

Date: Monday 2 March 2009

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 MARCH, 2009** at **6.30 PM**.

Yours faithfully



Carole Nicholl
Head of Democratic Services

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in the Code of Conduct adopted on 30 September 2007 and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

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 she will do her very best to meet your requirements.

Map and Vision

(Page 4)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting.

The Council's Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 5 - 7)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Section I Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee South East Area Committee held on 14th October 2008. (attached).

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 8 - 26)

To receive and consider report 167/08 of the Strategic Director.

8. **Targeting Grants for the Benefit of the South East Area**

(Pages 27 - 32)

To receive and consider report 168/08 of the Strategic Director.

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

None.



OUR VISION AND AIMS

Our Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community

The Vale of White Horse District Council aims to:

Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives

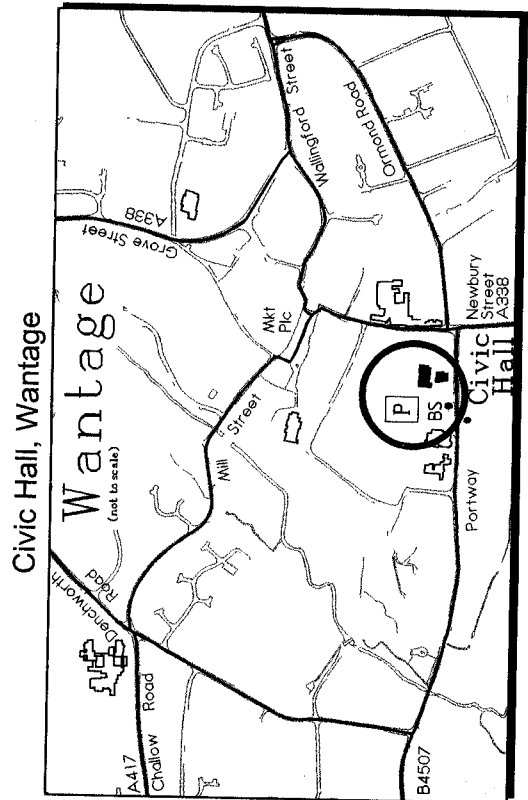
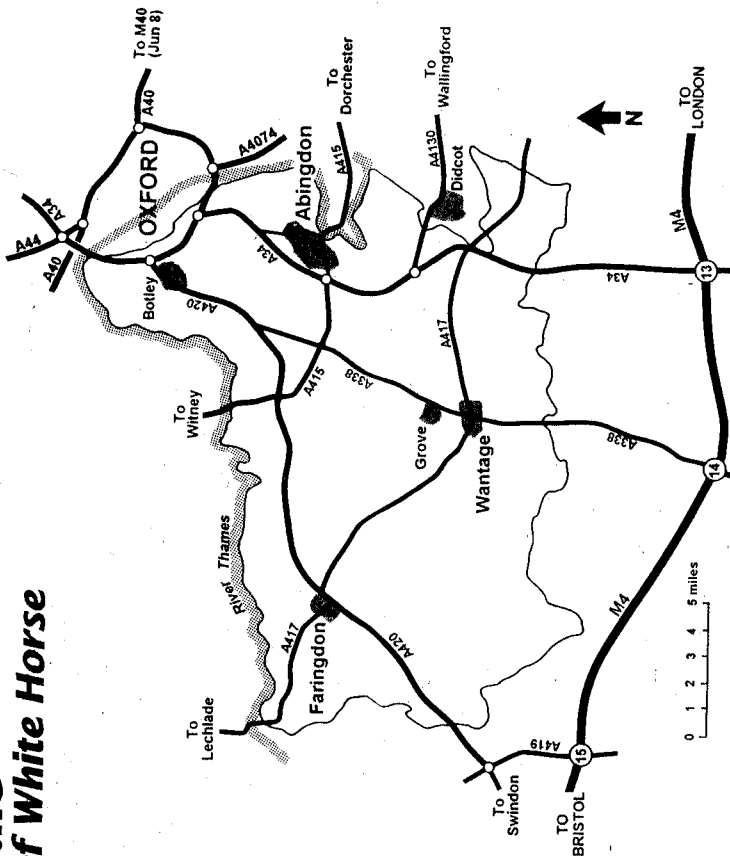
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

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

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

Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale

Protect and improve our built and natural environment



LOCATION MAP



SE.9

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

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY, 14TH
OCTOBER, 2008 AT 7.00PM**

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Joyce Hutchinson (Chair), Julia Reynolds (Vice-Chair), Terry Cox, Andrew Crawford, Richard Farrell, Terry Fraser, Jenny Hannaby, Sue Marchant, Zoe Patrick, Margaret Turner and Reg Waite

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Culliford and Lorna Edwards

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 8

SE.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bill Melotti and Mike Murray.

