

Report to Chesham Local Area Forum

Title: Local Priorities Funding
Date: 2 December 2009
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Summary

1. This report relates to four recommended proposals, totalling £6025, for the Chesham LAF's Local Priorities devolved budget of £8,000 for 2009/10:

Pond Park – Hivings Church Hall Youth project	£1200
Contribution to leisure passes for vulnerable young people	£500
Good Neighbour scheme	£4000
Contribution of 10% of activities budget for activities towards marketing for Nexus/ CDC youth activities in Chesham	£325
Total	£6025

Local Priorities budget

2. This budget can 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. As Chesham LAF has not yet drawn up its Local Area Plan, it will have to rely upon the common priorities in parish plans and other forms of consultation until we have established the LAF's own clear priorities for the local area.
3. Chesham Local Area Forum Members should therefore note that in 2009/10 the proposals have been assessed against local priorities taken from parish or town plans and the Service Excellence event.
4. In 2010/11 and for future years, proposals will be evaluated against the priorities set by the Chesham Local Area Forum in its planning process.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



5. This report focuses on eligible proposals only.
6. The budget must be spent on expenditure relating to this financial year.

Eligible proposals received

o Hiving Church Hall Youth Project

7. Pond Park includes the whole of Chiltern District Council's Ridgeway Ward and parts of the Vale and Asheridge Wards; and mainly within the County Council's Chesham Northwest Division. It was one of four areas targeted by local authorities under a Public Service Agreement in 2001. The specific target relating to Pond Park under the PSA agreement was to increase community participation in voluntary and community groups.
8. An independent community association has been established to serve the interests of local residents and this is still supported via a multi agency approach (which includes the three local authorities, the local Free Church, Paradigm Housing, the police, and local schools). Some smaller self interest groups have also emerged from within the local community itself and these currently cater for mums and toddlers, older people, adult learning & environment interests.
9. However, locally organised youth provision at this time is limited to activities after school and in the holidays, provided only from time to time by Chiltern District Council & Nexus Community's "Sportzone" programme. This offers mainly organised football on Marston Field, which is a local open space, and occasional trips to Chesham Leisure Centre. Some young people attend Chesham youth club.
10. The Pond Park Community Association has priorities for its own work, chief amongst which is the provision of a community building to provide for those activities not already accommodated, including organised indoor youth activities. A number of options continue to be explored, including the possible greater community use of Hiving Free Church hall. A sustainable long term way forward is likely to be agreed by a multi agency Pond Park Community Centre Development Group, by April 2010.
11. According to observations made by local PCSOs and the Nexus/CDC youth diversionary activities officer it has become clear that some local young people would benefit from more regular and locally provided diversionary activities. A particular group of between 12 and 30 young people (some of whom are "excluded") do not engage nor are they are likely to engage with any mainstream youth provider e.g. the Chesham youth club which, they feel, are not accessible to them due to the distance from the youth club and the topography of Pond Park, sitting on top of a long steep hill.
12. The Hivings Free Church in Pond Park has a new pastor who brings with him extensive experience in working with such challenging young people. Reverend Samuel Owoo has, with the agreement of the church, begun the process of engaging with these particular young people and now wishes to provide a weekly youth club in the church hall for them. The BCC youth service outreach worker will be invited to support the project. CDC, Nexus, the police, Paradigm Housing, and specialist agencies such as Addaction, who deal with young people and substance abuse, are already supportive. The Neighbourhood Inspector for Chiltern District has written a letter specifically supporting this bid. Many of the activities being planned are leisure pursuits, and some will offer learning outcomes. Participants will be expected to adhere to a good behaviour code at the club. Club members will be required to contribute to transport costs incurred for trips to the leisure centre, etc for activities which cannot be provided in the church hall.

Financial Projection for Hiving Church Hall Youth Project November 2009 – March 2010.

Costs:	£
Contribution to church hall running costs:	200.00
Sports equipment	150.00
Mobile floodlights (after school football)	800.00
Art equipment	100.00
Sound system	200.00

18. The intention behind these schemes is to reduce isolation/ exclusion/ loneliness / anxiety; to provide a link / social bond between younger & older community members and to allow individuals to remain independent.

In order to take account of issues around rural isolation, the Locality Services team have asked that every effort be made to develop the scheme outside as well as within the urban area. In previous discussions Kerry Stevens, the Lead Area Officer for Chesham area, has extremely supportive of projects that develop work begun as part of the Building Community Capacity project, outside the urban area.

19. Adult Social Care are looking for pump priming funds of around **£4,000** from the LAF.

There would likely be a later bid of similar amount to enable the continuance and development of the scheme, though by promoting community attachment & fundraising it is hoped that the service could become locally sustainable.

In the areas of Chesham and Haddenham & Long Crendon funding from the Building Community Capacity Project can also be drawn upon to enhance the service in these areas.

20. Age Concern is on board, though actual delivery would need discussion about resources and capacity. Adult Social Care indicates that in most LAF areas £4000 will go some way but not necessarily all the way towards funding the project. However the areas of Chesham and Long Crendon would be supported further from another pot enabling some guarantee of delivery in these areas.

21. Much of the delivery will be reliant on local community response and interest and it may take a little while to identify local volunteers to take project forward. However the involvement of Age Concern, now a provider of befriender support, means that this service could be remodelled if existing volunteers are willing and able to develop their roles. Previous discussions also lead the service to hope that the Red Cross might be prepared to get involved.

22. In other Bucks areas this money will be pump priming the establishment and development rather than perhaps actual delivery.

○ **Contribution towards marketing of PAYP activities in Chesham area**

23. Nexus/ CDC have made a bid for PAYP funding to provide youth activities. The Community and Youth Engagement service have recommended schemes to a cost of £1250 from PAYP and CDC are making £2000 contribution to i-van. However Community and Youth Engagement did not recommend that any contribution be made to the marketing/ promotion of these activities from the PAYP budget.

It is felt by the bidders that to run these events without any marketing risks wasting any investment in them, therefore it is suggested that the LAF consider allocating **£325** from the Local Priorities budget to promotion of PAYP activities.

Summary of eligible and recommended proposals

- 24, These applications have been considered by Rebecca Carley, Locality Service Manager, and Alison Derrick, Locality Services Coordinator, who are recommending these proposals for funding

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Contribution to leisure passes for vulnerable young people across the community area	£500
Contribution of 10% towards marketing of PAYP youth activities	£325
Good Neighbour scheme	£4000
Total	£6025

23. The Locality Services Co-ordinator is actively working on other projects which might be suitable for funding from the remaining £1975 in the Local Priorities budget. Ongoing discussions with Town, Parish and District council colleagues and via them with the Chesham Action Partnership may elicit some “quick wins” that might be funded and delivered before the end of March 2010. Members of the LAF will be kept informed of any progress.
24. **Recommendation:** For the Members of the Chesham Local Area Forum to agree the funding from its Local Priorities Budget 2009/10. Monies are allocated subject to satisfactory completion of the work before 31 March 2010 and proof of expenditure. The LAF contribution should be acknowledged in any publicity with regard to the proposals.

Background Papers

[Copies of the applications may be viewed on the night of the meeting on 2 December 2009]