

Buckingham Local Area Forum

Title: Local Area Priorities Budget Allocation

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Electoral divisions affected: Buckingham North
Buckingham South
Winslow
Grendon Underwood

Summary

1. The Local Priorities Budget may be used for any purpose which supports local community priorities and the well-being of the area identified by the Local Area Forum (LAF) through its local area planning process. Following on from the successful local area priorities ranking process the below listed projects are considered suitable for consideration.

2. Recommendation

Members of the LAF are recommended to consider the funding for the projects listed below.

There is £16,650 available for funding projects in this financial year, the below listed eligible projects amount to a funding request total of £27,630 on projects with a total value of £98,100

Eligible Projects:

3. Purchase of Area based excavation equipment and soil testing - £8,000

4. This proposal is based on the proposed restoration of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Full details of this work can be provided on request and some details can be found at the Society's website at www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk The overall restoration is a long term proposal and the Buckingham Canal Society has started a programme of restoration work at a number of sites.

5. The Buckingham Local Area Forum have already recognized this work in the LAF priorities document that was circulated as part of the briefing pack for the March 2010



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



meeting and can be found on page 13 of that document. The canal is recognised under the Thriving Economies category and one of the long term aims of the society being to bring tourism to the area. One key part of this is the Bourton Meadow site near to Bourton School in Buckingham where the Society wishes to undertake further restoration work and re-water this section. The intention is to create an exemplar length of canal, which will demonstrate the community benefit and ecological value of such a project.

6. As a pre-requisite to this, test pit excavations and soil analysis is required to be undertaken in order to apply to the Environment Agency for the necessary permits and/or exemptions for the control and movement of waste from the restoration sites. The preferred method to undertake this work is to purchase a second hand mini-excavator for use throughout the restoration projects. By adopting this approach the society will be able to undertake further work at minimal incremental cost in the event that soil analysis reveals conditions that require further evaluation or remediation.
7. To obtain funding for this part of the project from other sources is challenging in that it forms preparatory work rather than actual restoration. Furthermore, the cost of commercially commissioning this work would exceed current working funds of the society. A grant would help address one of the key administrative challenges to the volunteers of the Society of being able to directly implement the planned restoration work in the hoped for time frame of the next 18 months subject to funding.
8. This request has been made to the Buckingham Local Area Forum to contribute towards the cost of: a mini-excavator, and soil analysis tests to be taken from the relevant sections of the canal during the restoration work.
9. It would be more cost-effective to purchase a mini-excavator than to continually pay hire charges. A local builder has offered to store and maintain the machine for us as part of his corporate sponsorship. The Society has full insurance cover including Employers' Liability and Public/Products Liability and it would be our intention to organise competence training and certification for a group of volunteer members in order that we can operate within the terms of our insurance which is provided by the Inland Waterways Association. We already have one member who has driver authorization under the IWA scheme but to make maximum use of the machine we feel that we need a pool of drivers that we can call on.
10. The mini-excavator is expected to cost approximately £7,500 including a trailer and the budget for soil testing is expected to be a further £2,500. We ask the Local Area Forum to contribute £8,000 towards the cost of this resource and testing. Shortfall in the final total will be funded by the Buckingham Canal Society through various fundraising initiatives. Further investment of expert and general volunteer time will be made to the use of this equipment within the projects forming the programme of restoration work being undertaken.
11. In the event of funding being forthcoming, the Buckingham Canal Society would also agree to this equipment being used collaboratively in conjunction with other community projects in the LAF, subject to suitable competencies, insurance, shared maintenance costs etc.
12. This project further contributes to the LAF local priorities planning workshop desired outcomes in that the restored canal will help create employment in the area both during restoration and subsequently through tourism and leisure. It is also expected, through linking it to other strategic plans at parish, town, district and county level, to contribute to green infrastructure in an area which has a significant green infrastructure deficit.

