

The Abingdon Area Prospectus 2006/07

The Council's Abingdon Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Abingdon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the Abingdon Area Committee, have a limited budget which can be used to give small grants towards the cost of starting community projects. In the financial year 2005/06 the Abingdon Area Committee gave grants to twenty five different projects. The grants helped with arts, sports and young peoples' activities. Grants also helped to improve community buildings, conserve historic buildings and maintain important trees.

The Committee's budget for the financial year 2006/07 is nearly £36,000. The table on the following page provides information about the kind of local community led projects that the Committee would like to support in 2006/07. The table is organised to fit with the strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale. The table shows how the Abingdon Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the Abingdon area will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The Abingdon Area Committee recognises that there are other kinds of community projects which may not be mentioned in the table. 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 limited budget, it would like to focus its grant giving on projects that it feels will make an important contribution to community life.

If you are a member of a community group in the Abingdon area who is interested in applying for a grant towards the cost of starting a priority project visit the Council's website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/CommunityDevelopment/GrantsAndFunding or telephone the Community Strategy Officer (Direct Dial 01235 547626).

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES	PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07
Recreation, Culture and Leisure	<p>The Abingdon Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are affordable. These can be for all ages but projects that provide young people with something to do in the evenings, weekends and holidays are of particular interest.
Safe and Supportive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that develop people's energy and creativity to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour. • Projects that help to reassure people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime.
Town and Village Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage more people to visit, and shop in, Abingdon town centre. • Projects that encourage economic and social activity in Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects to improve community centres and village halls, subject to demonstrable sustainability.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that discourage the dropping of litter. • Additional street cleansing by the parish councils of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects that encourage more re-cycling. • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Abingdon (These should also be supported by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • The Committee will normally only consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that have a community use (outside the area covered by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • The Committee will consider support for the maintenance of trees that are privately owned, if the trees are the subject of a tree preservation order.
Education and Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for people of all ages. • Projects that use local school, community & church facilities to provide wider community learning benefits. • Projects that support young parents and help to give children a good start in life.
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage people of all ages to exercise more. • Projects that support the wellbeing of elderly people.