

# South East Area Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: South East Area Committee

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REPORT NO:

## 2014/15 New Homes Bonus (NHB) Grants

### Recommendations

- (a) that the South East area committee considers the seven applications received for NHB funding and awards grants in line with the agreed policy.
- (b) that the committee considers what suggestions, if any, it has for improving the policy to feed into a review early next year.

### Purpose of report

1. To give the committee the information it needs to award NHB grants for their area and suggest improvements to the policy for a review early next year.

### Strategic objectives

2. We have a corporate priority to support local communities through grants to voluntary and community organisations who are delivering projects/services that support our objectives or those in need.

### Background

3. We opened the scheme between 16 July and 15 September 2014 and received seven applications for the South East area, requesting a total of £44,550 against a budget of £47,000.
4. Officers have summarised the applications in appendix one, highlighting any concerns and/or points of note in their comments.
5. The main aim of this scheme is to help support communities that have accommodated new housing to integrate new and existing communities. With this in mind officers have produced a table, attached in appendix two, showing each

parish's percentage of the area committee's overall growth and its percentage increase in size between September 2012 and September 2013.

6. The interim NHB policy attached in appendix three expires on 31 March 2015 and the cabinet member for finance would like the area committees to feed into a review of the scheme before agreeing a new policy. Any feedback the committee gives will be considered as part of that review.

### **Financial implications**

7. In June 2014 the South East area was allocated £47,000 of the 2014/15 NHB community grant budget. As per the agreed policy these grants can fund either revenue or capital projects.

### **Legal implications**

8. The council's legal powers to award these grants are contained in section one of the Localism Act 2011 that gives a general power of competence for local authorities.
9. In June 2014, the cabinet member for grants delegated authority to the four area committees to determine NHB funding applications in their respective areas.

### **Risks**

10. As we usually pay NHB grants when they're awarded and not when the projects complete there's a risk that we can't recover any money given to projects that for whatever reason don't go ahead or need the full amount. There is also a risk that projects we agree to fund don't achieve the desired results.

### **Conclusion**

11. That the committee awards New Homes Bonus grants in line with the approved policy and makes any suggestions for improving it to feed into a review early next year.

### **Background Papers**

## APPENDIX ONE – APPLICATION SUMMARIES

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Town / Parish	Total cost £	Amount requested	% of area growth	% of growth in parish
NHBSE\3	Harwell Village Hall	Hall redevelopment project	Harwell	£659,515	£15,000	0.95	0.22
NHBSE\5	South & Vale Carers Centre	Adult support around Wantage, Didcot and the surrounding villages	Whole area	£12,250	£6,125	N/A	N/A
NHBSE\6	Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust	Audio visual equipment	Upton	£1,688	£1,000	1.87	2.11
NHBSE\10	West Hanney Parish Council	Community woodland startup funding	West Hanney	£5,530	£3,315	0.65	0.62
NHBSE\13	Frontiers New Horizons (Ardington)	Wantage outdoor learning project	Ardington and Lockinge	£20,392	£9,000	1.09	1.19
NHBSE\17	October Club (Wantage)	Upgrade of heating system	Wantage	£13,737	£9,000	15.15	0.77
NHBSE\19	Wantage Junior Showstoppers	Providing professional singing coach	Wantage	£1,110	£1,110	15.15	0.77
				<b>Total</b>	<b>£44,550</b>		
				<b>Budget available</b>	<b>£47,000</b>		

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>Harwell Village Hall</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE\3
Hall redevelopment project		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£659,515		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£15,000		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£206,343	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£187,236
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£450,202 £258,000 (from S106)		

**Previous grants received - none**

### Officer and consultation comments

They've split the cost of the £703,165 hall redevelopment into two phases. This application is for the first phase, covering everything except the kitchen, toilets, blinds and signs. Their bank balance includes the funding for both phases of the project, and any VAT payable.

Their bank balance shows they don't currently have all of their contribution for the project and they have a number of other grant applications outstanding to make up their other funding.

