
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	9
DATE OF MEETING:	15 July 2004	CATEGORY:	
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Community Partnerships Scheme	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling £8,000 to Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust, Church Broughton Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee and 12th Burton 1st Tutbury and Hatton Scouts.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnerships Scheme and seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2003/04 has continued according to the same processes and procedures as was agreed when the scheme was launched last year with the addition of formalised terms of reference. In addition to allocating grant the scheme allows for funding advice and project development support to the voluntary and community sector.

3.2 In total three applications were received for the first bidding round of 2004/05 asking for £8,000 against a budget for the year of £176,975. The panel assessed and ranked the applications according to the scheme's criteria and has made a positive recommendation to fund all three projects.

4.0 Detail

4.1 A revamped Community Partnerships Scheme was re-launched midway through 2002/03 offering capital grants of up to £25,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising of the Partnership Development Officer and five Councillors has been set up to assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.

4.2 The amount of grant available for distribution through the Scheme has been increased from £50,000 in 2002/03 to £150,000 in 2003/04 and 2004/05. The total

available for distribution this year is £176,975 as £26,975 has been carried forward from last years scheme due to some under strength applications and some project underspend.

- 4.3 In addition to simply operating a grants programme the Community Partnership Scheme through the Partnership Development Officer is also able to offer some advice in relation to making funding applications, sources of funding and project development. Further in some instances the officer is able to offer direct project development support.
- 4.4 The applications received and considered were as follows:

**Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust – Swarkestone Nature Site
(Requesting £6,000)**

The Canal Trust and associated Canal Society are an experienced, skilled and longstanding organisation that are seeking to restore the Derby canal as a navigable through waterway from Swarkestone to Sandiacre and thereby recreate a 25 mile cruising ring with substantial potential leisure and tourism benefits. The particular project for which they are seeking funding is the feasibility work necessary to restore the first 310 metres of the canal from dereliction into a wildlife site. This will be a non navigable wildlife site on the offside but built to navigable standard to allow the passage of essential water to the remainder of the canal north of the A50. The feasibility work includes audience and access research, an ecological survey, engineering design, professional fees etc. The total cost of the work is £40,114, some of which the Trust has raised itself and some from trusts and the majority of which is subject to a Heritage Lottery Fund bid. The amount requested from the scheme was £6,000, which would go towards engineering design.

**Church Broughton Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee – Play Equipment
(Requesting £1,000)**

The committee is a registered charity made up of representatives from a wide variety of organisations and interest groups from the village and has been operational for many years. They are aiming to refurbish and replace play equipment on the centrally located village playing field. The existing equipment has been in place for several years and needs replacing. The committee have broken the project down into 3 phases and this grant application covers the first phase. The new equipment, the design of which the committee have consulted on, would cost £4,200 of which they have £3,200 of their own funds to contribute. The grant request was therefore for £1,000 to complete the first phase funding package.

**12th Burton 1st Tutbury and Hatton Scout Group – Minibus
(Requesting £1,000)**

Although based in Tutbury this scout group caters for a significant number of young people from the South Derbyshire District including Hatton and Scropton. The group previously managed a minibus, which due to age and an accident now needs replacing. The bus is used for a plethora of scout related activities but in addition to scout use is also available for other community groups. The cost of the replacement bus is £26,500 the majority of which has been raised by donations and fundraising. The scouts are seeking £1,000 from the scheme and have additional funding applications outstanding that should enable purchase of the bus and accessories. Further the group has sponsorship from a local firm who will help with running costs and maintenance.

4.5 The Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel met on July 2nd and scored the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

Once the weightings had been applied the final scores of the projects were as follows:

Church Broughton Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee	73.3
12 th Burton 1 st Tutbury and Hatton Scout Group	55.0
Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust	55.0

4.6 All three projects scored higher than the point previously used as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee. Therefore with a full budget allocation plus carried forward underspend available the panel's recommendations were that all three projects should receive full awards.

4.7 The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant following receipt of the first round of applications this financial year is therefore as follows:

Church Broughton Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee	£1,000
12 th Burton 1 st Tutbury and Hatton Scout Group	£1,000
Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust	£6,000

4.8 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources all projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnerships budget allocation.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy and improving access to leisure and cultural activities. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector that had been lost since the demise of the former Community Partnership Scheme.

7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The reintroduced Community Partnerships Scheme continues to provide the District Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 1 2004/05