

Appendix A

(i) Applicant: Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council

Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council is seeking a grant towards the provision of a fenced play area in Ardington near the village shop and tearooms. It is proposed that the play area will contain two picnic tables, two tower units with slides, a large basket swing, a pair of swings for toddlers, a seesaw, a log train, parallel bars, two balance walks, a magnifying post and a litter bin. The equipment will be placed on Safagrass safety surfaces. There will be two self-closing pedestrian gates and access for wheelchairs. Bushes will be planted along a boundary which is not yet screened.

The parishes of Ardington and Lockinge do not currently have a playground. The nearest playground is in Wantage or West Hendred which is 2-3 miles away. Children are unable to visit the park as frequently as they would like because not every household has access to a car during the day to make the journey. Access via footpath to West Hendred is restricted for parents with prams or bicycles, because of the stiles en route (installed to prevent motor cyclists using the path). The proposal to build a play area in Ardington and Lockinge was identified in the parish plan consultation.

It is estimated that the minimum number of children to benefit from the proposed play area is about 170.

Since the parish council does not own any land, it is leasing the land for the play area from the Lockinge Trust for a peppercorn rent. The lease is for 6 years which is a standard lease for renting and maintenance but does not provide security of tenure. The cost of drawing up the lease was borne by the Trust which also provides financial support to the villages in the form of an annual grant towards village maintenance costs.

The parish council is working closely with the Ardington Playground Group on this project and once the playground is up and running the Group will become a functional committee working under the parish council.

The district council does not usually fund play equipment but does consider applications for safety surfacing and dog-proof fencing in play areas as well as the installation of facilities which make an area or building accessible to people with disabilities. For this reason the total project cost includes separate costs for the installation of these items.

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

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£41,777 incl VAT, £35,555 excl VAT (Can reclaim VAT) Of which the cost of safety surfacing, fencing, ramp and accessible path is: £16,291 incl VAT, £13,865 excl VAT
Own Contribution	£1,000
Grant Sought	£7,441
Previous Awards (Vale)	£41 in 2005/06 towards parish cleansing

	Trees from Amenity Tree Planting Scheme
Parish Council Support	See 'Own Contribution'
Parish Precept	£4,810; Band D £22.58
Other Support	<p>Funds raised by the villages £9,758.38(from which will be deducted £1,118 to release landfill grant)</p> <p>Donations from villages £1,345</p> <p>Oxfordshire Community Foundation £6,000 awarded (had applied for £7,000)</p> <p>Landfill Tax Credit Grant £11,000</p> <p>Awards for All (has applied for £6,100, response expected in July)</p> <p>Cooperative Dividend Scheme £1,000 (unsuccessful) Cannot apply to WREN because not the council is not the landowner; nor to the Big Lottery Children's Play programme because project doesn't introduce new ideas</p>

Officer comment (Toby Warren - Head of Innovation & Enterprise)

The District Council has expressed an interest in receiving an allocation from the Big Lottery Children's Play programme. Allocation of this funding will be dependent on the Council preparing a Play Strategy. Preparation of a strategy in accordance with the Big Lottery guidance will take some time. Projects identified by the strategy will not be wholly funded by the Big Lottery. Any funding allocation is unlikely to be large enough to provide funding contributions for all the projects identified.

A lack of play facilities in rural areas means that many children feel very isolated and the parish plan has identified a local need and local fund raising suggests that there is a strong commitment for the provision of a play area as soon as possible.

(ii) Applicant: Camel Pre-School, Wantage

Camel Pre-School is the only early years provider in Segsbury Ward and has been unable to meet the existing local demand due to its limited premises. Local consultation has shown that there is a strong demand for more sessions, full day-care and lunch clubs and there is a lengthy waiting list for places. In view of this and anticipating the increase in demand likely to result from the significant housebuilding in the area, the pre-school has recently moved to a mobile unit in Stockham Primary School. The new premises will allow the pre-school to offer a wider range of services, including more flexible childcare, to meet the needs of the local community, and to provide a more inspiring environment for the children. The extension of care will help parents and carers who wish to return to work, increase their working hours or undertake training.

The pre-school has been upgrading the mobile unit in stages. It has been made more accessible by the installation of ramps and disabled toilet facilities. The pre-school is now seeking a grant towards the costs of the final stage of the work which includes the following: the development of the outside play area, the installation/upgrading of utilities and services, the installation of low level windows and completion of the kitchen.

The pre-school has been running for 36 years and is a registered charity. It will benefit an estimated 90 children, primarily from the catchment area for Stockham Primary School and the Segsbury Ward. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 shows that out of 75 Super Output Areas in the Vale, the Stockham Park area of the Segsbury Ward is ranked:

12th for education, skills and training
20th for income deprivation affecting children
27th for multiple deprivation
where 1st in the ranking represents most deprivation.

