

---

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Services Committee</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	12
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>7 October 2004</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>	
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>DELEGATED OPEN</b>	
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>M Roseburgh</b>	<b>DOC:</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Partnerships Scheme</b>	<b>REF:</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>	<b>HCS07</b>

---

### **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling £67,500 to Findern Parish Rooms Restoration Group (£17,500), Hilton Harriers FC (£25,000) and West Street Community Partnership (£25,000).

### **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 five applications were received for the second bidding round of 2004/05 asking for £126,882 against a remaining budget for the year of £169,975. One application was ineligible meaning the panel assessed and ranked four applications according to the scheme's criteria and has made a positive recommendation to fund three of the four 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 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 In Round 1 of the scheme in June three grants were made totalling £8,000. However, before receiving their grant of £1,000 the 12<sup>th</sup> Burton 1<sup>st</sup> Tutbury and Hatton Scout Group were able to purchase a Minibus. Consequently, in accordance with grant conditions, their grant allocation has been returned to the overall budget leaving a sum of £169,975 still to be allocated this financial year.
- 4.5 The applications received and considered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round were as follows:

**Findern Parish Rooms Restoration Group – Findern Parish Rooms Restoration Project  
(Requesting £30,000)**

The Restoration Group is a sub- group of the Parish Council whose sole purpose is to restore and maintain the Parish Rooms as a focal point within Findern for social, environmental, educational, economic and informative events. The group contains parish councillors, residents and members of potential user groups. The group intend to provide a wide range of services such as educational courses, craft events, homework clubs, resource centre, police liaison point, IT opportunities etc. to all parishioners and beyond into surrounding villages.

The Parish Rooms were originally two cottages purchased over 100 years ago for community use but now in a poor state of repair. The group intend to convert the building to incorporate a kitchen area, small meeting room, small office, disabled toilet, storage room and large training/meeting room and disabled lift.

The estimated total cost of the work is £70,000. The group have submitted an application to DDEP as part of the South Derbyshire LSP Business plan for £30,000, have raised £2,500 locally and anticipate a large one off donation. The group have undertaken some research to establish need and provided letters of support. The amount requested from the scheme was £30,000.

**Hilton Harriers Football Club – Community Football Ground  
(Requesting £25,000)**

The club are the first FA Charter Standard Club in Derbyshire with over 200 children registered to play in addition to a veteran's team. The club has a team of 38 qualified managers, coaches and committee members plus the support of numerous volunteers.

The club are at an advanced stage of negotiation with the Parish council to lease ex MOD land set aside for public use. At present the club play all their matches outside the village. Their aim is to establish a home ground with a pavilion incorporating four

changing rooms and improvements to the two existing football pitches that will allow the club to further expand

The anticipated total project cost is £502,486. The projects success is heavily dependant upon a bid for 65% of total costs to the Football Foundation but the project meets their criteria and the Derbyshire Football Partnership, who comment on bids to the Football foundation and officers from the Football association (FA) have been consulted at key stages and are pleased with the development of the project and very supportive of it. The club has raised £12,000 of their own funds, have a parish council donation of 3,000 and £40,000 allocated from 106 monies with a possibility of a further £30,000 subject to committee approval. The grant requested from the scheme was £25,000.

### **Phoenix After School and Holiday Club – Zone Young Persons Project (Requesting £21,882)**

Phoenix are a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee employing numerous full time, part-time and casual staff who provide a variety of out of school services for children and young people such as before and after school clubs and holiday clubs etc as well as training services.

The club are looking to develop a new service called Zone Young Persons project offering an initial 12 places for 11-16 year olds who will attend out of school clubs and have a key worker or mentor who will provide supervision and guidance. The young people will be referred from social services and other agencies.

The project is to be based at Ebenezer Methodist Church in Newhall and Phoenix are negotiating a lease with the Church. The total project cost is £83,345 of which the capital element is £50,298. This includes building work to form offices, a disabled toilet, improve fire safety, refit a kitchen, repair a roof etc to make the building suitable for the project. In addition it includes some office equipment and professional fees. The remaining £33,047 of revenue costs is predominantly for staffing cost but does include £7,882 of general running costs.

Income of £30,819 is projected in year 1 made up largely from fees. The project has secured funding of £11,354 (capital) and £7,992 revenue from SureStart.

Based on the submitted budget the project has a shortfall of £21,882, which is the grant requested from the scheme.

