

Appendix B

(i) Applicant: Blewbury Croquet Club

The Club is seeking financial assistance to extend the shelter at the club. The existing shelter is inadequate; it is too small and inclement weather and prevailing winds mean that members often get wet. The plan is to treble the area of the shelter and make it fully enclosed.

The Croquet Club attracts members from Blewbury to Wantage and Chilton to Steventon and has a membership roll of 57 people, of which forty-four live in the Vale; in addition ten members come from different parishes in South Oxfordshire and a further three from elsewhere. Membership costs £55 per annum for adults, £25 for children and a maximum of £100 for families. Members range in age from 5 to 80 years.

The Club provides a comparatively cheap form of recreation and exercise and caters for all abilities, offering training classes for beginners and improvers. Several of the older members suffer from disabilities such as defective hips and knees and it is unlikely that they would take much exercise if it were not for the club. Quite a few members live on their own so the club provides a means of avoiding social isolation.

There is a croquet club at AWRE, Harwell and in Abingdon but the Blewbury Club serves people living in the village and surrounding area. The Club shares lawns with the Harwell Club when a major competition takes place.

The Club has applied to South Oxfordshire District Council but the application was rejected on the basis that the club is based in the Vale and the majority of the members live in the Vale.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Health and Wellbeing, Town and Village Vitality.

Financial Information:

Total project cost	£13,608 including VAT; £11,582 excluding VAT
Balances	£6,127.37 at 31.3.05 (including £4,076.83 in Development Fund)
Own contribution	£5,500 (the club has recently used its funds to meet the full cost of an irrigation system - £7,000)
Grant sought	£ 1,000
Previous awards (Vale)	2001/02 £11,500 towards the installation of croquet lawns
Parish Council support	Applied but application unsuccessful due to lack of funds. (Parish Council had put resources into the legal campaign for the mobile home site earlier this year)
Other support	£2,000 promised by the national body, The Croquet Association

Applied to the Oxfordshire Community Foundation but application unsuccessful as they would only provide a grant for a sports club for disabled people
About to apply to Awards for All for £5,000

Parish precept £25,000; Band D £36.71

Officer comment (Helen Wynn, Sports Development Officer):

Blewbury Croquet Club has been involved in the Council's Sports Development Holiday Programme. They were particularly supportive and provided both the facility and expertise free of charge. The children and young people who attended the course enjoyed the activities provided and the club were very accommodating. They also proved their commitment to encourage new members of all ages to participate with the club on a regular basis.

(ii) Applicant: Harwell Primary School

The School is seeking a grant towards the cost of enclosing its swimming pool so that the pool can be used throughout the year. This will be achieved by building a telescopic building around the pool.

The facility would then be available for use by the community in the evenings and at weekends as well as during the school day. The likely users are children at the local pre-school playgroup, children and families in the school community and the elderly through contacts made as a result of the intergenerational project currently running with the charity Full Circle. It is also the school's intention to make the pool available to local swimming clubs. All of this would be in addition to the curriculum use of the pool.

Harwell School organises lifeguard cover from King Alfred's School for its own school swimming lessons which in turn helps the King Alfred's students taking the Sports Leadership Course. Lifeguard provision for community users would be by arrangement.

The Harwell Parish Plan identified the refurbishment of the swimming pool, including the provision of a means of covering it, as an opportunity to develop the school pool as a community resource at the same time as providing an improved facility for the schoolchildren. The covered pool will be an amenity for residents of all ages from Harwell and surrounding villages. It will be fully accessible to people with disabilities through the provision of a ramp.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning and Health & Wellbeing.

Financial information

Total project cost £72,726 including VAT; £63,085 excluding VAT

Balances £25,045 estimated for 31.03.06 of which £20,000 is for the project (see Other support) and £4,000 - £5,000 is required to be set aside as contingency and carry forward for future years, leaving balances of virtually zero.

Own contribution	£6,800 from fundraising by Harwell School Association
Grant sought	£10,000
Previous awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council support	Applied to Harwell Parish Council for £500, outcome awaited.
Other support	<p>Received £1,000 from Harwell Feast and £41,000 from Oxfordshire County Council from the school's reserves (£21,000 in 04/05 and £20,000 this year); Commitment of £6,800 from School Association who will raise an additional £5,000 if Awards for All application is unsuccessful.</p> <p>Applied to: Awards for All for £5,000 (outcome awaited)</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has also committed £9,711 for the demolition of the old changing rooms and levelling of the ground.</p>
Parish precept	£30,280; Band D £29.75

Officer comment (Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise):

This project supports several strands of the Vale Community Strategy and helps to progress Harwell's parish plan. This project will also contribute to the new Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement as it should help to increase the uptake of sporting activities by 5-16 year olds.