes |
| Amount recommended | £1,500 |
| 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 & Village Vitality. |
| Remaining budget | £16,748 |
| Remaining Committee meetings | 2 |
| Total amount recommended for other applications being considered | £3,500 |
| Recommended conditions to grant award | |
| Other comments | The Club not only seeks to provide excellent facilities for its members but also makes them available to the wider community. The refurbishment of the synthetic pitch is essential to enable the Club to continue its current activities and to develop further. |

(ii) Applicant: Blewbury Pre-School Playgroup

Years in existence: 37 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: Blewbury Pre-School Playgroup is seeking a grant towards replacing the oil-filled boiler which currently provides heating for the pre-school. This boiler is over 20 years old. Following a recent service the heating engineer strongly recommended that it be replaced by a more energy-efficient boiler before this winter. The current storage of oil is not in line with the new regulations which came into force in 2005.

The new boiler, which will be sited in the cloakroom, will provide heating and hot water for the playgroup. The new heating system should be effective for many years and the running costs will be met from the playgroup's annual budget.

The pre-school leases the premises from the Malthus Trust on a 10 year renewable lease for a modest rent. The lease has been renewed every ten years since 1971. The Trust has given permission for the work to be carried out and has contributed £100 towards the work.

The Pre-school is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and seeks to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Town & Village Vitality.

Area of the Vale covered: Blewbury, Upton, Chilton, Milton, Didcot, Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, East Hagbourne

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: at least 121

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

Total estimated project cost: £6,000 excl VAT, £7,050 incl VAT (Vat can not be claimed)

Balances: £17,442.26 (as at 31 August 2007) £10,000 of which is a recommended Charity Commission reserve.

Own Contribution: £1,000; in addition a table top sale and fancy dress week raised £145; a wine tasting evening is planned for June to raise further funds.

Grant Sought: £3,000

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: £200

Parish Precept: £21,000; (Band 'D' £30.47)

Other Support: Malthus trust £100, Blewbury Players £500, St Michael's Church £500. Applying to South Oxfordshire District Council and to Oxfordshire County Council.

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Recommend support | Yes |
| Amount recommended | £3,000 |
| 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 & Village Vitality. |
| Remaining budget | £16,748 |
| Remaining Committee meetings | 2 |
| Total amount recommended for other applications being considered | £2,000 |
| Recommended conditions to grant award | |
| Other comments | The replacement of the boiler has been recommended before winter. The work therefore needs to be carried out during the summer holidays. The new boiler will reduce energy consumption and meet the needs of the Pre-school for a reliable means of providing heating and hot water. |

(iii) Applicant: Wantage Music Festival

Years in existence: 32 years

Type of organisation: Charity

Project, service or event details: Wantage Music Festival is seeking a grant towards organising a festival on 16th-20th July 2008. The festival offers an opportunity for amateur musicians and singers of all ages to perform in front of a high quality experienced adjudicator, who gives verbal and written feedback on their performance. An experienced accompanist is available at no extra charge, giving an excellent opportunity for those who cannot afford the fees of a professional accompanist. The festival gives particular opportunities for young musicians, with age group classes for all ages from under 8 - 18 years (also 25 and under for some vocal classes). There are also open classes for adult amateur performers. Older people may, and do, enter any open class, but the vocal classes also include a specific solo class for over 55s.

There is also a non-competitive class open to any individual or group of any age (or mixed ages) who would like to perform, and also an entertainment class where entrants are judged on the ability to entertain the audience rather than just on technical skill. Entrants for these classes sometimes include family groups.

Although the festival is competitive the emphasis is on education and encouraging a love of music. Certificates are awarded to all participants.

The entrants are not the only people to benefit from the festival – all competition sessions are open to the public who are able to enjoy the musical performances and also to learn from the adjudicator's comments. The festival culminates with a concert of selected prize-winners enabling the public to hear high quality performances by talented local young and adult amateur musicians.

The committee feel that many of the young musicians mature in their music-making over several years at this festival, and even go on to study music, returning as local music teachers entering their pupils in the festival.

