

The West Area Prospectus 2006/07

The Council's West Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Faringdon, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Great Coxwell, Little Coxwell, Littleworth, Buckland, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Pusey, Hatford, Stanford in the Vale, Shellingford, Fernham, Longcot, Watchfield, Shrivenham, Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Woolstone, Uffington, Kingston Lisle, Baulking, Sparsholt.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the West 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 West Area Committee gave grants to twenty six 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 just over £16,000. 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 West Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the West of the Vale will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The West 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 West of the Vale 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 THE WEST AREA IN 2006/07 The West Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward
Recreation, Culture and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are interesting and 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.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community transport schemes, maps and guides to encourage cycling and walking.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-active housing advice for 'hard to reach' groups (young, disabled, ethnic minorities)
Access to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local service directories or websites; voluntary sector advice 'road shows' visiting village halls.
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, Faringdon town centre (These should also be supported by the Faringdon Joint Economic Forum.). Projects that encourage economic and social activity in the villages in the West of the Vale. Projects to improve community centres and village halls. Parish action plans in villages that do not already have them.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that discourage the dropping of litter. Additional street cleansing by the parish councils in the West of the Vale (with the exception of Faringdon which has different cleansing arrangements). Projects that encourage more re-cycling. Projects that help to improve the appearance of Faringdon (These should also be supported by the Faringdon Joint Environmental Trust.). Projects that help to improve the appearance of the villages in the West of the Vale. The Committee will consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that are privately owned (outside the area covered by the Faringdon Joint Environmental Trust.) where the building has an element of community use. The Committee will consider support in exceptional circumstances 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 facilities to provide wider community 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.