SE.12 MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 June 2008 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Reg Waite declared a personal interest in item 6 'South East Area Community Grants' as he was acquainted with members of the White Horse Croquet Club that had applied for a grant (minute SE.17 refers).

SE.14 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced the receipt of an e-mail from Geoffrey Stokell of the Wantage Summer Festival, thanking the Committee for its grant.

The Chair also asked that copies of the local service level agreement were supplied to all Members of the Committee.

SE.15 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER
32

The Committee noted that requests had been received from two organisations to make statements in support of their grant applications.

- (1) David Richardson of the Wantage Parish Music Guild made a statement seeking a grant towards a musical community project at Wantage in November 2008. There would be a range of music and Wantage Silver Band, two school

choirs and the church choir would be involved. He believed that the community would benefit from this.

- (2) Rita Atkinson of the DAMASCUS Project made a statement in support of its grant application. The project provided support for young people in the villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon. There was a gap between young children and adulthood and the project aimed to provide support and guidance for young people in this age group. Two young people, Josh from Steventon and Jade from Milton Heights, spoke in support of the project advising the Committee of the benefits they had obtained from it. The project sought a grant of £3,500 towards the costs of employing youth workers.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their statements.

SE.16 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None

SE.17 SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS

(Councillor Reg Waite declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 he remained in the meeting during its consideration.)

The Committee received and considered report 90/08 of the Strategic Director which set out the details of five applications for community grants. The report also set out the Committee's current budget position.

RESOLVED

- (a) *that the Committee's current budget position be noted;*
- (b) *that the following grant applications be approved:*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>Childrey Playing Field Trust</i>	<i>Towards fitting out the sports pavilion</i>	<i>£1,750 (by nine votes to nil) (Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority)</i>
<i>Wantage Parish Music Guild</i>	<i>Towards staging a musical community project</i>	<i>£1,250 (by five votes to nil with four abstentions) (Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority)</i>
<i>DAMASCUS Youth Project</i>	<i>Towards the costs of employing youth workers</i>	<i>£3,500 (by nine votes to nil) (Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority)</i>
<i>White Horse Croquet Club</i>	<i>Towards the costs of maintenance equipment and a storage facility</i>	<i>£100 (by nine votes to nil) (Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority)</i>

- (c) *that the following application be deferred:*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<i>Springline Amateur Dramatic Society</i>	<i>Towards the cost of repairs to the stage and installations in the village hall</i>	<i>Further information required on the outcome of grant applications to other bodies. The Committee will reconsider this application in March, even if becomes retrospective</i>

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

None

The meeting rose at 7.20 pm

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

10 MARCH 2009

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position in respect of Community Grants, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting, to agree a principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 and to make awards according to that principle.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626)

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the remaining budget for the South East Area Committee for 2008/09*
- (b) *that members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following applications:*
- (i) **Wantage Town Football Club, £7,696**, towards equipment for the new football pitches, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Childrey Playing Field Trust, £6,212**, play area fencing, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **1861 Wantage Air Training Corps, £6,000**, towards a second-hand mini-bus, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (c) *that Members consider grant applications which were awarded a grant by the Executive on 17 October 2008 and are being referred to the Area Committees for possible additional support:*
- (iv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,173**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (v) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £4,724**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (vi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £2,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (vii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £4,000**, towards a replacement sensory

vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

- (d) *that Members note the Community Grants budget for the South East Area for 2009/10*
- (e) *that Members request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10*
- (f) *that Members determine their principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 and determine the applications received*

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

- 3.1 This report supports the Council’s Vision and Priorities in that it supports creating a cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.
- 3.2 Furthermore, the award of grants to community and voluntary sector groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Vale.

4.0 The Community Grants Budget

- 4.1 The current budget position for the South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as shown in the table below.

Budget b/f 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	Total budget 2008/09	Environment al Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretion-ary Proportion
£1,135.88	£22,587.00	£23,722.88	£7,905.45	£7,905.45	£2,258.70	£5,653.28
	Allocated	£17,874.88	£4,224.88	£7,905.45 (+ £5,653.28 from Discr +£91.27 from Econ. = £13,650.5)	£91.27 to Social	£5,653.28 to Social
	Amount returned in whole of 08/09	£1,097.15				
	Remaining	£5,848.00 + £1,097.15 = £6,945.15	£3,680.57	£0	£2,167.43	£0

- 4.2 Members are advised that since the last meeting of the Committee two grants have been awarded under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair. A grant of £300 was awarded to the Wantage Choral Society towards a Christmas concert organised in association with children from a local primary school and a brass ensemble, and a grant of £500 was awarded to Springline Amateur Dramatic

Society towards the cost of installing a sound system. Further details on the latter are provided below under paragraph 5.0.

