

**(i) Applicant: Oxfordshire Play Association, based in Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford**

**Years in existence:** 33 years

**Type of organisation:** Registered Charity

**Project, service or event details:** Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) is seeking a grant towards core running costs.

OPA aims to improve conditions of life for children in Oxfordshire by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It is an umbrella organisation which provides a range of practical and specialist support services to after-school clubs, holiday playschemes, nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and other play organisations which are members. This support includes the provision of play boxes and resources, playwork training, payroll services, outreach play support visits. Two new services offered are emergency staff cover for when play staff are ill or on training courses and the delivery of play boxes to settings (venues where the play is taking place).

The association has moved to larger and more central premises making it easier for play settings across Oxfordshire to access the services; they have also employed additional staff. This has led to an increase in core costs. There is an established membership of approx 150 play settings of which 47 members are within Vale district. These members use the play box and delivery service on a regular basis as well as the payroll and outreach services. Regular meetings and training are arranged for both members and non-members within the Vale district for both qualification and practical training courses.

OPA works closely with play and early years' environments to encourage fully inclusive provision by providing support, guidance, training and play opportunities which are accessible to all. Training includes equal opportunities and anti-racism, cultural and religious awareness courses to help settings look at their own practice and identify any areas for improvement.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 5,500

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** Membership fee £15 a year, play box hire weekly charge £5

**Total estimated project cost:** £59,995.00 for the Vale

**Balances:** £117,386.00 as at 31.03.08 for the whole of Oxfordshire

**Running costs:** £186,485.00 year ending 31.03.08 for whole of Oxfordshire

**Own Contribution:** £32,442 from reserves for the service provided in the Vale. OPA is funded by grants, donations and membership fees.

**Grant Sought: £5,673.00** based on proportion of member play settings within the Vale

**Previous Awards (Vale):** 2007/08 £2,000.00, 2006/07 £2,500.00

**Parish Council Support:** OPA has not applied to town or parish councils for a grant towards core funding, however, they plan to approach them for funding towards specific projects which are included in their business plan for the next three years.

**Other Support:** Grants have been awarded by: West Oxfordshire DC £2,250.00, Cherwell DC £2,250.00, County Council £13,200.00 towards core costs. South DC funding stream has changed so OPA is unable to apply at the moment. Oxford City Council declined their application as they no longer have a fund for play.

Cherwell DC has also awarded a project-specific grant of £5,000 to purchase play equipment.

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£8,214.00
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

**(ii) Applicant: South and Vale Carers' Centre, based in Didcot**

**Years in existence:** 13 years

**Type of organisation:** Registered charity

**Project, service or event details:** South & Vale Carers' Centre is seeking a grant towards core running costs of their Outreach Service for adults and young carers. This service provides information, advice and support for anyone who is looking after a friend or relative, who because of age, illness or disability cannot look after themselves. Carers are offered: home visits, emotional support and someone to talk to, benefit checks and help with form filling to maximise income, training courses, an advocacy service and the chance to have a break from their caring role.

The service provides invaluable support to young carers, the elderly and people from ethnic minorities. Young carers, for example, often grow up in difficult circumstances and can lose their childhood as a result of their caring responsibilities. The Centre offers advice, information, emotional support and organises day trips so that young carers have a break. Young carers are also helped to fulfil their educational potential through early intervention.

Many carers have low incomes because they are not able to go out to work. The Centre provides an Outreach Service to help carers and their families to maximise their income.

Last year the Centre supported 917 carers in the Vale and provided information to over 4,000.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Health & Wellbeing and Access to Services

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** over 4,000

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** None

**Total estimated project cost:** £162,573 (a further £244,463 is earmarked for specific projects and services)

**Balances:** £72,062 as at 31.03.08

**Running costs:** £143,144 unrestricted (ie core service) plus a further £137,410 restricted funding, year ending 31.03.08

**Own Contribution:** The Centre has set itself a fundraising target of £25,000.

**Grant Sought:** £7,938.00

**Previous Awards (Vale):** 2007-08 £2,957.00 was awarded towards outreach workers.

**Parish Council Support:** South & Vale Carers' Centre applies to all town and parish councils annually in September. In the last financial year they received £6,235.00 and they hope to receive about the same this year. This amount is included in the Centre's £25,000.00 fundraising target.