In the longer term the pre-school plans to offer a breakfast club, after-school club and summer play scheme. It will be available for functions and fundraising activities. Charges for attending additional sessions and for use of the facilities outside school hours are projected to meet the running costs of the pre-school.

Camel Pre-School is entering into a partnership with Stockham Primary School and through this will assist in the provision of extended school hours facilities. At the same time the pre-school children will have the opportunity to be included in activities with the primary school's Foundation Stage children.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Safe & Supportive Communities, Health & Wellbeing, Town and Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning and Access to Services.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£86,016 incl VAT, £73,205 excl VAT (cannot reclaim VAT)
Cost of final phase	£19,857 incl VAT, £16,900 excl VAT
Balances	£7,223 at 31/07/05
Running Costs	£36,023 for year ending 31/07/05
Own Contribution	£3,655 (own fundraising)
Grant Sought	£10,000
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Applying to Wantage Town Council
Parish Precept	Wantage: £120,000; Band D £31.52
Other Support	Early Years Partnership Funding (County Council) £32,500 Awards for All £5,000

Local Network Fund £5,000
Section 106 Funding £17,000
N Power £1,066
District Liaison Panel £250
Berkshire Masonic Charity £1,000
Autotype £200
Kingsgrove Trust £200

Total Other Support: £62,216

Officer comment (Toby Warren - Head of Innovation & Enterprise)

All three and four year olds have the right to Government funded early years education. In Oxfordshire, children qualify for free sessions in the term following their third birthday and are entitled to five, free, two and a half hour sessions of pre-school education a week for 38 weeks a year.

However working parents need childcare to cover the working day. This is a major problem for parents on a low income who have difficulty in affording private childcare. This can result in the risk that some young children spend some time left to look after themselves or in the care of a person who does not have the maturity needed to look after children of pre-school age. Easily accessible full day care reduces this risk and a wide range of services helps to ensure that all children have the opportunity of a good start in life.

(iii) Applicant: Harwell Parochial Charities re: Frances Geering Almhouses, Harwell

Harwell Parochial Charities are proposing to restore the brickwork on the front elevation of the Frances Geering Almhouses following a quinquennial inspection. They are seeking a grant to act as third party funding to help secure a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The Almhouses are grade II* and situated within the Harwell Conservation Area. The works will involve re-pointing sections of the façade using traditional lime mortar.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information

The lowest tender for the work is £9,250 exclusive of VAT. They are seeking a grant of £8,000 from TOE and therefore would like a grant of £800, representing 10%, to secure funding from TOE.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The Almhouses are situated in a prominent location along the village high street and the restoration will help conserve the historic building fabric. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions.

(iv) Applicant: Mr Axel-Berg, Sparsholt Court, West Hendred

The owner of Sparsholt Court is seeking a grant towards the cost of re-building part of the garden wall and re-pointing the remainder. Sparsholt Court is grade II listed, built in the early 17th century. The wall runs along one of the main roads into West Hendred. It is situated within the village conservation area. The owner has lived there for 17 years.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties

Financial Information

The lowest estimate for the work is £6,465 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer[Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The wall is located in a very prominent location as you enter the village. The mortar along the base has eroded away and the brickwork is starting to deteriorate. There is a possibility that the wall may become unstable in future. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions.

(v) Applicant: Mr & Mrs Jenkinson, The Dell, Harwell

The owners of The Dell in Harwell are seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the thatch on the rear and west elevations of the roof, which has severely deteriorated, and re-ridging the roof. The cottage is grade II listed and situated within the Harwell Conservation Area. It is thought to have been built c.1450. The owners have lived there for over 50 years and report that, as the cottage is on the roadside and thus in a very visible position, passers-by frequently stop to admire and take photographs of it. A photograph of the cottage appears in the Vale's Historic Buildings Grants leaflets.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information

The lowest estimate of the work is £10,200 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The work is required to maintain the roof in a watertight condition for the considerable future and hence conserve the historic building. Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions and the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.

(vi) Applicant: Mr Brock, Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury

The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the ridge on their thatched cottage which has severely deteriorated. The Cottage is grade II listed originally built in the 16th Century and is situated on the edge of the village conservation area. The property is the owners' only residence and they have lived there for 24 years.

When compared to modern buildings and techniques, works appropriate for historic buildings are often more expensive due to the specialisation involved. The District Council have a statutory obligation to ensure that historic buildings are maintained in good condition and providing grants is one way the Council can encourage owners to restore and maintain their properties.

Financial Information:

The lowest estimate of the work is £6,525 excluding VAT.

Officer comment (Alison Blyth, Principal Planning Officer [Environmental Policy]):

The application fulfils the criteria adopted by the District Council for the operation of its historic building grants under the community grant scheme. The work is required to help maintain the roof in a watertight condition for the considerable future and it will also reinstate a traditional feature of the area.

Any grant awarded should be subject to the normal historic building grant conditions and the ridge being flush finished with no decorative features.