- 4.3 One of the parish councils, to whom a grant was awarded for additional parish cleansing in 2008/09, has not needed to claim the whole grant, so £97.15 has been returned to the budget. After the delegated grants, this unclaimed grant portion and the previously returned grant of £1,000, the balance is £6,945.15.

5.0 Update on deferred grant application

- 5.1 At the last meeting of the Committee an application for £6,000 was considered from Springline Amateur Dramatic Society towards the cost of repairing and resurfacing the stage and installing a PA Sound System and other fixtures. It was agreed to defer determination of the application until the March meeting of the Committee pending the outcome of Springline's applications to other bodies, which comprised the bulk of the proposed funding for the project.
- 5.2 Springline provided an update on their funding position in December 2008. For the purposes of fundraising they had decided to separate the work into two projects, one covering the sound system and one covering the stage and lighting. Springline had applied to Grassroots for £8,000 for the sound system and were awarded £5,000 subject to being able to raise the remaining £3,000 from elsewhere by 31 March 2009. In December Springline had a shortfall of £900 and were concerned that they would miss out on the Grassroots funding, so applied to the Council for a grant of £500 which was awarded under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair. As a result, they have withdrawn their application for this meeting of the South East Area Committee.
- 5.3 Springline may apply to the South East Area Committee for a grant towards the stage and lighting in the next financial year (June 2009). At that point they will know the outcome of their grant application to WREN.

6.0 New grant applications

- 6.1 Applications totalling £19,908 have been received from the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.
- (i) **Wantage Town Football Club, £7,696**, towards equipment for the new football pitches, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Childrey Playing Field Trust, £6,212**, play area fencing, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **1861 Wantage Air Training Corps, £6,000**, towards a second-hand mini-bus, Social Agenda, Access priority

7.0 Grant applications referred from the Executive

- 7.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 17 October six grant applications were considered. A grant was awarded to five of the six applicants and the leader of the Council requested that all the applications be taken to the Area Committees for further consideration so that they could award an additional grant if they so wished. One of the applicants received the total grant requested so no further consideration is necessary. The sixth application, where no grant was awarded by the Executive was withdrawn.

7.2 Due in part to the timing of the October Executive meeting in relation to the Autumn meetings of the Area Committees, and in part to the amount of grant awarded to new applications, none of the Area Committees was able to consider the referred applications at its Autumn meeting. The Area Committees agreed to consider the referred applications at their March meetings.

7.3 The referred applications are as follows and a narrative is included at Appendix B. The grant requested and awarded by the Executive is shown on the narratives. The amount of grant requested from the Area Committees, shown below, is the balance after the award from the Executive and other funding received since the Executive meeting.

- (iv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,173**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (v) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £4,724**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £2,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £4,000**, towards a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

8.0 The 2009/10 community grants budget for the South East Area Committee

8.1 Following the meeting of the Council on 25 February 2009 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2009/10, members will receive from officers a verbal report of the South East Area Committee's community grants budget for 2009/10.

9.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10.

10.0 Applications for additional parish cleansing for 2009/10

10.1 At the meeting of the South East Area Committee on 14 March 2006 the members of the Committee determined their principle for awarding such grants in the South East Area for 2006/07, namely that grants would be awarded but the level of grant would be limited to 40% of the total cost where that total was calculated on the basis of an hourly rate of £6.00. The same principle was adopted in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

10.2 The applications for additional parish cleansing grants, which have been received by the deadline, are listed in the table at Appendix C. Column 9 of the table shows the amount that would be awarded if the Committee adopts the same principle as for the current year

- 10.3 Members are asked to decide if they wish to continue using the same principle to award grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 or to adopt a new principle. Once the principle has been agreed members are asked to determine the parish grant applications listed at Appendix C, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2009/10 budget.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

MATT PROSSER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Application forms and documents

APPENDIX A

(i) Applicant: Wantage Town Football Club

Years in existence: Since 1892

Type of organisation: Football club

Project, service or event details: The applicant is seeking a grant towards the costs of purchasing equipment to be used on the new football pitches which are currently being built at St Mary's playing field. These pitches will be used by the under 16 and under 18 teams (youth) and also younger children.