The parish council has agreed to put £275,000 of S106 money towards the whole redevelopment of which roughly £258,000 will go to this first phase. They can't access the S106 money (£275,000) won't be available until the homes are occupied. As work has only just started on these, the project may not complete within 12 months.

### Applicant responses

#### Please give some details of your project.

Harwell village Hall is in need of complete refurbishment in order to bring it up to today's standards. Our Energy Report (July'13) recommended 10 areas of improvement, including: improving roof insulation, installing double glazed windows, cavity wall insulation, new boiler, LED lighting (our system is now obsolete) & energy efficient appliances in kitchen. The hall itself, built in 1927 as a technical institute, has served the village since 1960. In addition to the main hall we had another adjoining building, known as the Freeman Hall which was condemned in 2010. Our plans include rebuilding this hall with a central foyer, to house our History society, a kitchen area between both halls, new toilet facilities, refurbishment of the original hall & plentiful storage areas for our many user groups. We plan to have a dedicated office for the Parish Clerk and a committee room for the Parish Council.

#### Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.

The total cost of the village hall project is £703,165, however we have removed £43,650 from the cost on this application as we have applied to the CCG scheme towards that phase of the project separately. Our contribution and other funding has been split pro rata between the applications and we have build in a buffer in case we don't received the full amount on some items. The costs do not include professional fees of £76,000 that we will pay from our reserves (we have already paid £20,000 already). Our reserves also need to pay towards the general running costs of the hall.

#### Statement about town or parish council support

Our Parish Council has been very supportive at every step of the way on this project and have agreed to use the Section 106 money from Alder View (Greenwood Meadow) for the village hall. This currently stands at £275000, there may be more S106 money when & if the other developments at Blenheim Hill and the Reading Road begin and our Parish Council have intimated that we may well get a large proportion of this.

**How does your project deliver best value for money?**

The Village Hall is a much loved building in the heart of Harwell Village BUT it is difficult to heat due to the dated heating system, the lack of insulation and the size of the single glazed windows. It is now too small to accommodate the many User Groups within the village and with the loss of the Freeman Hall we are forced to turn some groups away. There is inadequate storage for equipment, our lighting has now become obsolete and our kitchen desperately needs an overhaul. Before we can begin this project we need to demolish the Freeman Hall and this is where the New Homes Bonus could help us. The Architects have been instructed to provide detailed plans and send out to tender for the whole project.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

Great Western Park, Didcot Road Harwell Parish - Taylor Wimpey 2000+ houses being built now. Alder View or Greenwood Meadows, Grove Road, Harwell- Taylor Wimpey 65 houses being built now Blenheim Hill, Didcot Road-Bloor Homes Development -90+ houses proposed Reading Road, Harwell-Manor Oak Homes- 45 houses proposed These developments will put an enormous strain on all facilities in the village, including the Primary school, both shops, The Hart(public house), road use & social impact- a large proportion of social activities take place in the Village Hall, bookings for the hall are already over subscribed and we have a waiting list of user groups who would like to be included in our hall usage. With two halls we would be able to accommodate more groups and encourage residents moving into Harwell to take part in the many activities on offer which range from physical to artistic, from the oldest residents to our youngest.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

We have an active fund raising committee for our project and they have a calendar of events to engage the community, both newcomers and existing residents. Their aim is to offer social activities to appeal to all members of our community and to date we have raised over £200,000 towards the redevelopment project.

Our History society have never had a permanent home for archives, resources & artefacts and these are currently stored in attics, barns and homes in the village. It is hoped to set up a permanent display area, within the foyer of the new build, to exhibit these and to give them storage facilities for the many items that a 'village of a thousand years' has collected, since our 1985 celebrations of receiving our village charter. On the 21st September they are holding the second of their exhibitions, 'Harwell during World War 1' in the village hall.

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

To date we have raised over £200,000 towards the redevelopment project and this is clear evidence of the support that our local community has for the project. We have letters of support from residents and User groups who would like to see the hall refurbished and extended, to give us greater flexibility for all. All residents and Users,(not necessarily Harwell Residents)have been consulted since the first plans were aired in 2010 and asked for their needs and views. The Parish Council have been very supportive of the project and are hoping to have a dedicated office for the Clerk and a committee room for their meetings in the refurbished Hall. Our Youth Club, who used the Freeman Hall previously and are currently trying to meet, in the inadequate Pavilion on the recreation ground, are keen to come back to the Hall on a permanent basis.

