

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR  
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE  
10 January 2006

**Community Grants**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

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

**2.0 Recommendations**

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Head of Innovation & Enterprise has exercised officer delegation in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and awarded the following grants since the last meeting:*

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Amount Awarded</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
<i>St James (Hanney) School Assn</i>	<i>£425.00</i>	<i>£425.00</i>	<i>Eco-Week involving community</i>
<i>Mrs Martin-King, Milton</i>	<i>£179.77</i>	<i>£179.77</i>	<i>Tree maintenance</i>
<i>Mrs Sykes, Chilton</i>	<i>£371.30</i>	<i>£371.30</i>	<i>Tree maintenance</i>
<i>Mrs Luttrell-Hunt, W Hendred</i>	<i>£211.50</i>	<i>£211.50</i>	<i>Tree maintenance</i>
<i>Harwell School Summer Playscheme</i>	<i>£200.00</i>	<i>£200.00</i>	<i>Summer playscheme</i>
<i>Blewbury Village Hall</i>	<i>£210.00</i>	<i>£210.00</i>	<i>To secure WREN funding for an audio loop</i>
<i>Mrs Gayton, Wantage</i>	<i>£188.00</i>	<i>£188.00</i>	<i>Tree maintenance</i>
<i>Wantage Branch Royal Naval Assn</i>	<i>£250.00</i>	<i>£250.00</i>	<i>Graphic display for Trafalgar Anniversary</i>
<i>Total awarded</i>		<i>£2,035.57</i>	

- (b) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's remaining budget for 2005/06 is £13,439.88*
- (c) *Members are asked to clarify the principle of the decision not to award grants for re-thatching historic buildings which was taken on 6 July, namely*  
*(i) whether the resolution of 6 July applies to all applications for grant aid towards re-roofing and roofing repairs on historic buildings, regardless of material used, or only to applications for grant aid towards re-thatching historic buildings; and*  
*(ii) whether the resolution applies to roofs of houses belonging to individuals only or to the roofs of all historic buildings including larger buildings which are open to the community to use or visit.*
- (d) *In the light of the principle agreed under (c) Members are asked to confirm whether or not they are willing to consider an application received from the owners of the Corner*

House, Allin's Lane, East Hendred for a grant towards re-roofing a barn/garage using tiles

- (e) Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:
- (i) **Blewbury Croquet Club, £1,000**, towards the cost of extending and enclosing the shelter at the club, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
  - (ii) **Harwell Primary School, £10,000**, towards the cost of developing the school swimming pool as a community amenity, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (f) Members are asked to note that supplementary guidance for grants supporting the areas named above has been agreed and will be available to them soon

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

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

### 4.0 Community Grants

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

Budget b/f 2004/05	Budget 2005/06	Total budget 2005/06	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£3,473.32	£24,948.00	£28,421.32	£8,731.80	£8,731.80 (+ £1,308.20 from discretionary)	£2,494.80	£8,462.92
	Allocated	£14,981.44	£ 4,941.44	£8,731.80	£0	£1,308.20
	Remaining	£13,439.88	£3,790.36	£0	£2,494.80	£7,154.72

#### 4.2 Clarification on principle of decision taken on 6 July 2005

At the first meeting of the financial year on 6 July 2005, the South East Area Committee took the decision that, due to the reduced grants budget in 2005/06, it would not award grants for re-thatching historic buildings. Shortly afterwards an application was received from the owners of the Corner House, Allin's Lane in East Hendred for a grant towards the cost of re-roofing the barn/garage within the curtilage of their Grade II listed building; however, the roof is not thatched but tiled and the application is towards the cost of stripping off the tiles, replacing the battens and felt and then putting back the undamaged tiles as is usual practice with clay tiles. The applicants indicated their intention to have the work done in September/October 2005.

- 4.3 As this was the only application that had been received for the South East Committee the Chair took the decision to cancel the meeting scheduled for 13 September. However, in view of the intended timing of the repair work and the urgency of the work, he agreed that members of the Committee should be consulted by e-mail on whether they felt that the decision taken on 6 July included applications for roofing repairs to historic buildings where the roofs were made of materials other than thatching, as in

the case of the Corner House. The responses to the consultation indicated that there was not a consensus so it was agreed with the Chair that the decision would be clarified at the meeting on 10 January.

- 4.4 The applicants were advised that, in view of the circumstances and the urgency of the repairs, the Principal Planning Officer would have no objection to the work starting before the Committee met to clarify their decision and, depending on that clarification, to consider the application; they were also advised that the authorisation to commence the work was without prejudice to the Council's subsequent decision.
- 4.5 Members are asked to clarify whether they intended the resolution of 6 July to apply to *all* applications for grant aid towards re-roofing and roofing repairs on historic buildings, regardless of material used, or whether the resolution applies *only* to applications for grant aid towards re-thatching historic buildings. Furthermore, Members are asked to clarify whether the resolution is intended to apply to roofs of houses belonging to individuals *only* or to the roofs of *all* historic buildings including larger buildings which are open to the community to use or visit.
- 4.6 In clarifying their decision Members are asked to note that although the majority of applications received for roofing repairs concern re-thatching, some applications have been received in the past for repairs where the roof is made of stone or clay tiles.
- 4.7 If Members confirm that their intention was only to decline applications for grant-aid towards re-thatching historic buildings, they are invited to consider the application from the owners of the Corner House, Allin's Lane, East Hendred, details of which are attached at Appendix A.

4.8 New applications for consideration

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

- (i) **Blewbury Croquet Club, £1,000**, towards the cost of extending and enclosing the shelter at the club, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Harwell Primary School, £10,000**, towards the cost of developing the school swimming pool as a community amenity, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

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

4.9 Changes in criteria to grants supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing

- 4.10 During the current financial year the Council has undertaken a review of the Community Grants criteria and adopted revised criteria at the Council meeting on 20 July 2005. Since then the portfolio-holder for Community Grants has been in discussion with officers regarding the provision of supplementary guidance for applicants wishing to apply for a grant to support historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing, all of which had been the subject of individual grant schemes in the past prior to the merging of grant monies into one scheme, the Community Grants Scheme.
- 4.11 At a meeting on 20 December 2005 the portfolio-holder for Community Grants reviewed and agreed changes to the criteria for grants that support historic buildings, work on trees or countryside conservation and parish cleansing work. The changed

criteria emphasise that the grants are discretionary and any amount awarded will depend on the available budget and the priorities of the respective committee. However it is hoped that all area committees will be consistent in the use of the revised criteria.

- 4.12 Some aspects of the revised criteria will require legal clearance but it is hoped that this can be achieved by March in time for the last cycle of Committee meetings in this financial year. It is also hoped that a revised supplementary guidance leaflet for historic buildings will be available on Valeweb and in hard copy format for use by councillors and residents alike by the end of March.

Members are asked to note that supplementary guidance for grants supporting the areas named above has been agreed and will be available to them soon.

- 5.0** Details of grants awarded by this Committee during the year 2004/05 and this year to date are listed at Appendix C to provide an overview of the range of projects, services or events supported in the community.

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

**Background Papers: Applications**