Wantage Town Football Club is part of the Grove and Wantage charter standard partnership bringing together children's and adults' football in the area, providing football for young people from age 7 (boys and girls) to veterans over 40 football. Many of these teams are based at Wantage Town Football Club.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: Wantage and Grove

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 405

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Club membership is £15 a year, the youth teams contribute a small amount towards the costs.

Total estimated project cost: £15,000.00 including the preparation of the ground. £7,696.00 is the estimated cost for the equipment.

Balances: £604.00 as at 01.05.08

Running costs: £60,097.00

Own Contribution: The goal posts will be erected by the club members.

Grant Sought: £7,696.00

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: Has applied to Wantage Town Council (awaiting decision).

Parish Precept: Wantage £121,000.00 (Band D £31.30) Grove £214,588 (Band D £75.24)

Other Support: Berkley Homes were the principal funders of the cost of the ground preparation with a contribution coming from King Alfred's School.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,850
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure; Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£6,945.15
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£3,995
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions. Subject to grant from Wantage Town Council.
Other comments	Once the equipment is installed, the new football pitches will greatly enhance facilities for all those who play football in this area.

(ii) Applicant: Childrey Playing Field Trust

Years in existence: 32 years

Type of organisation: Charity

Project, service or event details: The applicant is seeking a grant towards the costs of replacing the fencing around the children's play area in Childrey playing field. The fencing will act as an enclosed area for children and also keep dogs out so that the area can be kept clean.

The new fencing is part of a larger project to replace all the play equipment which is about 30 years old and only just meeting the RoSPA regulations. The new play equipment will cater for an age range between one year and mid-teens.

The area is open to the local community and serves three other villages (Sparsholt, Westcot and West Challow) which do not have similar facilities. A recent survey of residents showed that they are keen to see the proposed improvements as these will encourage a lot more usage of the play area by parents and children as well as the village pre-school. The Childrey Playing Field Trust believes that the improvements will help to encourage more outdoor activity for all ages in the community which will have both social and health benefits.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture and Leisure; Town & Village Vitality; Access to Services,

Area of the Vale covered: Childrey, Sparsholt, Westcot and West Challow.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 240

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

Total estimated project cost: £68,208.00 incl VAT; £59,311 excl VAT.
Cost of fencing £6,212 incl VAT; £5,402 excl VAT (VAT can be reclaimed)

Balances: £56,594.00

Running costs: Nothing as yet due to new project

Own Contribution: £5,594.00 raised so far

Grant Sought: £6,212.00

Previous Awards (Vale): £1,750 awarded towards the pavilion project in the current financial year.

Parish Council Support: Childrey Parish council is providing £5,500.00 as third party funding to release the WREN grant of £50,000. Sparsholt and West Challow Parish Councils were approached for funding but had no funds available.

Parish Precept: £11,000 (Band D £45.03)

Other Support: WREN Foundation has granted £50,000.00. Applying to Tesco Charity Trust for £3,800.00.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£1,145
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure; Town & Village Vitality; Access to Services,
Remaining budget	£6,945.15
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£5,700
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	Although the Childrey Playing Fields Trust has been awarded a grant in the current financial year, this does not prevent them from being awarded a

	second grant this year as this application concerns an entirely separate project.
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(iii) Applicant: 1861 Wantage Air Training Corps

Years in existence: 68 years

Type of organisation: Charity

Project, service or event details: The applicant is seeking a grant towards the purchase of a used mini bus to allow the squadron to transport cadets to the many and varied training activities locally and adventure training experiences nationally.

The Air Training Corps (ATC) is a training organisation which aims to deliver training to youths of the area. Training such as teaching 16 year olds to fly solo, overseas camps etc plus delivering the BTEC in Aviation studies (equivalent to 1 GCSE) and BTEC First Diploma in Public Services (equivalent to 4 GCSEs). For some of the cadets this is the highest level of qualification they will gain so these will enhance their job prospects considerably.

The ATC supports young people by encouraging them to help others, and by diverting disadvantaged young people from engaging in anti-social behaviour. The cadets are an active part of the Wantage and Grove communities.

Unfortunately the RAF has withdrawn their support in putting RAF minibuses at the disposal of the ATC. This has led to the ATC's decision to purchase their own minibus.

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

Area of the Vale covered: Wantage, Grove, East and West Hendred, Ardington, East and West Hanney, Faringdon & Challow

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 40

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: No charge

Total estimated project cost: £14,100.00 incl VAT; £12,000 excl VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)

Balances: £2,491.00 as at April 2008

Running costs: £5,370.00

Own Contribution: £4,000.00

Grant Sought: £6,000.00

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: Has applied to Wantage Town Council for grant towards new training equipment worth £2,500.