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>South &amp; Vale Carers Centre</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE5
Adult support around Wantage, Didcot and the surrounding villages		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£12,250		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£6,125		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£6,125	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£91,941
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£0 £unspecified amount requested		

**Previous grants received** - CCG 2012-13 £378 New website. Three community grants between 2006-7 and 2011-12 totalling £4,166

### Officer and consultation comments

This organisation is based in Didcot, however this post will provide support for Wantage and the surrounding areas. Their service offers to help carers in the area both new and existing. It's unclear how they have funded the post up to now and how they will continue to fund it in the future.

The organisation is contributing the balance from their reserves and has asked Wantage town council for an undisclosed amount. The committee may want to wait until their other funding is confirmed before releasing our grant, so we can reduce it proportionately if they don't need as much.

### Applicant responses

**Please give some details of your project.**

This grant will help fund a comprehensive support service to carers of all ages throughout the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Districts, helping people cope with the emotional demands of being an unpaid carer. This service will be delivered by South and Vale through a process of: Information and advice - issues affecting carers, including benefits, breaks, signposting to respite and support services, arranging carer assessments, aids and adaptations Emotional support - providing opportunities for carers to talk through their concerns, helping to alleviate isolation, anxiety and stress. Advocacy - at tribunals, assessments, case reviews, assistance to access funds and services Practical help - befriending, breaks, transport, benefits advice Fun - quality time away from caring, the opportunity to enjoy a social life Funding will help pay for salaries, overheads and direct project costs

**Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.**

None at present

**Statement about town or parish council support**

Yes - meeting arranged for October 2014

**How does your project deliver best value for money?**

Firstly we have the infrastructure in place to deliver the service. Secondly we are based within a three mile radius of Didcot Thirdly we have been successfully delivering services to carers for 20 years Finally the shared cost of just over £35 per visit represents real value

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

Great Western Park is a new development in Didcot (OX11) which, when finished will consist of some 3,500 homes. The most noticeable impact is on transport infrastructure but it has also affected local schools. Because medical capacity has and is being provided the healthcare impact is less noticeable. The Park supplies much needed workforce supply. The main hidden impacts involve the increased need for support services relating to care, long term health conditions and emotional well-being. 90,000 people in Oxfordshire are limited in their daily activities by a long term health problem or disability. This equates to 14% of the population. (source: Oxfordshire CC) Additionally 12,400 people aged 85 and over are living with day-to-day activities significantly limited by a health problem or disability. This is equivalent to 49% of the total resident population aged 85 in the Vale which if replicated would mean 350 people on the Estate may need help'

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

Young people: The South and Vale Young Carers Project identifies and supports children and young people aged 8 to 17, who live with a parent or sibling who has a physical illness or disability, a mental health problem or is dependent on drugs or alcohol. We offer young carers individual emotional support through home visits or by phone in times of crisis, and we organise 24 free trips and activities throughout the year to give young carers regular respite and a sense of their childhood that may not be present in their day-to-day lives. Older people: We work to ensure that unpaid carers and their families maintain an acceptable standard of living by helping them complete the complex forms necessary to claim their full Disability Benefit entitlement. We ensure unpaid carers have emotional and practical support at critical times, including advice at discharge from hospital, how to access equipment and entitlements

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

Young people: Feedback from young carers frequently highlights that existing support group provision is either too remote or nonexistent. There is not enough one to one support, and they cannot access trips and activities due to a lack of transport. Of the 30 young carers who we questioned about the impact of the support offered by our young carers project in 2013, 29 said they enjoyed the trips and activities most. Two wanted more one to one emotional support, 20 said they felt they were happier at school and doing better with their school work as a result of our support, and 22 young carers said they now attended school more. Older people: We conduct regular forums together with questionnaires where the overwhelming response is a need to resolve the isolation and loneliness carers face. There are also overwhelming financial needs.

