

(i) Applicant: The Abingdon Bridge, Bridge Street, Abingdon

Years in existence: 15 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Abingdon Bridge is seeking a grant towards their drugs and alcohol service which provides drug and alcohol education and support. The staff support individuals with drug or alcohol problems and help them to make positive choices. They also work to raise awareness of the risks. Much of the work is outreach, either talking to groups in schools or community settings, or working directly with children or young people who are drinking in public places. Often this group of young people are drinking very strong, cheap alcohol to excess, leading to aggressive behaviour and risking long term damage to health.

Other young people make contact with the Abingdon Bridge after getting into trouble with the police through an incident involving drink and drugs.

A core group of about 40-50 young people regularly attend the drop-in centre for advice on drug and alcohol related issues while others receive help through outreach work. Schools and colleges regularly invite the drug and alcohol worker from The Abingdon Bridge to talk to their students.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	X
Fostering a greater sense of community	
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: Abingdon; Radley; Drayton and Shippon

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 180

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

Total estimated project cost: £10,955 exc VAT (no VAT payable)

Balances: To be advised verbally at the meeting

Running costs: To be advised verbally at the meeting

Own Contribution: Shortfalls in project funding will come from unrestricted donations and, if necessary, from reserves. The Abingdon Bridge has had to draw heavily on reserves over the past 2 years, consequently the reserves have fallen from £57,700 in June 2007 to £17,100 in March 2009. Current reserves are too low with staff costs of £5,300 per month, cash flow may soon become a real problem if the downward trend cannot be reversed.

Grant requested: £5,000

Previous Awards (Vale): Housing advice £8,000 per annum from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2009.

Community against Drugs, a government grant paid through the Vale:

£10,000 per annum from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2004

£7,500 per annum from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2006

£5,000 per annum from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

£3,000 per annum from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

CDRP (Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership): £3,000 per annum from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2008. No grants have awarded for the financial year 2008/09 or 2009/10.

Accommodation: rent free from 1994 to the present day

Parish Council Support: Regularly receive an annual grant from Abingdon Town Council (£4,700 in 2008/09) to cover general running costs, £940 of which is allocated to the Drugs and Alcohol service.

Other Support: Applied to the Church in Abingdon for general running costs; Drinkaware for funds to support the Drugs and Alcohol service; numerous charitable trusts for unrestricted funding, including Cooper Charitable Trust - £1,200 awarded.

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

Recommend support?	Yes, subject to conditions outlined below.
Amount recommended	The Committee is requested to determine the amount of any grant awarded.
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale.

Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	In addition to standard conditions: any grant should be subject to The Abingdon Bridge linking in with the statutory agencies Evolve and SMART which are commissioned by the district councils to provide a confidential, community-based drug and alcohol treatment service for 10-18 year olds (Evolve) and open access and assessment services, structured treatment and residential and in-patient services, after-care services and harm minimisation for adults (SMART).
Other comments	

(ii) Applicant: Abingdon Music Centre Education Trust (AMCT)

Years in existence: 35 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Abingdon Music Centre was established to make music available as widely as possible within the local community for both children and adults. AMCT offers classes for children and adults and is seeking a grant towards the development of their offer to meet the needs of a wider age-range than at present (confined to classes for pre-school children and an adult choir - there is no term-time provision for school-age children). Feedback from the community, in particular parents and primary heads, has identified a significant but unmet need for instrumental tuition for primary school children.

To address this need, AMCT has decided to start a high-quality music school for children aged 8-11 - The Frances Kitching Music School (FKMS). In order to accommodate these classes, AMCT is seeking funding to:

- Make minor alternations to the fabric of the building (leased from the Vale)
- Help buy instruments and subsidise fees for low-income families

AMCT expects FKMS to be self-supporting within 4 years.

Learning to play a musical instrument can support and improve achievement in school, encourage a sense of achievement and foster self-discipline. The Trust believes that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy these benefits, but for those without a school or family culture of playing music, there can be significant barriers to participation.

This project aims to break down financial and social barriers to musical development for primary school children in the Abingdon area, and ensure that all children have access to high-quality musical tuition regardless of their economic circumstances or family background. It will be open to all children attending one of the partnership primary schools in Abingdon.

Fees have been set at a level to encourage inclusion. Furthermore the Trust aims to provide fee remission of 50% to any child on free school meals. Open evenings for parents will be aimed at breaking down any remaining barriers, and support will be provided to children and families as the project progresses, by the Trust's experienced and dedicated team of teachers and helpers.