Parish Precept: Wantage £121,00.00 (Band D £31.30)

Other Support: Applying to Oxfordshire Community Fund and Big Lottery. Both of these will be dependant on receiving support from Wantage Town Council and VWHDC.

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

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,850
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Town & Village Vitality
Remaining budget	£6,945.15
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	£3,995
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	A grant from the Committee will help the ATC in their funding applications to other bodies. By increasing the skills of local young people the ATC is providing a valuable service.

APPENDIX B

(ii) Applicant: Oxfordshire Play Association, based in Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford

Years in existence: 33 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) is seeking a grant towards core running costs.

OPA aims to improve conditions of life for children in Oxfordshire by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It is an umbrella organisation which provides a range of practical and specialist support services to after-school clubs, holiday playschemes, nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and other play organisations which are members. This support includes the provision of play boxes and resources, playwork training, payroll services, outreach play support visits. Two new services offered are emergency staff cover for when play staff are ill or on training courses and the delivery of play boxes to settings (venues where the play is taking place).

The association has moved to larger and more central premises making it easier for play settings across Oxfordshire to access the services; they have also employed additional staff. This has led to an increase in core costs. There is an established membership of approx 150 play settings of which 47 members are within Vale district. These members use the play box and delivery service on a regular basis as well as the payroll and outreach services. Regular meetings and training are arranged for both members and non-members within the Vale district for both qualification and practical training courses.

OPA works closely with play and early years environments to encourage fully inclusive provision by providing support, guidance, training and play opportunities which are accessible to all. Training includes equal opportunities and anti-racism, cultural and religious awareness courses to help settings look at their own practice and identify any areas for improvement.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 5,500

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Membership fee £15 a year, play box hire weekly charge £5

Total estimated project cost: £59,995.00 for the Vale

Balances: £117,386.00 as at 31.03.08 for the whole of Oxfordshire

Running costs: £186,485.00 year ending 31.03.08 for whole of Oxfordshire

Own Contribution: £32,442 from reserves for the service provided in the Vale. OPA is funded by grants, donations and membership fees.

Grant sought from Executive: £5,673.00 based on proportion of member play settings within the Vale; £1,500 awarded

Grant sought from Area Committees: £4,173.00

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £1,500 from Executive; 2007/08 £2,000.00, 2006/07 £2,500.00

Parish Council Support: OPA has not applied to town or parish councils for a grant towards core funding, however, they plan to approach them for funding towards specific projects which are included in their business plan for the next three years.

Other Support: Grants have been awarded by: West Oxfordshire DC £2,250.00, Cherwell DC £2,250.00, County Council £13,200.00 towards core costs. South DC funding stream has changed so OPA is unable to apply at the moment. Oxford City Council declined their application as they no longer have a fund for play.

Cherwell DC has also awarded a project-specific grant of £5,000 to purchase play equipment.

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

Recommend support	Yes, if budget available
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£7,445.15
Remaining committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	N/A
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(iii) Applicant: South and Vale Carers' Centre, based in Didcot

Years in existence: 13 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: South & Vale Carers' Centre is seeking a grant towards core running costs of their Outreach Service for adults and young carers. This service provides information, advice and support for anyone who is looking after a friend or relative, who because of age, illness or disability cannot look after themselves. Carers are offered: home visits, emotional support and someone to talk to, benefit checks and help with form filling to maximise income, training courses, an advocacy service and the chance to have a break from their caring role.

The service provides invaluable support to young carers, the elderly and people from ethnic minorities. Young carers, for example, often grow up in difficult circumstances and can lose their childhood as a result of their caring responsibilities. The Centre offers advice, information, emotional support and organises day trips so that young carers have a break. Young carers are also helped to fulfil their educational potential through early intervention.

Many carers have low incomes because they are not able to go out to work. The Centre provides an Outreach Service to help carers and their families to maximise their income.

Last year the Centre supported 917 carers in the Vale and provided information to over 4,000.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Health & Wellbeing and Access to Services

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: over 4,000

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

Total estimated project cost: £162,573 (a further £244,463 is earmarked for specific projects and services)

Balances: £72,062 as at 31.03.08

Running costs: £143,144 unrestricted (ie core service) plus a further £137,410 restricted funding, year ending 31.03.08

Own Contribution: The Centre has set itself a fundraising target of £25,000.

Grant sought from Executive : £7,938.00; £3,214 awarded

Grant sought from Area Committees: £4,724.00

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £3,214 from Executive; 2007-08 £2,957.00 was awarded towards outreach workers.

Parish Council Support: South & Vale Carers' Centre applies to all town and parish councils annually in September. In the last financial year they received £6,235.00 and they hope to receive about the same this year. This amount is included in the Centre's £25,000.00 fundraising target.