### **West Street Community Partnership – West Street Redevelopment Phase 1 (Requesting £25,000)**

The West Street Methodist Church own extensive property in the prominent town centre location of West Street, Swadlincote including the Church itself, a community hall (schoolroom), extensive 3 storey buildings currently housing (primarily at ground level) a Youth Information Shop (part of Connexions), and a shop front for Derbyshire Association for the Blind (DAB) and Shopmobility plus buildings used as commercial properties by local small businesses. The site has been neglected in recent years and is now in need of substantial investment and redevelopment to realise it's potential.

The Methodist Church have been instrumental in forming West Street Community Partnership which has recently become incorporated and registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is now also actively seeking Charitable Status. The

partnership is made up of members including the Methodist Church, current and potential users of the premises and a plethora of other interested individuals and organisations who have elected trustees to manage the affairs of the Partnership. The overall aim of the partnership is to redevelop the whole site primarily for community benefit. At present the Partnership and wider Methodist Church are working on a lease arrangement whereby the Partnership will manage the whole site.

The Methodist Church and latterly the West Street Community Partnership have already undertaken a lot of community consultation and employed an architect to undertake initial feasibility work. Although more detailed feasibility work and business planning is programmed current ideas for the whole site include using the church as a dual worship/performing space; upgrading the current community hall and installing a new floor above, improving access/entry to the site and bringing into use the semi-derelict rooms above the ground floor used by Shopmobility and DAB potentially for use as office space for the voluntary and community or private sector and safeguarding the premises presently used by local businesses. In addition to a wide variety of existing community users additional new user ideas include a community café, an outlet for Traidcraft, workspace for creative artists, some conference/meeting facilities and increased childcare facilities.

The application to the scheme related to Phase 1 of the redevelopment, which will renovate and repair elements of the building that are currently causing concern but which can be done independently from the overall development of the site. This includes work to the exterior of the buildings as well as work to some of the interior walls, ceilings and windows.

The total project cost is £119,330. To date £23,809 has been secured through a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) grant, £50,500 applied for as part of the South Derbyshire LSP Business plan submission to DDEP and £20,021 underwritten through Methodist Church grants and loans. The partnership requested a grant of £25,000, which is the outstanding amount.

**N.B.** An application was also received from John Port School for tennis court resurfacing. However as applications from schools fall outside the scope of the scheme the project was deemed ineligible and not assessed.

- 4.6 The Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel met on September 16<sup>th</sup> 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:

Findern Parish Rooms Restoration Project	4.67
Hilton Harriers Community Football Ground	7.33
Zone Young Persons Project	5.50
West Street Redevelopment Phase 1	7.67

- 4.7 All four projects scored higher than the point previously used as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee. However in formalising precise recommendations the panel needed to consider the applications individually.

**Findern** – had requested a grant of £30,000, which is £5,000 above the scheme maximum total and also above the maximum percentage allowed (25%). The panel decision was to remain within scheme guidelines and recommend a grant of 25% of total evidenced/receipted project costs up to a maximum of £17,500.

**Hilton Harriers** - the panel felt the project was heavily dependant on the bid to the Football Foundation. However it was not felt necessary to put any special condition on the grant offer, as the standard conditions require a review of the financial assistance from the District Council if there are any changes in the details of the project and its finances.

**Phoenix** – total project cost was submitted at £83,345 of which capital costs were identified as £50,298 and revenue costs were identified as £33,047. The amount requested in the application was £21,882, which represents the overall shortfall in funding and is greater than the 25% maximum offered through the scheme. The panel had some difficulty in ascertaining from the information provided the exact nature of the relationship between the project costs, the project parameters and the broader work and development of the organisation. The panel requested therefore that the Partnership Development Officer (PDO) contact Phoenix and seek clarification and evidence about the nature of the projects Sure Start funding and clarification about how the ZYPP relates to the broader work and development of the Phoenix organisation. Once this information has been obtained the PDO was requested to convene a meeting with S Taylor and H Wheeler for them to make a final decision on the panels recommendation to committee. Subject to satisfactory information the panel recommended a grant of a £12,732, which is 25% of the capital costs of the project. If the information received proved unsatisfactory then Phoenix would be invited to submit a revised application to a future panel meeting.

The PDO held a site meeting with Phoenix, obtained further information as requested and convened the reduced panel meeting. Upon receipt of the additional information it was decided to request a resubmission from Phoenix as even with the additional information there were aspects of the project where further clarification was required.

**West Street** - the recommendation was to fund as submitted i.e. £25,000

4.8 The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is therefore as follows:

Findern Parish Rooms Restoration Group	£17,500
Hilton Harriers Football Club	£25,000
West Street Community Partnership	£25,000

4.9 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.

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 2 2004/05