The Trust is based in the Old Magistrates' Court which it leases from the district council. The existing two-year lease is due for renegotiation in February 2010.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	X
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: Abingdon, Drayton, Marcham, Milton, Radley, Steventon, Sunningwell, Sutton Courtenay, Wootton, Berinsfield, Culham, Dry Sandford and Dorchester. Pupils must attend one of the primary schools in the Abingdon Partnership of schools whose catchment areas serve these places.

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: 60 after 4 years, in the first year estimate that 15 will benefit.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: Yes, £6 per hour for tuition - fee remission of 50% is available for those in receipt of free school meals

Total estimated project cost: £9,601 ex VAT; £10,200 inc VAT; VAT not reclaimable.

Balances: £32,971 as at 31 August 2008

Running costs: £34,776 year ended 31 August 2008

Own Contribution: Provision of premises; development time; voluntary labour for display aspect; teacher support and development time; administration time, fee remission. £36,915 raised in 2007/08 (the Trust's last financial year). While this income is mostly used to fund current activities, the Trust has made provision to support the new development.

Grant sought: £1,300

Previous Awards (Vale): None

Parish Council Support: £250 from Abingdon Town Council in 2008/09 (March) for improvements to display facilities in the Old Magistrates' Court. The Trust intends to make a further application this year for FKMS music and instruments.

Other Support: Applications to the Gannett Foundation and Npower were unsuccessful. All of the primary heads have indicated willingness to be involved in publicity for FKMS and have agreed to issue the prospectus and to encourage participation especially amongst those not currently participating in musical activities. Several have offered the free use of premises.

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

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£1,000
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Helping to maintain a safe Vale (indirectly)
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions.
Other comments	Applicant is advised to contact SODC for a grant as some of the schools in the partnership are in South Oxfordshire.

(iii) Applicant: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon

Years in existence: 43 years

Type of organisation: Registered Charity

Project, service or event details: The Northcourt Centre is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the wood block floor in the main hall. The floor has been sanded many times and, after forty-three years of use, needs replacing. Legal action was taken against the Centre in 2001 as a result of injury to one of the users due to the poor state of the floor.

The use of the hall is the main facility we offer to the local community and its upkeep is vital. The groups using the hall on a regular basis in 2008 have included: bowls, ballet, Scottish dancing, National Blood Service, Flower Club, Fitzharrys W.I., Order of the Amaranth, Abbey Quilters, The beaders, Weight Watchers, Peace Group, Archaeological Society, Horticulture Society and the MS Society. The centre has also been hired out for private parties, plant and jumble sales and local elections.

Earlier this year the ladies toilets were refurbished at a cost of over £5,000. Funding for this has come out of the Centre's balances for 2009/10.

Supports following Vale Community Strategy priorities:

Healthier communities	X
Improving quality of life for older people	X
Safer communities	
Fostering a greater sense of community	X
A good understanding of town and parish priorities	
Involving young people	X
Helping those without cars to access jobs and services	
Affordable homes	
Good quality homes	
Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities	
Addressing economic weaknesses	
Building on our economic strengths	
Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres	
A low carbon Vale	
Living with extreme weather conditions	
Using resources wisely	
Reducing waste and increasing recycling	
A high quality natural and historic environment	

Area of the Vale covered: North Abingdon

Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit: No figures provided.

Charge to public for using the project/service/event?: The hall is hired out at an hourly rate. Organisations are given a discounted rate.

Total estimated project cost: £5,636 inc VAT. VAT cannot be reclaimed.

Balances: £8,798.12 at 31 December 2008

Running costs: £12,274.71 year ended 31 December 2008

Own Contribution: £2,000

GRANT REQUESTED: £3,000

Previous Awards (Vale): £10,000 VWHDC between 2000 -2002 towards refurbishment.

Parish Council Support: Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £1,000 but advised they are unlikely to be awarded more than £500, if an award is made. Outcome awaited.

Other Support: Applied to Oxfordshire County Council £2,000 (outcome awaited).

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

Recommend support?	Yes
Amount recommended	£2,500
Reasons:	
Meets CG Scheme criteria?	Yes
Supports Council Corporate priority(ies)?	Supporting a vibrant local economy
Supports Community Strategy?	Yes
Remaining budget	£23,315.72
Remaining committee meetings	2
Total amount recommended for other applications being considered	
Recommended conditions to grant award	Standard conditions.
Other comments	The hall is well-used and forms a focal point for the local community.