Other Support: Core grant from Oxfordshire County Council £100,000.00, SLA grant from South Oxfordshire District Council £21,135.00, Bank interest £8,500. Oxfordshire Community Foundation £1,500 – included in the £25,000.00 fundraising target.

Funding from the PCT and additional funding from Oxfordshire County Council cover specific projects and services (restricted funding).

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

Recommend support	Yes, if budget available
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Health & Wellbeing; Access to Services
Remaining budget	£7,445.15
Remaining committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	N/A
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(iv) Applicant: Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCh), based in Market Square, Bicester

Years in existence: Established in April 2008 to continue the service previously offered by Volunteer Reading Help, a countrywide charity which withdrew from 5 branches in Southern England due to financial difficulties.

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: ARCh is seeking a grant towards the costs of expanding its service in the Vale which offers a life-changing opportunity for children and volunteers.

ARCh recruits, trains and supports volunteers from all walks of life to work with the neediest children in Oxfordshire primary schools, with the aim of imparting a love of reading, thereby improving their life chances. Each child selected for assistance benefits from two thirty minute personalised sessions with their volunteer every week throughout the academic year. Many of the volunteers used to work for Volunteer Reading Help so bring with them a wealth of experience.

Volunteers currently work with over 400 children in more than 80 primary schools throughout the county including a significant number in the Vale. They provide support in schools in Abingdon (5 schools), Faringdon, Longcot & Fernham, Grove, Shrivenham and Sutton Courtenay and other schools are waiting for volunteers. It is to meet this demand that ARCh is seeking to expand its service in the Vale by providing 8 additional volunteers who will work with a total of 24 children.

The benefits of the service provided are far-reaching. Regular and sustained mentoring support from a designated volunteer helps the child to overcome difficulties in his/her life which have hitherto hampered reading progress and had a negative impact on the child's attitude to learning. By intervening at primary school level it is possible to improve the child's prospects and self-confidence and indirectly his/her interaction with the community as a whole. Benefits for the volunteer are also great – for retired volunteers it provides contact with the younger generation, friendship and involvement in the community.

Results of a survey undertaken in July 2008 indicated that 100% of the children working with an ARCh volunteer had improved in their reading performance, confidence and attitude and 96% had improved in overall achievement.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 24 children and 8 volunteers

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Schools are charged £275.

Total estimated project cost: £6,720 to recruit, train and support 8 volunteers

Balances: Not available as charity set up in 2008

Running costs: See above

Own Contribution: Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers

Grant sought from Executive: £3,000; £1,000 awarded

Grant sought from Area Committees: £1,355

Previous Awards (Vale): 2008/09 £1,000 from Executive; Volunteer Reading Help was awarded £1,000 in 2006/07

Parish Council Support: ARCh is asking all parish councils to sponsor a book box, which costs £264 to resource, for the volunteer in their

local school, at a cost of £50. £645 awarded from Faringdon Town Council

Other Support: Oxfordshire County Council Children’s Fund £9,761 to support 38 volunteers in Oxfordshire until March 2009, including 8 volunteers in the Vale; St Michael’s & All Saints Charity £5,000 towards volunteers countywide
Mid Counties Co-op £500 to sponsor 10 book boxes for the volunteers

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

Recommend support	Yes, if budget available
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£7,445.15
Remaining committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	N/A
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

(v) Applicant: Oxfordshire Playbus, based in Upper Heyford, Bicester

Years in existence: 29 years

Type of organisation: Registered charity

Project, service or event details: Oxfordshire Playbus is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing their Sensory Bus. The bus has been running since 2003 for pre-school children with special needs, children with special needs in mainstream education, children who are excluded from education because of emotional/behavioural problems and adults with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease.

The Sensory Bus has helped about 400 children and adults per year. Due to limited funding when the Sensory Bus was built, Oxfordshire Playbus were obliged to use a second-hand vehicle as the base. The core of the bus, now almost 30 years old, broke down permanently last summer and it is impossible to find replacement parts. This has led to the decision to fundraise to buy a new replacement vehicle to form the base upon which to build the Sensory Bus.

The Sensory Bus provides a unique sensory environment for people who do not normally have a chance to access static sensory rooms because of distance, affordability or overcrowding.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands: Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure

Area of the Vale covered: Vale-wide

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 100

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

Total estimated project cost: £116,850 excl VAT; £137,299 incl VAT
(Raised to date: £42,000)

Balances: £78,639.00 at 31/03/08

Running costs: £235,035.00 year ending 31/03/08

Own Contribution: £2,000 from fundraising campaign

Grant sought from Executive: £6,000; £2,000 awarded

Grant sought from Area Committees: £4,000

Previous Awards (Vale): No previous community grants but Oxfordshire Playbus receives a partnership grant of £2,970 p.a. under a Service Level Agreement towards the provision of the “Big Bus” and “Sensory Bus” service throughout the Vale.