TOTAL BUDGET

£10,000

**Required LAF Funding
Local Contribution**

**£7,500
£2,500**

13. Formation of Community Interest Company to address rural broadband issues - £5,000

14. This request for funding is based on a proposal to form a Community interest Company for the purpose of delivering community benefit to the communities of the North of Buckinghamshire. The primary driver for this is the need for rural broadband and associated projects.
15. It is proposed to form a Community Interest Company (CIC) covering the Buckingham LAF area with a remit to evaluate and deliver pilot projects for the establishment of community owned ducting from the main population centre of Buckingham to the villages and hamlets where commercial demand for broadband can be established.
16. A rural broadband priority has been identified with 3 Local Area Forums and it is hoped that after suitable pilot projects the CIC could be expanded to help with similar work in those areas.
17. Preliminary work has been undertaken with BCC Rights of Way (RoW) and it has been confirmed that there is no barrier to the installation of communications ducting under rights of way including bridleways and footpaths. The cost of doing this is estimated at around 5% of digging roadways and would form a natural network of ducting to link the less dense population centres back to the towns. Following some lobbying work by and with Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning partnership (BELP) British telecom have announced that the Buckingham Exchange will be enabled for Superfast Broadband services by a target date of December 2011.
18. It is proposed to setup the Buckingham Area Community and Communication Consortium as a Community interest Company (CIC) and be known as BAC3. This CIC would explore an initial offering from commercial companies to finance ducting to be put into rights of way. Grants would then be sought to repay the cost of this ducting so it becomes a community asset. Service providers such as BT, Sky, Virgin and others would then be invite to rent space in that duct at relatively low costs to them. This approach then levels the cost differentiator of providing service to the rural villages and will enable those service providers to offer a range of commercial services to residential, educational and business ventures in the rural areas.
19. Utilising proposed partnerships with BCC and the ROW team, BAC3 would look to engage with landowners and coordinate the use of volunteers to install the duct into footpaths between Buckingham and the identified villages. This would include community volunteers through Community Impact Bucks (CIB) and offenders from community service orders.
20. In the event of funding being forthcoming, the BAC3 would be established with 51% of the shares being owned by partner organisations including BCC, AVDC, BTC and community groups. The other shareholders would make financial investment into the organisation in return for shares
21. It is also anticipated that BAC3 could extend the duct model to other areas after pilot projects are completed and that there may be other projects of community benefit that align them selves to delivery through this CIC

22. This project contributes directly to the identified LAF priorities surrounding Rural Broadband.

| in kind value | | | | | | approximate expenditure | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| days | cash equivalent at £250 per day | Funded by LAF | description of expenditure of LAF funding | total from 3rd party | total cash | Nov-10 | Dec-10 | Jan-11 | Feb-11 | Mar-11 | total | grand total including value in kind |
| 2 | £500 | £450 | basic formation costs of CIC | | £450 | | | £450 | | | £450 | £950 |
| 2 | £500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £500 |
| 2 | £500 | £150 | set up of website and email subscription system | | £150 | | | £150 | | | £150 | £650 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | | £0 | £100 | £200 | £200 | | | £500 | £2,500 |
| | | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £0 |
| 5 | £1,250 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £1,250 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £2,500 |
| 10 | £2,500 | £500 | anticipated costs in forming agreements re duct in the ground | | £500 | | | | £250 | £250 | £500 | £3,000 |
| 20 | £5,000 | £500 | anticipated costs in defining the specifications fo ducting cabinets and equipment for the solution by 3rd parties | | £500 | | | | £250 | £250 | £500 | £5,500 |
| 20 | £5,000 | £300 | approximate costs of ratification of plan | | £300 | | | | £300 | | £300 | £5,300 |
| 5 | £1,250 | £500 | QS view on validating quantities | | £500 | | | | £250 | £250 | £500 | £1,750 |
| 5 | £1,250 | £1,000 | surveys fee for reviewing our own survey data and ratifying it | | £1,000 | | | £250 | £500 | £250 | £1,000 | £2,250 |
| 5 | £1,250 | £500 | necessary equipment including hard hats etc for site work | | £500 | | | | £500 | | £500 | £1,750 |
| 1 | £250 | | | | £0 | | | | £500 | | £500 | £250 |
| 5 | £1,250 | £100 | notional legal costs in confirming route | | £100 | | | £100 | | | £100 | £1,350 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £2,500 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | £5,000 | £5,000 | | | | £5,000 | | £5,000 | £7,500 |
| 5 | £1,250 | £1,000 | concrete and aggregate for cabinet bases etc | | £1,000 | | | | £1,000 | | £1,000 | £2,250 |
| 2 | £500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £500 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £2,500 |
| 2 | £500 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £500 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | | £0 | | | | £500 | | £500 | £2,500 |
| 0 | £0 | | | | £0 | | | | £500 | | £500 | £0 |
| 20 | £5,000 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £5,000 |
| 10 | £2,500 | | | £1,000 | £1,000 | | | | £1,000 | | £1,000 | £3,500 |
| 5 | £1,250 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £1,250 |
| 5 | £1,250 | | | | £0 | | | | | | £0 | £1,250 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | £47,750 | £5,000 | | £6,000 | £11,000 | £100 | £200 | £1,150 | £10,550 | £1,000 | £13,000 | £58,750 |

23. TOTAL BUDGET **£58,750**

24. Required LAF Funding **£5,000**

25. Local Contribution **£53,750**

26. Developing and promoting Twyford Village Stores - £4,930

27. TVS is an industrial and provident society, acting as a community interest organisation. The voluntary organisation succeeded a privately owned Post Office and Village store, run from premises in Main St, that closed in 2007. In late 2009, negotiations to secure a long term lease at the Main St premises failed, and the business moved to temporary buildings erected on the current Portway Road site, owned by Mr Stephen Hodges. In co-operation with TVS and Twyford Parish Council, Mr Hodges has applied for planning permission to erect a permanent building on the Portway Road site, with space for an expanded village shop. Outline planning consent was granted in September 2010. Village residents comprise the shareholders and a board of directors and management committee are appointed at the AGM.