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE\6
Audio visual equipment		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,688		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£1,000		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£526	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£27,147
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£0 £0		

**Previous grants received -** 2012/13 to 2013-14 two capital grants totalling £5,470

### Officer and consultation comments

<p>The organisation has also applied for a CCG grant towards another project.</p> <p>The hall and all its facilities are available to the whole community and extending the facilities/activities on offer might appeal to and benefit more users.</p> <p>They haven't approached the parish council for this project, but were pledged £1,000 towards the kitchen improvements project.</p> <p>The organisation's bank balance includes nearly £21,000 earmarked for other projects. The organisation could potentially fund the small funding gap of £162.</p>
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### Applicant responses

#### Please give some details of your project.

This grant will help fund the equipment required to provide digital projection and audio facilities in the village hall, facilitating not only presentation capabilities for existing clubs and users, but importantly the creation of a film club within the village. Film showings have proved very popular in village halls in neighbouring villages, and would create a new social activity in a small community with currently nothing other than the pub to provide entertainment. The village wine appreciation society has been very successful, and it is hoped that the film facility will attract similar levels of support but from an expanded cross-section of the residents, including young and old.

#### Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.

£10451 is ring fenced for the kitchen refurbishment project. £3000 is allocated towards the replacement of the entrance doors and installation of access control; the doors are in dire need of replacement. £7000 is allocated towards refurbishment of the gents toilets and entrance hall, for which separate funding is also being sought to meet the anticipated cost of £9705 + VAT. It is expected that surpluses in the FY 2014/15 will allow us to maintain the £10K reserve which is kept against unforeseen major expenditure items.

#### Statement about town or parish council support

We have not approached the parish council on this occasion, as it is already supporting the kitchen project to the amount of £1000 out of this year's precept of £7500.. However the council is very supportive of all of the initiatives undertaken by the village hall trust, and it is a published council Aim and Objective to "Support UVHAT in the upkeep of the village hall and enhancement of its facilities;".



**How does your project deliver best value for money?**

The hardware components were chosen following consultation with a number of individuals and companies having AV experience. The projector offers good performance in non-blackout conditions (important in a hall with multiple windows) and brand reliability. The screen is British and offers high gain at an attractive price. The active speakers forming the PA are from a reputed manufacturer in the music business, and have been proven in other village halls know to the trustees. The estimates attached are from reputable suppliers and offer significant discounts from the RRP.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

New housing around Didcot has created a significant increase in the numbers of visitors to the village, who use the facilities at the Recreation Ground and Village Hall. The children's play area, funded largely by a WREN grant, is intensively used by families from the new housing developments, as is the hall which has become extremely popular as a venue for children's parties. Events staged at the hall, such as jumble sales, village fete, and music productions, are also popular with the older section of the new neighbouring communities.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

Uptonogood, the highly successful mountain bike event based in Upton, has promised £500 towards the purchase of AV equipment. Following the funeral in July of a popular resident, locals campaigned for the purchase of a PA system which would have allowed more mourners to hear the service. The local branch of WI who meet at the hall have written "these changes mean we can have better speakers, do more fundraising, it makes the group more appealing to new members, particularly as we are a modern WI ". The village wine club has written requesting that "funds be allocated or raised to enable the purchase of AV equipment".

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

West Hanney Parish Council	Ref	NHBSE\10
Community Woodland Startup Funding		

### Financial

Total project cost	£5,530		
Amount requested	£3,315		
Organisation's contribution	£415	Organisation's latest bank balance	£8,866
Other funding	£1,800 (from the school earmarked towards the forest school training)		

**Previous grants received** – community grants 2008-9 £1,200 (parish cleansing) and 2003/4 £60 unspecified grant

### Officer and consultation comments

The project will provide a community woodland area for new and existing residents to enjoy and potentially get involved in maintaining.

The costs include £1,530 towards equipment, signage and gates, £1,200 towards a woodland management plan and £2,800 towards forest school training for a member of the primary school staff.

