

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 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 Committee's remaining budget for 2005/06 is £7,689.88*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Wantage War Memorial Committee, £5,000***, towards refurbishment of war memorial, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) ***Challow and Childrey Cricket Club, £1,000***, towards the purchase of a mobile batting cage, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality
- (c) *Members are asked to note that the budget for the South East Area Committee for 2006/07 will be advised verbally at the meeting following the resolution by the Executive on 3 March*
- (d) *Members are asked to determine whether the grant application from Wantage Summer Festival should be considered from the 2005/06 or 2006/07 budget and to determine the agenda and Council priority for the application, included on Appendix A as item (iii)*
- (iii) ***Wantage Summer Festival 2006, £3,000***, towards publicity and administration costs, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (e) *Members are asked to consider and determine the bids for parish cleansing which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget*
- (f) *Members are asked to note that additional guidance for grants supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing is in preparation and will be distributed at the meeting*
- (g) *Members are asked to consider whether they would like a draft prospectus of the Committee's priorities for grant assistance to be prepared for discussion at the next meeting*

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 (+ £6,858.20 from discretionary)	£2,494.80	£8,462.92
	Allocated	£20,731.44	£ 5,141.44	£15,590	£0	£6,858.20
	Remaining	£7,689.88	£3,590.36	£0	£2,494.80	£1,604.72

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

- (i) **Wantage War Memorial Committee, £5,000**, towards refurbishment of war memorial, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Challow and Childrey Cricket Club, £1,000**, towards the purchase of a mobile batting cage, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality

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

4.2 An application has been received from Wantage Summer Festival (WSF) for a grant towards the costs of the 2006 festival which begins on 10 June. WSF has already been awarded a grant in the current financial year towards the 2005 festival last summer. The grants criteria do not allow more than one award to be made to the same organisation in one year for the same project. If the Committee considers that the Wantage Summer Festival, as a recurring event, is in effect the same project, then a grant award could be considered and made now from the 2006/07 budget, on the understanding that the payment of any grant is only made in the new financial year. The grant being sought is towards publicity and administration costs and as such these costs need to be incurred well in advance of the event. If the application is only considered at the first meeting of the new financial year, the costs would have been incurred which would render the application ineligible for consideration.

4.3 If the Committee decides that the Wantage Summer Festival 2006 is in essence not "the same project" as the Wantage Summer Festival 2005 for which a grant has been awarded in the current financial year, Members are invited to consider and determine the following application with the two listed above from the 2005/06 budget.

- (iii) **Wantage Summer Festival 2006, £3,000**, towards publicity and administration costs, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

5.0 Parish cleansing bids for 2006/07

- 5.1 For some years, a number of parish councils have opted to carry out street cleansing activities in addition to the service provided by the district council's contractor. The district council has, for some time, provided discretionary grants towards the cost of additional street cleansing carried out by parish councils on relevant land, that is, land for which the responsibility for cleansing rests with the district council.
- 5.2 In past years some of the area committees have been concerned that the application process has obliged them to award cleansing grants of 50%.
- 5.3 This year parish councils have been requested to submit their applications before the beginning of the financial year and it has been made clear that the Council wishes to continue to support additional parish cleansing on relevant land but that determination of a grant will be at the discretion of the area committee concerned and will depend on the individual merits of the application and the budget available.
- 5.4 The following bids have been received for the South East Area Committee:

Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours	Rate	Total Amount	Amount Requested	Officer comment
Ardington & Lockinge	All paths, roads verges	On demand	15	£7.843	£117.65	£117.65	Annual schedule & responsive as necessary
Charney Bassett	Village	Continuous	60	£5.05	£320.00	£303.00	
Childrey	High Str & Chapel Way	Twice per year	Not stated	Not stated	£150.00	£150.00	Not valid. Insufficient detail. Funding requested for weed removal which is a county council function
Harwell	All roads, verges & f/paths	Variable	467	£6.36	£2970.00	£2970.00	General criteria met. 1.5 people involved. Frequency varied according to other groundsman's duties.
Milton	Roads in Milton & Milton Heights	Twice weekly	180	£5.00	£900.00	£900.00	Reference made to litter from McDonalds.
Blewbury	Village footpaths	Weekly	50	£7.50	£375.00	£375.00	
Appleford	Pavement at The	Monthly (Nov, Dec,	6	£7.50	£45.00	£45.00	Seasonal leaf clearance

Parish	Areas	Frequency	Hours	Rate	Total Amount	Amount Requested	Officer comment
	Knapp	Jan)					from pavement
West Hendred	Bus stops & playing field	Monthly	48	£6.25	£300.00	£300.00	Not valid. Playing field not Vale land. Appn rec'd after deadline.

5.5 Members are asked to consider and determine the bids listed above which comply with the criteria, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2006/07 budget.

6.0 Review of criteria for grants supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing

6.1 Members are asked to note that leaflets detailing additional guidance for grant supporting historic buildings, work on trees, countryside conservation and parish cleansing are in preparation. These will be available to councillors at the meeting and will be available for residents on Valeweb and in hard copy format by the end of March.

6.2 Grants towards work on historic buildings will continue to be processed by the Principal Planning Officer (Environmental Policy) whereas applications that were previously considered as Village Environmental Improvement Grants will now be processed in the same way as other community grants in that applicants will be required to complete the standard community grants application form. This will be processed by the Community Strategy Officer and comments sought from the Principal Planning Officer (Environmental Policy).

6.3 Members may wish to consider the benefits of publishing a 'prospectus' so that local communities are aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the Area Committee. The document would not need to be overly long and it could be structured around the nine strands of the Vale Community Strategy:

- Transport
- Access to Services
- Recreation, Culture & Leisure
- Safe & Supportive Communities
- Town & Village Vitality
- Environment
- Housing
- Education & Lifelong Learning
- Health & Wellbeing

Members are asked to consider whether they would like a draft prospectus to be prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Applications