

Applicant: The NET, Abingdon

The NET is a youth club in the heart of Abingdon, offering help and advice to young people as well as a number of regular and special events. It is part of the Oxfordshire County Youth Service and is run by a formal management committee with local council representation.

Following a motion to the Council on 22 February 2006 concerning the provision of support to young people in Abingdon and surrounding areas, it was resolved to invite The NET to apply to the Abingdon Area Committee for a one-off grant of up to £4,500 towards opening on Saturday evenings with activities for young people. The Council further resolved to urge Oxfordshire County Council to provide funding for Saturday evening opening of the NET that would at least match any other funding the NET might obtain.

This application is in response to the invitation.

The NET is proposing to build upon the existing youth provision in Abingdon by offering a service at the weekend which is considered to be the time when vulnerable young people are most at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. The NET is proposing to run an evening session on Saturdays from 4 pm – 8pm offering a choice of a film show, sporting activity, project and/or a space to chill out.

A number of research projects have been carried out in Abingdon, including consultation on the Old Gaol, which identified gaps in existing youth provision. Young people have indicated that they would like somewhere to go on a Saturday evening and are particularly keen to have access to a cinema or films. As a result this will form the main focus of weekend youth provision at The NET. A nominal charge of 50p per session will be made which will give full membership rights to the youth service, as well as providing an income to cover the cost of film rental.

The project is based on a model used during the last school summer holidays where young people were targeted who were previously unknown to the youth service. The NET is seeking to repeat some of the same successes of the summer project, namely to successfully challenge negative stereotypes of what the youth service offers, to increase community involvement and volunteering, as well as reducing criminal activity and the fear of crime.

At the same time it is expected that the young people will achieve a number of successes in personal development including increased confidence and self awareness, the ability to work as a team and the ability to recognise and manage conflict.

The NET is seeking a grant towards capital costs which include a projector and screen, chairs and chair storage container, optic-kinetic trilight and a pool table for the Saturday evening sessions.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Access to Services; Safe and Supportive Communities; Education & Lifelong Learning; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£13,826 excl VAT, £15,243 incl VAT (VAT can be reclaimed), broken down as: capital costs - £6,683 excl VAT, £8,100 incl VAT running costs (one session per week, 52 weeks p.a.) - £7,143 (VAT exempt)
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Running Costs of this project	£7,143 over 12 months
Own Contribution	None because budget provided for current level of core service only
Grant Sought	£4,500
Previous Awards (Vale)	£1,500 for extended holiday activities 2005/06
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 (as per band D)
Parish Council Support	Applications have been submitted to Abingdon Town Council (£5,000) and Oxfordshire County Council (outcome to be reported verbally at meeting)