28. The village store opens 7 days per week, providing a convenience store and newsagent facility. Daily newspaper deliveries are made to 2 neighbouring villages, Preston Bisset and Poundon. The store is run by 50+ volunteers; the board and management committee are also volunteers. The store has a part-time paid general manager, responsible to the management committee, and pays 5 paper boys. The current shop has a turnover of approximately £150,000 pa and has declared modest profits so far. All profits have been retained within the business and have been invested in fittings and equipment or held in reserves.

29. The management committee has identified opportunities to expand trade from the current site, by offering an enhanced product range and by better serving neighbouring villages. Following market research, the committee have identified customer preference to reduce TVS dependency on national wholesale chains and increase use of local independent suppliers.

30. An individual product mix would enable TVS to establish itself as a "destination" shop in the area to compare with Boycott Farm Shop (near Stowe) or Roots (Hardwick). Both these successful rural retail food businesses exist in lightly populated areas, but with a broad hinterland. The new store, expected to open in mid 2011, will provide opportunities to better display produce, and will be free of certain practical restrictions which the current temporary buildings present. The nearest supermarkets with free parking are far from Twyford, Tesco in Bicester (8.5 miles) & Buckingham (9.5 miles) away. An opportunity exists to reduce local residents journeys to these destinations in between their weekly shops, by actively engaging in a pre-ordering service.

31. TVS management have identified two contiguous projects to help re-position Twyford Village Stores to maximise benefit from the opportunity.

32. (a) Widening the reach to outlying villages and hamlets

This element of the project is going to take a considerable time to explore, cost and determine the required scope. As a result it is intended that TVS management will not, at this time, explore the possibilities of funding for this element of the project via the local area forum but will concentrate on the second element;

33. (b) Enhancing the product offering.

Consultation with other rural food businesses and farmers market vendors has suggested the following as potential areas for improvement and/or expansion:

Good quality freshly baked bread and other bakery items.

"Deli counter" service for cheeses, cooked meats and savoury baked goods. Also a range of sandwiches and snack foods.

Locally produced or independently sourced eggs and milk

Locally produced seasonal fruit and vegetables

"Butcher-style" fresh meat service.

Independently supplied (preferably local) preserves, condiments, beers and wines

This project will involve the following phases before March 31st 2011.

Identifying exact products, their suppliers and defining trading terms

Store layout, acquisition of specialist equipment, fit-out.

Development of a customer ordering and matched supplier ordering systems

Volunteer and staff training

Launch of new products - marketing

Budget, Launch, monitor, control and adjust

Budgeted Cost Estimate (net of VAT)

Specialist Equipment ;

| | |
|--|-------|
| Hill 1500mm Serve-over refrigerated deli counter (Nisbets.co.uk) | £1400 |
| Blue Seal Convection Oven ("bake and serve" bread) (Nisbets.co.uk) | £1200 |
| LS2X Thermal label 6kg scales (deli items) (scalesworld.co.uk) | £700 |
| Buffalo Pro 40 Vacuum sealing machine (Nisbets.co.uk) | £290 |
| Vogue 360 Stainless Steel Food prep. table (Nisbets.co.uk) | £460 |
| Mondial CC643 Upright storage chiller | £880 |

SUB TOTAL (equipment) £4930

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Staff Training in food handling | £800 |
| Uniforms & Tabards | £500 |
| Marketing Costs at Launch | £500 |
| Web development & IT | £800 |

TOTAL BUDGET £7530

Required LAF Funding £4930

Local Contribution £2600

The local contribution element will be sourced via ;

£1000 from reserves of the business.

(The November 27th Food Fayre is expected to raise £500 towards the project.)

Community volunteers £400

Plunkett Foundation or other commercial sponsors : £700

34. Promoting Buckingham - £6,250

35.By promoting and defining Buckingham we can ensure full awareness of facilities and services. By encouraging town usage both socially and economically we ensure that Buckingham has a short and medium term economic future.

