

### **The Abingdon Area Prospectus**

The purpose of the Abingdon Area Committee is to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the area (Abingdon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford).

The work of the Committee supports the Vale Strategic Partnership (which brings together the Council and other key organisations whose services affect the quality of life of residents in the Vale). Following a period of community consultation the Vale Strategic Partnership has published the Vale Community Strategy. The strategy is designed to improve quality of life in the Vale by encouraging better partnership working between the members of the Vale Strategic Partnership and local communities.

Another Government initiative the 'Local Area Agreement' is also designed to encourage better partnership working. In Oxfordshire the County Council, district councils, police, health authority and the Learning & Skills Council are negotiating an agreement covering the period 2006 to 2009.

Most of the service improvements that will result from the Local Area Agreement are designed to benefit the whole of Oxfordshire and the Vale Strategic Partnership will be making sure that local communities in the Vale are able to share this benefit.

The elected district councillors who make up the membership of the Abingdon Area Committee have a unique role in carrying responsibility for local government in the Committee's area and being directly accountable to residents. Committee members recognise that this leadership role should be exercised in partnership rather than by command. And to be effective, the various different partnerships and their plans must be co-ordinated.

The following Prospectus provides information about the kind of local community self help projects that the Committee would like to support in the financial year 2006-2007. The Prospectus is organised to fit with the nine strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy and describes how possible projects fit with the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement. The Prospectus also describes how these projects could benefit residents in Abingdon Area.

The Abingdon Area Committee has a limited budget but may be able to offer a suitable project a small financial grant. The Committee may also be able to help in other ways by supporting applications to other funding bodies and publicising the benefits of a project.

The Abingdon Area Committee recognises that there are other local community projects which may not fit with the Prospectus. 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 financial constraints, it would like to focus its limited financial resources on projects that support its Prospectus.