
| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Housing and Community Services | AGENDA ITEM: 9 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 12 March 2009 | CATEGORY: |
| REPORT FROM: | Director of Community Services | DELEGATED OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | M Roseburgh ext 5774 I Hey ext 8741 | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | Community Partnerships Scheme | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | All | TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07 |

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members consider the recommendation of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants of:

- £5,000 to Citizens Advice Bureau - Grant to act as 3rd party contribution (matched funding) to support applications to Landfill Community Funds to enable purchase of property to house their operations.
- £15,000 (maximum) to Etwall Primary PCT - Grant to support the development of a Community Learner Swimming Pool. There are several funding applications outstanding for this project, which, if successful, would reduce the contribution required from the Scheme.
- £4,327 to Groundwork. - Grant to enable the development of community open space at Sandhills, Swadlincote. There has been extensive community consultation and this grant will contribute to the implementation of the project.
- £5,000 to Sharpes Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust. - Grant to act as 3rd party contribution (matched funding) to support applications to Landfill Community Funds to enable the restoration of the Kiln.
- £15,000 to Stapenhill FC. - Grant to contribute to the redevelopment of the club facilities. The original building has been damaged beyond repair as a result of arson.
- £12,500 to Swarkestone CC. - Grant to contribute to the development of a new pavilion. As well as acting as a sports pavilion it will be the only building available for use by local groups other than a public house.

1.2 That members note the progress of the Community Partnership Scheme to date.

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 in relation to the scheme. [Page 1 of 6](#)

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme for 2008/09 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.
- 3.2 In total 6 applications were received for the second bidding round of 2008/09 asking for £99,327 against a remaining lifetime budget of £78,687.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. The scheme has previously had an annual budget of between £50,000 and £150,000 since its reintroduction in 2002/3. However there is currently no annual budget and the scheme is operating this year through scheme or project underspend and from situations where grants have been allocated but projects have not managed to progress and awards have been taken back into the scheme. The remaining total budget currently stands at £78,687. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership and Development Manager and the Community Partnerships Officer, assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.
- 4.2 The following applications were received and considered for the first round of the scheme in 2008/09:

Citizens Advice Bureau

Application for £25,000. The CAB is looking to secure funding to enable the purchase of a building to act as a base for their operations.

The bid outlines their objectives as, to:

- Develop a dedicated financial & legal information resource centre
- Extend the bureau's opening hours
- Support the development of a new credit union collection point in Church Gresley.

The organisation is currently housed within the premises of the CVS. This has been a good solution to date, however, they are restricted by the space available. By moving to their own premises the CAB will be able to enlarge the service offered to residents of South Derbyshire.

Additional funding is being sought by applications to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Landfill Community Fund. They are also exploring the possibility of a mortgage secured against the premises.

Etwall Primary Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Application for £15,000. This an updated bid following a submission to the previous panel. A series of questions were asked by the panel that have now been addressed.

The PTA of Etwall Primary has applied for funding to support the redevelopment of a teaching pool in the school grounds. This complements the development of the Leisure Centre at Etwall, as the new centre does not have a dedicated training pool.

The aim is to house the pool in a permanent brick-built structure. Once reopened it will be made available for the use of the local community as well as the primary school.

Additional funds have been secured through community fundraising (£30,000) and the Cemex Community Fund (£15,000). A further application to Derbyshire Environmental Trust for £20,000 has been submitted.

Groundwork (Project at Sandhills)

Application for £4327. The project focus is on Sandholes a 4ha greenspace in the centre of a residential area of Swadlincote. It is much loved by local residents with a range of uses from ball games, dog walking and quiet relaxation.

The project has four main aims:

- Improve access.
- Make the site more attractive.
- Restore the wildlife value of the site.
- Increase community ownership.

The project will create a new circular surfaced trail and improved entry points enabling more people to access the site. Some new habitat creation, including woodland will improve the wildlife value of the site whilst also leaving areas more clearly defined for recreation.

£5,900 has already been secured from the National Forest Company and a bid has been submitted to Biffaward Landfill Community Fund for the balance of £43,267. This bid is to provide the required 10% match funding required to help secure this funding.

Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust

Application for £10,000. The Trust is seeking to secure funds for site-based improvement works that will enhance the range of services offered to the local community and visitors

Restoration works will focus on the historic kiln hovel to secure the structure. The kiln has potential for greater use as a gallery, exhibition, and performance space. This is presently constrained because its open nature means that it is not usable during wet weather. Sealing the kiln will also improve the environmental and financial sustainability of the building as a result of reduced heating costs.