The organisation is contributing £415 to the project and the primary school has pledged £1,800 towards the forest school teacher training cost.

### Applicant responses

#### Please give some details of your project.

West Hanney Parish Council recently acquired the Nigel Eady Community Woodland from the executors of the late Nigel Eady. This woodland was originally established by Nigel Eady over twenty years ago and the Parish Council has established a community woodland steering group who are responsible for the management, maintenance and future development of this vital community asset. The woodland is an invaluable natural space for the benefit of all local residents in the communities of East and West Hanney and is also used by some residents in the neighbouring communities of Denchworth and Grove. This grant application would enable woodland volunteers to carry out regular essential maintenance of the woodland and also provide funds to the local primary school to train a Forest School Leader so that the pupils can learn in a natural environment. A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.

#### Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.

The Parish Council has no other significant income other than the annual Precept and has already incurred the legal costs of acquiring the community woodland so our contribution to the project is constrained by the limitations on our reserves. The Parish Council is also not VAT registered and cannot claim back any VAT on goods and services therefore will have to fund all the VAT payments for this project. St James Primary School will contribute the supply cover costs for the Forest School Leader training.

#### Statement about town or parish council support

The West Hanney Parish will contribute £415 towards the cost of this project and St James Primary School will contribute £1800.

**How does your project deliver best value for money?**

The community woodland group is run by volunteers and so there are no labour costs. All equipment will be procured on the basis of a long service life and quality to ensure that this initial investment is maximised. We have obtained the best price for that equipment.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

There are three new housing developments in West Hanney either underway or in the latter stages of the planning process that will bring a significant number of new residents into our community as well as a recently completed new development and one now underway in East Hanney. There is also a proposal for 200 new houses to be built in East Hanney under the Local Plan published by the Vale of White Horse District Council. Both Parish Councils recognise the need to provide additional amenity areas for the increasing village populations or to enhance the current amenities.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

The Parish Council recognises that there is a need to provide access to a well managed woodland space for the benefit of existing and new residents as an essential local amenity with access all year round. This project will provide the essential start-up funding and training for the recently formed community woodland group and will encourage new residents not only to use the community woodland but also to join as volunteers to help maintain the community woodland.

The children of the new residents will also benefit from the increased use by St James Primary School of the community woodland as a base for Forest School activities once the proposed Forest School training is completed by a member of the teaching staff.

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

The local community was invited to attend a recent parish council meeting if they were interested in forming a voluntary organisation to maintain and manage the community woodland. Over 30 residents from both East and West Hanney have volunteered to help and a Steering Committee has now been formed to coordinate their activities. The Committee has worked with the Council to identify the requirements outlined in this application. Some residents have also publicly thanked the Parish Council in our community newsletter for our work in securing the community woodland for use of our residents.

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>Frontiers New Horizons</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE\13
Wantage outdoor learning project		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£20,392		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£9,000		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£4,400	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£4,648
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£6,992 £0		

**Previous grants received** - £7,314 in two grants between 2013/14 and 2014/15 towards their Need a Direction project

### Officer and consultation comments

They have not approached any town or parish councils in the area for funding and are using most of their reserves to help fund this project. They hope to raise the £6,992 gap in funding through unspecified grants and donations.

This project is based in Ardington parish but will mainly take students from the Wantage area, offering a training service for approximately 12 'at risk' young people each year.

### Applicant responses

**Please give some details of your project.**

The grant will help to fund a project for local teenagers who have or who are at risk of disengaging from school, by introducing them to and developing a wide range of practical and outdoor activities which they otherwise would not have access to. In developing these skills, the project also focuses on the behaviours, attitudes and mindsets that can help young people become more successful. The main group of young people this project is aimed at are those aged 16-18 who have left school and for whom there is no suitable progression route in the local area. These young people tend to have low or no qualifications and need support in making the transition to work or further learning. The project is also open to young people who are disengaging from education at the ages of 13-16.

**Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.**

None

**Statement about town or parish council support**

No - as the young people will be coming from areas across the Vale.