**Other Support:** Core grant from Oxfordshire County Council £100,000.00, SLA grant from South Oxfordshire District Council £21,135.00, Bank interest £8,500. Oxfordshire Community Foundation £1,500 – included in the £25,000.00 fundraising target. Funding from the PCT and additional funding from Oxfordshire County Council cover specific projects and services (restricted funding).

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	

Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Health & Wellbeing; Access to Services
Remaining budget	£8,214.00
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

**(iii) Applicant: Oxford Inspires, based at the Central Library, Oxford**

**Years in existence:** 6 years

**Type of organisation:** Registered charity

**Project, service or event details:** Oxford Inspires is seeking a grant towards its *Winterlight* programme of arts events being held throughout Oxfordshire during December. This “Advent Calendar” of events begins with a large outdoor event in Oxford on 28 November and is followed by a rural programme of artists’ installations in shop, library and office windows and community/school workshops. Installation windows will be designed by local artists who will work alongside existing community groups. Each *Winterlight* window will be unveiled on a different night. An on-line advent calendar will show each window as it is unveiled allowing residents to see what is happening elsewhere. Four potential venues have been identified in the Vale for artists’ installations

This type of event has proven appeal to people who do not normally participate in the arts and have very limited access to contemporary arts events. The workshops will provide opportunities for people to be involved in a local project and learn new skills. *Winterlight* seeks to improve the quality of life in rural areas by initiating new traditions and customs for residents to participate in and by encouraging social interaction and community bonding.

Oxford Inspires has developed *Winterlight* in response to audience research and feedback from previous events. Town Councils have expressed considerable enthusiasm for such a programme of events and the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network believe the project will provide a much-needed boost to the organisers of Christmas events in small towns and thus help to improve the local economy.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 5,000+

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** None

**Total estimated project cost:** £22,000.00

**Balances:** £361,404.00

**Running costs:** £270,634.00 as at 31.03.07

**Own Contribution:** £4,000.00 towards marketing (from Oxfordshire County Council grant), plus considerable administrative, marketing and press work.

**Grant Sought: £1,500.00**

**Previous Awards (Vale):** None

**Other Support:** West Oxfordshire & Cherwell District Councils have each awarded £1,500. Awards for All has awarded £10,000.00. The Oxford Times is a media partner will produce a special supplement for the installations and events.

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£8,214.00
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

**(iv) Applicant: Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCh), based in Market Square, Bicester**

**Years in existence:** Established in April 2008 to continue the service previously offered by Volunteer Reading Help, a countrywide charity which withdrew from 5 branches in Southern England due to financial difficulties.

**Type of organisation:** Registered charity

**Project, service or event details:** ARCh is seeking a grant towards the costs of expanding its service in the Vale which offers a life-changing opportunity for children and volunteers.

ARCh recruits, trains and supports volunteers from all walks of life to work with the neediest children in Oxfordshire primary schools, with the aim of imparting a love of reading, thereby improving their life chances. Each child selected for assistance benefits from two thirty minute personalised sessions with their volunteer every week throughout the academic year.

Many of the volunteers used to work for Volunteer Reading Help so bring with them a wealth of experience.

Volunteers currently work with over 400 children in more than 80 primary schools throughout the county including a significant number in the Vale. They provide support in schools in Abingdon (5 schools), Faringdon, Longcot & Fernham, Grove, Shrivenham and Sutton Courtenay and other schools are waiting for volunteers. It is to meet this demand that ARCh is seeking to expand its service in the Vale by providing 8 additional volunteers who will work with a total of 24 children.