Creation of a new National Forest Gallery within the Museum, including a new attraction telling the 'Story of The National Forest'. This is planned as an audio-visual feature drawing on the National Forest Company's substantial photographic archives. This space would also act as an additional conference space for small meetings.

£10,000 has already been secured as a grant from the National Forest Company and additional bids are being submitted to Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA), £40,000 and Landfill Community Funds, £50,000.

Application for £25,000. The original club facilities were subject to an arson attack. The club are seeking support to develop new, improved facilities at the ground.

The project will result in the club facilities being developed to include new team and referees changing rooms, new stands and hospitality areas for refreshments for the home and away teams. The aim is to take the “new” club much further by introducing ladies football teams, summer schools, training schools, aerobics classes and re-introduce a better children’s school holiday club. The facilities will also be available for community group hire when not being used by the club.

Insurance monies are sufficient to build the shell of the new facilities. Specific support is sought for the fit-out of the development. Additional funding bids are being submitted to Landfill community Funds and to awards for all to support this process. The club are also currently working with Laura Gibson, SDDC Sports Coach and Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer towards submitting an application to the Football Foundation.

Swarkestone Cricket Club

Application for £20,000. The club are seeking grant support towards the development of new and improved facilities in order to replace an aged construction that does not fulfil current and future needs. There is also concern about asbestos panel roofing sections.

The project will be achieved via the professional construction of an initial shell building and then subsequent 'fit out' via self help from members, utilising their trades/skills in order complete electrical works, plumbing and internal decoration.

The intention is that the resulting building will provide a modern, eco-friendly facility with disabled facilities and the capability of providing equal opportunities for all members of the community.

It is likely that the new club facilities will continue to be used as a polling station by the District.

The club have already secured a grant of £4,837 from the Derbyshire Community Foundation to engage an architect. Additional bids have been submitted to Lafarge Community Fund (£35,000), Biffaward (£35,000), Sport England (£35,000) and Marston's Brewery (£15,000).

- 4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 12th February 2009 to score the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed. 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.

Cllr Lane declared an interest in the applications submitted by Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust. Having declared an interest Cllr Lane left the meeting whilst the application was discussed.

Once the weightings had been applied the final score of the projects was as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| CAB | 7.00 |
| Etwall Primary School PTA | 7.50 |
| Groundwork (Sandhills) | 7.17 |
| Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust | 6.83 |
| Stapenhill FC | 6.50 |
| Swarkestone CC | 8.17 |

The point previously used, as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee was 4.67. The panel's recommendation was therefore to distribute grants to CAB; Etwall Primary School PTA; Groundwork (Sandhills); Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust; Stapenhill FC and Swarkestone CC.

- 4.4 Prior to making a recommendation the panel considered the scheme's past performance, current budget position of £78,687 and projected receipt of applications.
- 4.5 In light of the above information it was clear that there was insufficient funding to support all of the lodged applications in full. Weighting was given to the fit of the projects with the Council's aims and objectives and the necessity of Council support to attract additional funding into the District. The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant was therefore as follows:
- £5,000 to Citizens Advice Bureau to act as matched funding for Landfill Community Funds.
 - £15,000 maximum grant to Etwall Primary School PTA. There are several funding applications outstanding for this project, which, if successful, would reduce the contribution required from the Scheme to enable the project to proceed.
 - £4,327 to Groundwork. To act as matched funding in support of a funding bid to secure Landfill Community Funds.
 - £5,000 to Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust. To act as matched funding in support of a funding bid to secure Landfill Community Funds.
 - £15,000 to Stapenhill Football Club. This grant is to have the additional requirement that the club work with Laura Gibson, Club Sports Coach and Ian Hey Community Partnership Officer to submit a funding bid to the Football Foundation in support of the project. (If additional matched funding is required to secure a grant from the Football Foundation the club are to be invited to submit an additional grant application.)
 - £12,500 to Swarkestone CC. This grant is to have the additional requirement that the club work with Laura Gibson, Club Sports Coach and Ian Hey Community Partnership Officer to submit a funding bid to the England and Wales Cricket Board in support of the project. (If additional matched funding is required to secure a grant from the England and Wales Cricket Board the club are to be invited to submit an additional grant application.)

- 5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnerships budget allocation. If grants are awarded as recommended there would be a balance in the fund of £21,860 to be allocated as grants in the future.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's strategic objectives including enhancing the quality of life of all South Derbyshire Residents; safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment; putting residents at the centre of council decision making and creating a climate for good inward investment. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities is 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.
- 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 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 2 2008-2009