**How does your project deliver best value for money?**

There are no other programmes of this kind in the local area. The target group would need to travel to Abingdon for full time education, the courses there however are not suitable for all (we tend to find this is a successful progression route after they have worked with us). For a small investment in this programme, the young people become more employable and more likely to access local jobs. Andersey Farm is owned by Rob Beaumont, who gives access to the land and buildings at no/low cost to ensure that this project can run successfully.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

St Mary's - Wantage, Gabriel's Wharf, Mabley Way, Stock Ham Park Farm and Letcombe Fields. There are an increasing number of young people in the target group in the area - Oxfordshire County Council data shows that they are aware of over 40 people aged between 16 and 18 in the local area who are not in learning or work. For young people with low or no qualifications, with a chequered school history or other barrier to learning there is a lack of provision in the local area. We aim to ensure that those young people who may otherwise find it difficult to make their own way, have the support they need through our programme. This will help them to develop the attitudes and skills to make a significant positive difference to their local community.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

The group of young people we work with are in danger of becoming alienated from their local community. If they have been disengaged at school and not made a successful progression beyond school, they are much more likely to be involved in anti social behaviour, the criminal justice system and/or claiming benefits. This programme works to ensure that young people are able to play a much more positive role in their communities. Some of the activities involve fixing small machinery such as lawnmowers - which could be turned into a social enterprise. Another activity involves growing fruit and vegetables - connecting them with the land.

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

A similar project was run in the academic year 2013-14. This project worked with 12 young people in the target group. Of this group, four have progressed to full time further education, three to full time work, one has moved from the area, two are intending to continue to work with us and we have lost touch with two. King Alfred's Academy has worked closely with us to refer young people once they have left the school, a relationship which has worked well and has developed over the year. The Academy has also worked with the project for young people still in school and Assistant Headteacher James Maddern is happy to act as a reference for this work. The school would like to participate in the programme again and is willing to make a financial contribution.

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>October Club</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE\17
Upgrade of heating system		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£13,737		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£9,000		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£4,737	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£42,565
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£0 Unknown amount included in their contribution		

**Previous grants received** - 2013-14 CCG £4,781 toilet refurbishment

### Officer and consultation comments

The club offers a day centre for new and existing residents of Wantage, Grove and the surrounding villages. An efficient heating system will make the centre more appealing to users in winter and should reduce energy bills to free up additional income for other projects.

The organisation's bank balance includes cash to help cover their running costs and £30,000 in reserve as per their accounting policy.

Their contribution of £4,737 includes some funding received from the town council.

### Applicant responses

#### Please give some details of your project.

The October Club is a Day Centre for those people with Alzheimer's and other Dementia. This mostly covers the older generation who are not so active and feel the cold. It is therefore important to have an efficient and cost effective Heating system. Currently it costs the October Club over £4000 a year to heat the main room using an electric under floor heating system. Additional local appliances are also required to bring the temperature up to a required level for our clients. I believe the system was already in place when the building was converted from a Library to a Day Centre in the early 90's. The project covers a new gas connection, boiler, LST Radiators and all necessary piping and labour costs.

#### Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.

The £30000 in the Reserve account is the October Club reserves which would be used if either we had to close the Club so had to pay redundancies, etc or lost part of our Oxfordshire County Council Grant. Monthly Staff Wages have to come out of the Current Account plus all utility bills.

#### Statement about town or parish council support

We have not approached our town council as they have already given the October Club a generous donation which forms part of the amount the October Club is contributing to the project.

#### How does your project deliver best value for money?

An electricity bill of over £4000 a year is our second highest outlay after Staff Wages and makes a big dent in our bank balance. The system is outdated, very inefficient and difficult to regulate so a change to any modern system will reduce the bills so allowing us to use the money on other areas of the Club. Over the years, we have changed Suppliers and tariffs but to no avail. Unfortunately because it is under

floor it is impossible for us to get any maintenance on it. This would actually be more costly than changing the system. We have looked at various systems but the installation of LST radiators with a gas boiler is the most cost effective way, although we do have the additional cost of connecting the Gas to the building.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

Clients who attend the October Club come from various housing developments within the local area, i.e. Smiths Wharf, as well as local Retirement Complexes, i.e. Pegasus, Richmond. Any new development that has older residents increases the number of people that may require our services. The building is also hired out to local organisations.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

The October Club is already a known Alzheimer's Day Centre within the Community, The replacement of the heating system is just another project that is needed to keep the Club at a high standard whereby carers can feel happy to leave their clients/loved ones in a warm and secure environment.