Parish Council Support: Oxfordshire Playbus has applied to all town and parish councils in the Vale but has received few replies to date.

Other Support: Oxfordshire County Council’s Rural Children’s Centre will provide approximately £30,000. Applying to West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell District Councils for £25,000 each.

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

Recommend support	Yes, if budget available
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure
Remaining budget	£7,445.15
Remaining committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	N/A
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	Oxfordshire Playbus has raised £42,000

	to date towards the new bus. When they reach £58,425 they can apply to other funders for match funding.
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Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours p.a.	Rate	Cost	Grant Requested	Amount awarded in 08/09	Using same principle as in 08/09	Comments
Ardington and Lockinge	Main village roads	Weekly, Monthly, Bi-monthly	12	£6.00	£72.00	£28.80	£28.80	£28.80	The Vale has ordered a litter bin for the parish council to be placed by the roadside in the village. There are already 4 litterbins in Ardington and Lockinge.
Blewbury	Village Footpaths	Weekly	50	£8.00	£400.00	£120.00	£120.00	£120.00	Members of the public and the Blewbury Village Society reguallly pick litter and 2 formal 'Village Days' are held annually to clear footpaths, ditches and waterways.
Chilton	Church Hill, Main Street, Lower Road and South Row	Weekly	52	£10.00	£520.00	£247.00	£124.80	£124.80	Map shows recreation area which is not "relevant land" so cannot be taken into concideration for the grant.
Harwell	Harwell and Surrounds	Weekly	405.5	£6.53	£2,647.91	£2,647.00	£784.80	£973.20	Parish Council contacts Veolia and VWHDC whenever litter is left by their operators following waste collections. District councillor has been involved several times.
Letcombe Regis	Village Roads	Weekly	156	£6.50	£1,014.00	£406.00	£0.00	£374.40	Volunteer litter pick plus other attached documents.
Milton	Milton, Milton Heights and Wantage Road in Rowstock	Weekly	240	£5.73	£1,375.20	£1,375.20	£424.00	£550.00	
West Hendred	Bus Shelter on A417	Weekly	12	£7.00	£84.00	£34.00	£50.00	£28.80	Village has a waste bin and residents are requested not to post notices. However the latter still occurs and the shelter collects debris from the road.
Charney Bassett						£0.00	£35.33		No application submitted for 2009/10
West Hanney						£0.00	£60.00		No application submitted for 2009/10
						£4,858.00	£1,627.73	£2,200.00	
Note: Charney Bassett Parish Council was awarded £132.48 in 2008/09 but only claimed £35.33									

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report No:168/08

Wards affected – All wards in the South East Area

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
10th March 2009**

Prospectus to Target Grants for the Benefit of the South East Area

1.0 Introduction & Report Summary

- 1.1 A grants 'prospectus' will help to create greater awareness of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the area committee. The document will not need to be overly long and it could be structured around the priorities of the new Vale Community Strategy.
- 1.2 This report provides information about a draft prospectus. The appendix consists of a copy of a draft prospectus which has been prepared by officers. This information will assist the committee in deciding if it should have a prospectus. If it is resolved to have a prospectus the information will assist in finalising the form and content of the prospectus.
- 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

(i) Members are requested to determine if the committee should have a grants prospectus.

(ii) If members resolve to have a prospectus they are requested to determine the final content of the prospectus.

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 any Council policy.

4.0 The Prospectus

- 4.1 The draft prospectus is intended to make the voluntary and community sector and others more aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the area committee.

- 4.2 The draft prospectus is designed to fit with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale.
- 4.3 The Vale Community Strategy has the following priorities:
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone:
 - Healthier communities;
 - Improving quality of life for older people;
 - Safer communities;
 - Fostering a greater sense of community;
 - A good understanding of town and parish priorities;
 - Involving young people;
 - Helping those without cars to access jobs and services;
 - Affordable homes;
 - Good quality homes; and
 - Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities.
 - maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment:
 - Addressing economic weaknesses;
 - Building on our economic strengths, and
 - Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres.
 - effective protection of the environment and wise use of natural resources:
 - A low carbon Vale;
 - Living with extreme weather conditions;
 - Using resources wisely;
 - Reducing waste and increasing recycling, and
 - A high quality natural and historic environment.
- 4.4 The strategy contains details of actions that will help to achieve the priorities. The draft prospectus helps to identify priorities and actions that are particularly important for the South East of the Vale
- 4.5 The draft prospectus helps to identify priorities and actions where the award of a grant will address a gap in provision (e.g. Reducing the risk of flooding is an important priority in the South East and the Council has introduced a grant scheme for Community Flood Groups; so there is less need for the South East Area Committee to award grants for local flood prevention works. However it may wish to support a good

neighbours scheme which provides support to vulnerable people who are affected by extreme weather conditions.).

