

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER  
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE  
11 MARCH 2008

**Community Grants**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants in 2007/08, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting and to agree a principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing; following full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February officers will give a verbal report on the community grants budget for the South East Area Committee in 2008/09.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626)

**2.0 Recommendations**

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's remaining budget for 2007/08 is £8,635.88*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant application, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Wantage Counselling Service, £2,500, towards the cost of providing a counselling service to low-income Vale residents, Social Agenda, Access priority***
  - (ii) ***Charney Hall and Field Trust, £10,000, towards the redevelopment of Charney Village Hall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
  - (iii) ***Grove Church of England Primary School, £3,000, towards the creation of a sensory garden, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
  - (iv) ***Wantage Summer Festival 2008, £3,500, towards the cost of organising the festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority***
- (c) *Members are asked to note the South East Area Committee's budget for 2008/09*
- (d) *Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09*

(e) Members are asked to determine their principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and invited to determine these grants to be paid from the 2008/09 budget

(f) Members are asked to determine the grant application from Wantage Summer Festival 2008 from the 2008/09 budget, as the event will begin before the next meeting of this Committee, and to determine the Agenda and Council priority for this application

### 3.0 **Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

3.1 This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or policy.

### 4.0 **Community Grants**

#### 4.1 **Budget**

4.2 The current budget position for the South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as shown in the table below. Members are advised that since the last meeting of the Committee a grant of £500 has been awarded, under officer delegation in consultation with the Chair, to the Milton Methodist Lunch Club towards a commercial dishwasher. This left a balance of £3,557.88.

4.3 Since the last meeting of the Committee the Wantage Care Charitable Trust (formerly Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust) has advised the Council that they have received a donation which has enabled them to clear their bank loan with the result that the grant of £5,000 awarded by this Committee in 2006/07 is no longer required. The Wantage Choral Society has also advised the Council that it did not require the full grant of £450 awarded in 2006/07. The total sum of £5,078 has therefore been returned to the Committee's grants budget.

Budget b/f 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Total budget 2007/08	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£2,902.88	£24,895	£27,797.88	£8,713.25	£8,713.25	£2,489.50	£4,979 + £2,902.88 = £7,881.88
	Allocated	£24,240.00	£12,383.00 (including £3,669.75 from discretionary	£11,857.00 (including £3,143.75 from discretionary)	£0	£3,143.75 to Social + £3,669.75 to Environmental
	Remaining	£3,557.88 + £5,078 £8,635.88	£0	£0	£2,489.50	£1,068.38

## **4.2 Community Grants**

4.3 An application has been received in respect of the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.

(i) **Wantage Counselling Service, £2,500**, towards the cost of providing a counselling service to low-income Vale residents, Social Agenda, Access priority

(ii) **Charney Hall and Field Trust, £10,000**, towards the redevelopment of Charney Village Hall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(iii) **Grove Church of England Primary School, £3,000**, towards the creation of a sensory garden, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

## **5.0 The 2008/09 community grants budget for the South East Area Committee**

5.1 Following full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2008/09, members will receive from officers a verbal report of the South East Area Committee's community grants budget for 2008/09.

## **6.0 Carry forward of unspent grant**

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2007/08 into 2008/09.

## **7.0 Parish Cleansing bids for 2008/09**

7.1 At the meeting of the South East Area Committee on 14 March 2006 the members of the Committee determined their principle for awarding such grants in the South East Area for 2006/07, namely that grants would be awarded but the level of grant would be limited to 40% of the total cost where that total was calculated on the basis of an hourly rate of £6.00. The same principle was adopted in 2007/08.

7.2 Members of the Committee are invited to determine their principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2008/09 and to determine the bids submitted.

7.3 The bids for additional parish cleansing which have been received by the deadline are listed in the table under Appendix B.

7.4 The table includes a column showing the amount that would be awarded if the Committee adopts the same principle as for the current year.

## **8.0 Wantage Summer Festival 2008**

8.1 An application has been received from Wantage Summer Festival (WSF) for a grant towards the costs of the 2008 festival which begins on 7 June. A narrative is included in Appendix C.

8.2 WSF was awarded a grant at the March 2007 meeting of the Committee towards the 2007 festival held last summer and the grant was paid from the current financial

year's budget. The grants criteria do not allow more than one award to be made to the same organisation in one year for the same project. As the Wantage Summer Festival is a recurring event, the Committee agreed two years ago that it is in effect the same project and should therefore be funded from the following year's budget.

- 8.3 The grant being sought is towards publicity and administration costs and as such these costs need to be incurred well in advance of the event. If the application is only considered at the first meeting of the new financial year, the costs would have been incurred which would render the application ineligible for consideration.
- 8.4 The Committee is invited to consider and determine the application now and to note that any award made will be allocated from the 2008/09 budget. Payment of any grant awarded will only be made in the new financial year.

**Wantage Summer Festival 2008, £3,500**, towards the cost of organising the festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Application forms and documents