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

The October Club runs various fund raising events which are well attended by the local community, i.e., recent Fun Day. We also participate in local events, i.e. Wantage Carnival. We have also been Sainsbury's charity for the year and have had donations from other businesses and local organisations (especially the local WIs). All donations received have been allocated to our current project.

## New Homes Bonus 2014-15 South East

<b>Wantage Junior Showstoppers</b>	<b>Ref</b>	NHBSE\19
Providing professional singing coach		

### Financial

<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,110		
<b>Amount requested</b>	£1,110		
<b>Organisation's contribution</b>	£0	<b>Organisation's latest bank balance</b>	£2,867
<b>Other funding</b> Including a town/parish council contribution of	£0 £0		

**Previous grants received** - none

### Officer and consultation comments

The club is open to 10-18 year olds with an interest in drama/performing arts and offers new and existing residents a chance to meet new people. They want to employ a singing coach as they can't replace their volunteer one who left recently.

They have requested the full cost of the project from us as they need their funds to pay for their performances this year.

It's not clear how they will fund the singing coach in future years.

### Applicant responses

#### Please give some details of your project.

Wantage Junior showstoppers is a club open to children from 10 years to 18 years who enjoy singing, dancing and acting and are keen to improve their skills and make new friends. We started after some of the children who played in the 2008 production of Oliver wanted to carry on learning the skills of musical theatre. With over 25 children now in the group from both Grove and Wantage, we put on one big summer production in Wantage and one smaller Christmas show in Grove. □ We have recently lost both our director and musical director. We have a been lucky to find a new director but have no musical director. We wish to get a professional musical coach to come in once a week for 1 hour during our rehearsals to help the children with the musical numbers for our shows.

#### Statement about any financial constraints on their bank balance affecting their contribution.

We run our club on subs, ticket sells and fund-raising. At present we have £2,866 in the bank, but each show we put on costs us money. It cost us £4000 to put on Grease in July 2014 and £670 for our Christmas show in 2013. We desperately need a singing coach as we have no musical director. If we can get this grant, it will mean the money we have can be used for our next productions.

#### Statement about town or parish council support

No. We have only recently taken the decision to appoint a singing coach after our musical director left in the summer and we have been unable to find anyone to come and work with the group voluntary. So this is the first grant we have applied for to cover these costs.

#### How does your project deliver best value for money?

The club is run by volunteers, so there are no costs there. The singing coach will be for all our children in



the group, so £37 an hour for 25 children means it only costs £1.48 per child. But we would like the coach to stay with us for our 2014 Christmas panto and 2015 summer show. So when we are talking about 30 weeks of coaching, the costs then goes over £1000, which is more than a third of our reserves we have in the bank now. We have also searched for other coaches in the area, but Sarah Hobbs is free to come on a Sunday and to stay with us for the next 9 months. We have advertised across Oxfordshire for a musical director, but have been unable to find one, so this is the first time we are planning to hire a professional coach.

**Which housing development(s) have affected your community and what impact did they have?**

There have been a number of small and large building developments in Wantage and Grove and we have children come from both areas. After our summer break, we have started our new term and been happy to have a number of new, younger children join our group.

**How will this specific project or service help integrate people from the new development and the existing community?**

We provide a small, friendly club for children who enjoy singing, dancing and acting. We run our rehearsals on a Sunday afternoon 4-6pm, which is a time when other clubs are not running, This means the children are free to come and do something positive with their Sunday afternoons. We are always open to new members, no matter how good their skills are!! We are here for children to learn the skills of performing, and so improve their health, confidence and they have so much fun.