- 4.6 The length of the draft prospectus is intended to make it 'user friendly'. The wording hopefully makes the document understandable and readable.

5.0 Consultation & Distribution

- 5.1 The prospectus draws on the Community Strategy priorities which were agreed following a period of extensive community consultation. The final version will also draw on committee members' knowledge of their local communities.
- 5.2 Once the final version has been approved it could be launched with a press release which will help to create awareness. Distributing copies of the prospectus to local voluntary and community groups and libraries will also help to create awareness.
- 5.3 At the end of the year an opinion survey of grant applicants and voluntary and community groups who have not applied for grants could be conducted. The survey would assist members in determining the value of the prospectus and in agreeing the shape of the 2010-2011 prospectus.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The area committee can demonstrate its community leadership role by championing projects that promote community self help and are consistent with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy.
- 6.2 The prospectus will act as guide for applicants as it will indicate the committee's priorities for support. However when the prospectus is published it should be made clear that each application is determined on its individual merits and the committee is free to support project activity which is not mentioned in the prospectus.

Background Papers:

The Vale's Strategy for Sustainable Communities - 2008 to 2016

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

MATT PROSSER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

The South East Area Prospectus 2009/10

The Council's South East Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Wantage, Grove, Childrey, the Challows, Letcombe Bassett & Letcombe Regis, Goosey, Denchworth, Charney Bassett, Lyford, the Hanneys, Ardington, Lockinge, the Hendreds, Steventon, Milton, Harwell, Chilton, Upton and Blewbury.

The elected district councillors for the South East wards of the Vale of White Horse District, that make up the South East Area Committee, have a limited budget which can be used to give small grants towards the cost of starting community projects. In the financial year 2008/09 the South East Area Committee gave grants to thirteen different projects. The grants helped with arts, sports and young peoples' activities. Grants also helped to improve community buildings.

The Committee's budget for the financial year 2009/10 is nearly £ 23,000. The table on the following page provides information about the kind of local community led projects that the Committee would like to support in 2009/10. The table is organised to fit with the priorities of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale. The table shows how the South East Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the South East of the Vale will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The South East Area Committee recognises that there are other kinds of community projects which may not be mentioned in the table. The Committee is more than willing to consider these projects, as all projects are determined according to their individual merits. However given the Committee's limited budget, it would like to focus its grant giving on projects that it feels will make an important contribution to community life.

If you are a member of a community group in the South East of the Vale who is interested in applying for a grant towards the cost of starting a priority project visit the Council's website:

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community_support_and_advice/Community_grants/default.asp or telephone the Community Strategy Officer (Direct Dial 01235 547626).

<p>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES</p>	<p>PRIORITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA IN 2009/10 The South East Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p>
<p>Healthier communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sports activities that are interesting and affordable • Providing maps and guides to encourage cycling and walking
<p>Improving quality of life for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing befriending and good neighbour schemes • Providing lunch clubs and other social activities
<p>Safer communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassuring people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime
<p>Fostering a greater sense of community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging interaction between residents of different ages, circumstances and backgrounds • Improving community buildings • Using local school facilities to provide wider community benefits
<p>A good understanding of town and parish priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing parish action plans
<p>Involving young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing positive leisure time activities
<p>Helping those without cars to access jobs and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing or improving community transport schemes • Providing local service directories or websites; voluntary sector advice 'road shows' visiting village halls
<p>Affordable homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
<p>Good quality homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing pro-active housing advice for 'hard to reach' groups (young, disabled, ethnic minorities)
<p>Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving sport and leisure facilities that are open to all • Improving open spaces • Providing new cultural activities that are open to all
<p>Addressing economic weaknesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing after school clubs

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA IN 2009/10 The South East Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward
Building on our economic strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale’s market town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging residents to support shops and other businesses in the area’s villages
A low carbon Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Living with extreme weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing good neighbour schemes for older people and other vulnerable groups
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging more re-cycling (e.g. community swap-shops)
A high quality natural and historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing listed buildings that are open to all • Enhancing parks and gardens that are open to all • Improving the appearance of the villages in the area