

# Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

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**Title:** Local Priorities Funding update

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## Recommendation

Members of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum are invited **to note** the progress made on the bids for funding from the Local Priorities budget that were agreed at the 2 December 2009 meeting .

## Summary

1. This report relates to the bids that were agreed for the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local priorities devolved budget of £8,000 for 2009/10.

## 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 and Chiltern Villages LAF had not drawn up its Local Area Plan, it had to rely upon the common priorities in parish plans and other forms of consultation.
3. The budget must be spent on expenditure relating to this financial year.

## Update on successful bids

- **Hiving Church Hall Youth Project**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



4. The Hivings Free Church in Pond Park has a new pastor, Reverend Samuel Owoo who has begun the process of engaging with young people and wished to provide a weekly youth club in the church hall for them. The BCC youth service outreach worker was 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 supportive. 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.
5. Approximately £800 has been spent so far on outside lighting and equipment for the club e.g. Wii console; Dance mats, football kits and equipment; etc. enabling the club to open weekly on Fridays after school. Police and partner organisations are now also linking with the Club.

○ **Leisure cards**

6. The Community Activities co-ordinator at Nexus Community made an application for funding to the Chesham LAF to cover the cost of up to 50 annual leisure cards for targeted young people living in Chesham and the surrounding rural villages, who are especially vulnerable or “at risk”. The total funding granted was **£500**.
7. The young people being encouraged to participate in diversionary activities, had initially expressed their interest in the Nexus leisure card and were all issued with the relevant forms and instructions on completing the form and who to submit to. However by mid January there was no evidence of any take up of the offer, even when officers offered to complete the forms. Therefore, as the Leisure Card offer was a reward for good behaviour (which could be withdrawn for bad behaviour) officers suggested alternative rewards be agreed with the young people. Consultations identified a preference to have subsidised trips to youth culture events at local theatres, cinema visits, sporting trips outside the area, and a party which they have to organise themselves. The funding allocated is therefore being spent in this way.

○ **Good Neighbour scheme**

8. Buckinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care & Age Concern want to develop the idea of Good Neighbour Schemes in the county. Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community to those in need of help & support
9. The scheme is targeted at those people who may need extra support - maybe older people, people with disabilities, those in temporarily need through illness or anyone isolated in the community.
10. 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.
11. In order to take account of issues around rural isolation, the Locality Services team has 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.
12. Adult Social Care sought and were allocated pump priming funds of **£4,000** from the LAF. This money has been passed over to Adult Social Care for use on this project.

13. A GSN Facilitator, Simon Beales, has been recruited, and has working on the project since mid January for 10 hours per week to cover Chesham Town and Chesham Rural. Simon has been making contact with individuals and organisations to explain what the Good Neighbour Scheme is about and organising the distribution and collection of GNS questionnaire to households in the catchment area.
14. For Chesham Town 1700 questionnaires will be distributed as a loose insert in the Bucks Free Press w/c 29<sup>th</sup> February. Completed questionnaires are to be returned to Chesham Town Hall or posted directly to Age Concern Bucks.
15. For rural villages, 320 questionnaires are being delivered to households in Ashley Green and Whelpley Hill by the Community Association. The questionnaire is being included in the Hilltop News to cover Chartridge and Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards. Latimer Parish and The Lee are still being worked on. Publicity about the Good Neighbour Scheme will be a separate article in each newspaper. Once questionnaires have been returned Simon will be evaluating the feedback, to show the need for services, and recruiting volunteers. Simon does have some volunteers already, who were recruited via an earlier questionnaire to the Age Concern Bucks Befriending volunteers.
16. So far £1248 of the allocated £4000 has been spent. The cost of the questionnaires has not yet been included in this amount and not all the expense claims have been received yet. Further expenses for coordinator time, community / volunteer meetings and additional publicity meetings are budgeted within the full allocation and are expected to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 10.

○ **Contribution towards marketing of PAYP activities**

17. Nexus/ CDC made a bid for PAYP funding to provide youth activities. The Community and Youth Engagement service agreed to support specific schemes from PAYP, however no funds were allocated by Community and Youth Engagement for marketing/ promotion of these activities from the PAYP budget.
18. LAF agreed an allocation for £325 from the Local Priorities budget to promote PAYP activities. In consultation with the Chairman of the LAF and the budget holder this was subsequently increased to the sum of £825.
19. Activities have been running since the start of February and invoices are expected imminently

○ **Additional bid from Shed@ThePark**

20. The report on Local Priorities funding brought to the LAF meeting on 2 December highlighted the fact that £1975 of the budget remained unallocated but that the Locality Services Co-ordinator was actively working on other projects which might be suitable for funding. Of this money £500 was subsequently allocated to additional publicity and marketing for PAYP activities, reducing the underspend to £1475
21. A proposal to undertake preparatory work for the installation of a play area outside Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall proved not to be practical in the time available but will almost certainly be pursued in the new financial year though the LAF and other funding providers.
22. At the beginning of February it appeared that there were no appropriate projects in the Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF area to which money could be allocated and that it must therefore be re-allocated to other areas which did have suitable projects.

- 23. However the Locality Services Co-ordinator became aware of a bid from Shed@ThePark to the Chesham Action Partnership, which would benefit from additional funding and could make use of the money before the end for 2009/10.
- 24. Over the last year Shed@ThePark has extended its outreach programme to include a variety of ages and organisations from Old People’s Homes to Arts Centres and Schools. Through this work they have identified a role in the organisation that they wish to develop - that of a Music Therapist. The role of a Music Therapist is seen as key to creating a truly creative, nurturing environment for all community partners. The organisation wants to enable all to participate fully and in ways that are beneficial to them.
- 25. Shed@ThePark were seeking funding from ChAP to purchase some essential musical equipment to enable the Music Therapist to engage with local children, families and the elderly.

With this musical equipment they aim:

- To work with individual or small groups of children/adults with learning disabilities, behavioural or emotional problems and those needing extra support, for any reason.
- To work on family intervention by providing support, space and time to explore relationships and any issues within the family unit.
- To enhance and provide opportunities for parent and child to play together, building a stronger relationship, within a therapeutic environment.

- 26. Having consulted the budget holder and LAF Chairman the Local Services Co-ordinator made an offer of the remaining £1475 to the bidder, to be spent before the end of the financial year 2009/10. This has meant that the Local Priorities budget has now been fully committed.

○ **Summary of successful bids**

Pond Park – Hivings Church Hall Youth project	<b>£1200</b>
Contribution to leisure passes for vulnerable young people	<b>£500</b>
Good Neighbour scheme	<b>£4000</b>
Contribution for activities towards marketing for Nexus/ CDC youth activities	<b>£825</b>
Shed@ThePark - purchase of musical equipment to support role of Music Therapist	<b>£1475</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8000</b>

○ **Future applications**

- 27. In 2010/11 and for future years, proposals will be evaluated against the priorities agreed by the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum in its planning process. The Local prioritisation workshop for Chesham and Chiltern Villages will be held on 17 March at Chesham Town Hall.