36.To at last produce a defined and coherent strategy on how the town should look from the outside and to co-ordinate events and activities that will bring people to the town. To encourage more economic trade within the town centre and to ensure that - what is arguably the most important part of the town is used to it's fullest

37. This Buckingham Traders Association project will link with all BTA and AVDC business development and economic investment campaigns. In addition to this the outcome of this project will be used in promoting and co-ordinating town events

38. This project is a fundamental objective of the BTA –“to actively promote the usage of the town centre and it’s facilities”

| Activity | Total Cost | LAF Funding |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Christmas Spectacular | £1,500 | £750 |
| Collateral/Booklets/Flyers/Sticker | £1,000 | £1,000 |
| Advertising/PR | £4,500 | £2,500 |
| Website | £2,000 | £1,000 |
| Consultation | £13,000 | £1,000 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | | £22,000 |
| Required LAF Funding | | £6250 |
| Local Contribution | | £15750 |

The balance of the funds required for this project (£15,750) will be sourced via Traders Association membership fees – AVDC support (Already contributed £12,000) – Business Donations (It is planned to present the findings of the consultation to local business in order to secure further funding)

39. Steeple Claydon Skate Park - £3,000

40. The Steeple Claydon skate park was installed by a small group of parents in the village in October 2005, with the backing of the Parish Council, using money given by Steeple Claydon villagers and grants from the Police, Bucks County Council, Shanks McEwan, Aylesbury Vale District Council and other sources The main aim of the team was to install a long lasting structure that would be repairable by local tradesmen. The ramps were designed and built and installed by Fearless Ramps, all of whom were either BMX bike riders or skateboarders themselves so the park built and designed was suited to these two groups of users. The quality of the design is borne out by its continued high use by BMX bikers, scooter riders, roller bladers, and skate boarders coming from Steeple Claydon, Calvert, Twyford, Buckingham, and Middle Claydon.

41. A RoSPA report has identified some risks apparent with the current structure.

1. Stopping of open tube ends.
2. Replacing of back panels on the platforms as these are weathering and also subject to minor vandalism.
3. Putting up a sign suggesting the use of suitable clothing and the fact that the Parish Council accepts no responsibility for people injuring themselves while using the ramps.
4. The tarmac surface between two of the ramps is developing holes where the wheels of the boards are wearing it away and weathering is creating cracks so giving weeds somewhere to sprout.
5. Some of the screws fixing the running surfaces have failed or come out and need replacing.
6. Two of the ramps' leading edges have sunk into the surface leaving a step between the ramp and the concrete surface.
7. Rubbish and glass and other items have been allowed to accumulate under the ramps.

42. From this list quotations have been obtained to cover the works that are too complex to be carried out by a group of volunteers.

Replacing of the platform back panels:

- a. quoted £520 for replacing all of the panels.
- b. Some of the boards will need replacing within the next year as they weather and the gap between the underside of the panel and the platform increases due to the veneers failing and minor vandalism. At a certain size the gap would be deemed to offer a significant risk e.g. a part of the body or head can get through the gap.

Removing the existing tarmac between two of the ramps and replacing with power floated concrete

- c. quotes provided £2750.
- d. Holes in the tarmac *could* be filled to reduce the risk to the users, but the concrete would be a permanent solution and also improve the overall quality of the skate park from the users' point of view.
- e. Weeds outside of the main ramp area need treating with weed killer.

Boxing in of the ramp furthest from the village

- f. quoted £1100.
- g. This would prevent children getting under the ramp.

TOTAL BUDGET **£4,370**

Required LAF Funding **£3,000**

43.Provision of Salt Bin in accident Black Spot - Buckingham - £450

35 Nelson Street is situated on a bend in Nelson Street in Buckingham. In December 2009 a car skidded on the ice as it turned from Tingewick Road and crashed into the front wall of the house (which is a listed building) and had to be rebuilt to first floor level, a window had to be replaced and extensive repairs were necessary to the front door, the kitchen floor, radiator and units.

Due to a lack of available and appropriate budgets, bollards and/or traffic calming initiatives in this area are not an option..

There are no salt bins in this area – the nearest is in Bridge Street on the other side of the river and therefore not an immediate solution when there is ice

44.The positioning of a salt bin in this area will allow residents to grit the local roads themselves should the need arise. The provision of such a bin is supported by TfB officers.

45.Whilst such an item as this would normally be funded via the delegated transportation budget, there are insufficient funds available to process this project in this financial year. In these circumstances it is acceptable for the local priorities budget to be considered for funding.

TOTAL BUDGET **£450**

Required LAF Funding **£450**

46.Funding Conditions

47.Where funding for a project is granted; the involvement of the Local Area Forum and Buckinghamshire County Council shall be acknowledged in all communications and in the case of fixed assets by some form of visible notice.

48. The funds provided must be spent before the 31st March 2011.

49. Payment from the local priorities budget will be made on submission of the relevant forms where appropriate and proof of expenditure or via invoice also where appropriate.

50. The funds provided must only be used for the approved project.

51. Report Ends