**What recent evidence can you provide to show that the local community supports your project?**

Our last show was Grease which we performed in July 2014. We performed 3 shows which were well supported by the local community, selling over 260 tickets. The shows went brilliantly and was reviewed in the Oxfordshire Drama Network, <http://oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/ODN-NEWS-WEB-Aug2014.pdf>

## APPENDIX TWO – AREA GROWTH DATA

We took all figures from the council tax breakdown referred to in the 2014/15 NHB grant policy. It shows the band D equivalent increases (or decreases) during the period.

### South East Area

Town/Parish	% of total growth in area	Increase in occupied homes	Percentage increase within parish
Chilton	45.88%	117.44	27.37%
Letcombe Regis	16.15%	41.33	11.30%
Wantage	15.15%	38.78	0.77%
Grove	5.82%	14.89	0.50%
Steventon	4.08%	10.44	1.49%
East Hanney	1.95%	5.00	1.17%
Upton	1.87%	4.78	2.11%
West Challow	1.56%	4.00	4.04%
East Hendred	1.48%	3.78	0.65%
East Challow	1.39%	3.56	1.14%
West Hendred	1.04%	2.67	1.51%
Harwell	0.95%	2.44	0.22%
Ardington and Lockinge	1.09%	2.78	1.19%
West Hanney	0.65%	1.67	0.62%
Lyford	0.65%	1.67	6.44%
Charney Bassett	0.56%	1.44	0.93%
Letcombe Bassett	0.48%	1.22	1.37%
Blewbury	0.35%	0.89	0.11%
Goosey	0.30%	0.78	1.13%
Childrey	0.22%	0.56	0.21%
Denchworth	0.04%	0.11	0.12%
Milton	-1.65%	-4.22	-0.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>256.00</b>	<b>1.71%</b>

# APPENDIX THREE – CURRENT NHB POLICY

## Interim New Homes Bonus Community Fund Policy and Procedure 2014/15

This scheme seeks to support community initiatives in areas that have accommodated new housing. The council will consider applications from groups for funding towards a variety of community projects aimed at improving local facilities or services, or integrating new communities.

### Budget

The council set a budget of £100,000 for this scheme at its budget setting meeting in February 2014. This budget has been split amongst the area committees according to its areas' proportion of the district's increase in band D equivalent properties (in per cent) between September 2012 and September 2013. This approach directs the funding to the areas where the new homes bonus was generated, and follows on from the last round, which included the figures up to September 2012. The splits are as follows:

Committee	Percentage budget split	New homes bonus community fund budget
Abingdon	15%	£15,000
South East	26%	£26,000
West	12%	£12,000
South east	47%	£47,000

### Funding criteria

The area committees will normally only consider applications for funding in 2014/15 against the following criteria:

- from constituted voluntary community groups and town and parish councils for revenue and/or capital funding
- for projects **with the necessary** planning and/or listed building consents in place
- for projects that will benefit the communities where housing growth **has taken place since September 2012**, unless the scheme is under subscribed when the committees can consider applications for other projects within their areas.

The area committees will not consider applications for retrospective projects or those that other organisations would be expected to fund.

### Application and decision dates

The scheme will open on 16 July, following an advice workshop on 15 July. It will close on 15 September so the area committees can consider any applications at their November meetings.

## **Conditions of grant awards**

The following standard terms and conditions will apply to the successful grants:

- the project must be completed within one year of the area committee awarding the grant and comply with all relevant statutory regulations and consents
- council staff must be allowed to inspect the work being carried out, at any time, in line with any necessary health and safety requirements
- the organisation must acknowledge the council's support in any publicity on the project receiving a grant.

Area committees may also apply specific conditions to the grants they agree to award.

## **Equalities**

The council is committed to promoting equality and diversity and welcomes applications from organisations representing minority or vulnerable groups.

## **Payment of grants**

The council will normally pay the grants as soon as possible following the area committee meetings. The organisation receiving a grant will be required to sign a declaration, confirming it will only spend the money on the project described on the application form and will return any unspent money after the 12 month award period.

## **Monitoring of grants**

Organisations receiving a grant will be asked to provide evidence that they've spent it on the project described on the application form, when it's complete.