The benefits of the service provided are far-reaching. Regular and sustained mentoring support from a designated volunteer helps the child to overcome difficulties in his/her life which have hitherto hampered reading progress and had a negative impact on the child's attitude to learning. By intervening at primary school level it is possible to improve the child's prospects and self-confidence and indirectly his/her interaction with the community as a whole. Benefits for the volunteer are also great – for retired volunteers it provides contact with the younger generation, friendship and involvement in the community.

Results of a survey undertaken in July 2008 indicated that 100% of the children working with an ARCh volunteer had improved in their reading performance, confidence and attitude and 96% had improved in overall achievement.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 24 children and 8 volunteers

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** Schools are charged £275.

**Total estimated project cost:** £6,720 to recruit, train and support 8 volunteers

**Balances:** Not available as charity set up in 2008

**Running costs:** See above

**Own Contribution:** Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers

**Grant Sought:** £3,000

**Previous Awards (Vale):** Volunteer Reading Help was awarded £1,000 in 2006/07

**Parish Council Support:** ARCh is asking all parish councils to sponsor a book box, which costs £264 to resource, for the volunteer in their local school, at a cost of £50.

**Other Support:** Oxfordshire County Council Children's Fund £9,761 to support 38 volunteers in Oxfordshire until March 2009, including 8 volunteers in the Vale;  
St Michael's & All Saints Charity £5,000 towards volunteers countywide  
Mid Counties Co-op £500 to sponsor 10 book boxes for the volunteers

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Education & Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£8,214
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

**(v) Applicant: Oxfordshire Playbus, based in Upper Heyford, Bicester**

**Years in existence:** 29 years

**Type of organisation:** Registered charity

**Project, service or event details:** Oxfordshire Playbus is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing their Sensory Bus. The bus has been running since 2003 for pre-school children with special needs, children with special needs in mainstream education, children who are excluded from education because of emotional/behavioural problems and adults with dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

The Sensory Bus has helped about 400 children and adults per year. Due to limited funding when the Sensory Bus was built, Oxfordshire Playbus were obliged to use a second-hand vehicle as the base. The core of the bus, now almost 30 years old, broke down permanently last summer and it is impossible to find replacement parts. This has led to the decision to fundraise to buy a new replacement vehicle to form the base upon which to build the Sensory Bus.

The Sensory Bus provides a unique sensory environment for people who do not normally have a chance to access static sensory rooms because of distance, affordability or overcrowding.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 100

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** None

**Total estimated project cost:** £116,850 excl VAT; £137,299 incl VAT

**Balances:** To be provided

**Running costs:** To be provided

**Own Contribution:** £2,000 from fundraising campaign

**Grant Sought: £6,000**

**Previous Awards (Vale):** No previous community grants but Oxfordshire Playbus receives a partnership grant of £2,970 p.a. under a Service Level Agreement towards the provision of the “Big Bus” and “Sensory Bus” service throughout the Vale.

**Parish Council Support:** Oxfordshire Playbus has applied to all town and parish councils in the Vale but has received few replies to date.

**Other Support:** Oxfordshire County Council’s Rural Children’s Centre will provide approximately £30,000. Applying to West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell District Councils for £25,000 each.

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Yes
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Access to services, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation, Culture & Leisure
Remaining budget	£8,214
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	

**(vi) Applicant: Vale of White Horse Schools Football Association, based in Wantage**

**Years in existence:** 31 years

**Type of organisation:** School Football Association

**Project, service or event details:** The Schools Football Association is seeking a grant towards the additional costs which will be incurred this season due to an unavoidable change of venue.

The pitch at King Alfred’s School, which the Association had previously used, is no longer available for home matches. The Association will hire a pitch midweek under lights at Milton United Football Club for all home matches which has increased costs considerably. With referees fees and refreshments each match will cost over £100 amounting to an increase of



about £700 for the season. This is in addition to the usual running costs such as kit, trophies and transport to away games.