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

Area of the Vale covered: The festival is located in Wantage. In addition to residents in the Wantage area it also attracts participants from throughout the Vale.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: There were 324 performers in 2007 in addition to the people who benefited as audience members in class sessions and in the final concert.

This year 223 individual and group entries have been received, of which 70% are from under 18's. This includes 12 entries from age 9 and under, 91 from ages 10-15 and 53 entries from ages 16-18. The remaining 67 entries are in the adult and open (any age) classes – these include several over 60s.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Charges are between £3 and £9 for individual performers. Group charges are from £5 to £10 per group or £2.50 per performer.

Total estimated project cost: £2,983 excl VAT, £3,032 (incl. VAT) VAT cannot be reclaimed.

Balances: £1,190.86 (2007)

Own Contribution: Committee members, some of whom are professionally qualified, contribute large amounts of their time and expertise to organise the Festival. The Festival estimates its income from entry charges and sale of programmes to be £1,819 with an additional £24 profit from refreshments, £155 from advertisements in the programme and syllabus and a further £315 from fundraising.

Grant Sought: £500

Previous Awards (Vale): £500 awarded in 2004/05.

Parish Council Support: Application to Wantage Town Council is being considered as a donation so the Town Council will decide on an appropriate amount.

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

Other Support: Waitrose has been approached for a donation – last year they donated £300 but a change of manager means this is unlikely to be repeated this year. Sainsbury's has also been approached for sponsorship. Other sources of funding are being explored.

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 & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning. |
| Remaining budget | £16,748 |
| Remaining Committee meetings | 2 |
| Total amount recommended for other applications being considered | £4,500 |
| Recommended conditions to grant award | |
| Other comments | The Festival encourages a love of music in people of all ages as well as the development and perfection of musical skills. |

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
10th JUNE 2008

The South East Area Forum and the Sustainable Community Strategy

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 This report provides information about the responses at the South East Area Forum held on 13th May 2008 and the preparation of the Vale Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2016.

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 draft Vale Sustainable Community Strategy sets 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 draft strategy is 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 The draft Vale Sustainable Community Strategy was published at the beginning of May 2008 and there is now a period of public consultation until 14th July 2008. As the Strategy is a partnership plan the Vale Partnership Board will be involved in finalising the Strategy and once this Partnership has agreed the Strategy it will be submitted to Council for approval.
- 4.7 The Council and its partners understand the importance of involving residents in the preparation of important strategies and public forums have been organised in each of the Vale's four areas; Abingdon, North East, South East and West.
- 4.8 Each area forum has been chaired by the chair of the area committee and the meetings have focused on round table discussion between residents, councillors and officers. Thames Valley Police Authority lent the Council electronic voting pads to help everyone decide, as a group, what the priorities for action should be. The voting pads have also made the meetings more interesting.

5.0 South East Area Forum Consultation Feedback

- 5.1 The South East Area Forum was held at Wantage Civic Hall and involved about twenty two local residents and councillors.
- 5.2 Using the voting pads participants identified understanding local need, affordable housing, the vitality of the Vale's market towns and reducing waste as being particularly important priorities. However round table discussions covered several other priorities including access to green space and facilities for young people.
- 5.3 Some of the points made in the discussions that the Vale Partnership needs to consider included:
- Sports clubs/youth clubs for young people reduces the possibility of anti-social behaviour leads to less fear of crime.

- Developers should contribute towards the cost of health and leisure facilities
- Problems are created by the reduction in size of gardens in new developments, there is nowhere safe for young children to play the
- Older people don't know about the facilities which are available for a healthier life – need information and a co-ordinator
- Villages are concerned by the closure of sub-post offices
- Voluntary transport schemes for hospital appointments are very important because public transport is not always available and taxis are expensive.
- The voluntary sector can help with after school clubs for working parents
- More volunteers are needed
- Wantage needs well paid local jobs so residents do not have to commute
- Affordable housing must be truly affordable and good quality (government intervention is needed)

5.5 The forum was advertised in 'Vale Views' and it was disappointing that so few residents attended the meeting. However residents who did attend generally appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues with councillors and officers.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

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