All schools in the Vale affiliate and all their students are eligible to get involved. The benefits to students are that playing football encourages health and fitness, develops individual and teambuilding skills and it provides a focus for their free time.

The Association runs representative teams at Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 age groups and holds inter-school competitions from Under 12 – Under 16. They always attend the Under 14 Isle of Wight Festival and sometimes go the Durham Under 13 Festival as well. As a result the name Vale of White Horse is widely respected in English Schools Football.

Due to its reputation the Association receives excellent press coverage. It has benefited numerous young people, two of whom now play in the Premiership.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Health & Wellbeing

**Area of the Vale covered:** Vale-wide

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 1,100 of whom 100 are girls

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** £2.00 admission charge for adults at home matches. Schools pay an affiliation fee of £20.00

**Total estimated project cost:** £2,500.00

**Balances:** £2,537.38 as at 31.07.08

**Running costs:** £4,146.27 year ending 31.07.08

**Own Contribution:** £1,000 approx

**Grant Sought:** £500.00

**Previous Awards (Vale):** None

**Parish Council Support:** Will apply to relevant town and parish councils after trials in September when the parish of the selected players will be known.

**Other Support:** English Schools FA have awarded £400.00. The Association continues to seek additional funding and plans to contact local businesses as well as the two Premiership players.

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	Most, see comments
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment

Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Health & Wellbeing
Remaining budget	£8,214
Remaining Committee meetings	0
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	That a constitution be drawn up if the Association proves not to have one.
Other comments	Organisation does not appear to have a constitution but holds an AGM, produces accounts and has an Association Bank Account.

### Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund

#### **(vii) Applicant: Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust**

**Years in existence:** 41 years

**Type of organisation:** Trust

**Project, service or event details:** The grant is sought for third party funding to secure a grant from WREN. The grant is required to extend the village hall by 50% to enhance facilities for community activities. This will enable more than one activity to take place at a time. The extension will also provide secure storage for hall furniture and equipment associated with various clubs and activities. The extension is designed to provide flexible space that can be used either as an addition to the existing hall in order to accommodate activities requiring regulation size space or as a separate room. The project will provide a real benefit to people of all ages, especially the young and the elderly.

The project was identified as a key priority in the Upton Parish Plan based on village-wide consultations in 2004 and presented and endorsed at a public meeting in 2005.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality

**Area of the Vale covered:** Upton and surrounding area, including Blewbury, West Hagbourne and Chilton.

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** 500

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:**

Charges for hiring the hall are: Upton Residents £5 per hour; Non-residents £9 per hour

**Total estimated project cost:** £95,050 excl VAT; £111,684.00 incl VAT

**Balances:** £26,060.70 as at 31.03.08

**Running costs:** £1,637.54 year ending 31.03.08

**Own Contribution:** Fundraising in the village has raised £5,555 to date and is ongoing

**Grant Sought: £9,020.00**

**Previous Awards (Vale):** None

**Parish Council Support:** £9,020.00 has been promised by Upton Parish Council to provide third party funding for WREN if it is not provided by the District Council. If third party funding is awarded by the District Council the parish council's contribution (£9,020) will go directly towards the project.

**Parish Precept:** Upton £7,50.00 (Band D £35.28)

**Other Support:** Has applied for £82,000 under the WREN Challenge and has successfully passed the preliminary stage. Outcome awaited on final two selection stages.

Oxfordshire County Council £8,750.00 awarded,  
UKAEA £300.00 awarded

The applicant has been informed that Big Lottery is no longer making grants to village halls.

**Officer recommendation (Toby Warren, Head of Community Strategy):**

Recommend support	Yes
Amount recommended	
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria	N/A
Supports Council priority(ies)	Cleaner, greener, safer & healthier community and environment
Supports prospectus strand(s)	Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality
Remaining budget	Approx £20,000
Remaining Committee meetings	N/A
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions
Other comments	WREN requires third party funding of 11% of the total grant being sought from them, in this case £9,020 to release a grant of £82,000, if the applicant is successful.