



Report to CHESHAM AND CHILTERN VILLAGES LOCAL AREA FORUM

Title: Confirmation of bids to be funded from Local Priorities budget

To: Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

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Electoral divisions affected Chess Valley
Chesham East
Chesham North West
Chiltern Ridges

Summary

1. This report relates to 10 proposals previously made to the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local priorities devolved budget of £20,000 for 2010/11, commented upon via email by the LAF membership and agreed by the Chairman in conjunction with Area Co-ordinator (Locality Services).
2. Bids received related to a range of the priorities agreed by the Local Area Forum (LAF) as a result of its Local Area Planning process. This report confirms the funding allocated from the LAF's Local Priorities budget to enable the projects to be implemented.
3. The agreed projects and allocations are as follows

Project	Amount requested	Amount allocated
Good Neighbour Scheme – Age Concern	£4980	£3900
Resurfacing of drive and car park –	£5000	£2000

St Leonards Parish Hall Trust		
Bellingdon Play Space – Asheridge Village Hall	£4000	£2000
Contribution towards cost of Planning permission for notice boards - Chesham Walkers are Welcome	£200	£200
Community car scheme investigation and set up	£2000	£2000
Enlarging and refurbishment of kitchen - Coronation Hall, Whelpley Hill	£5000	£2000
SPARX Youth Project – Bucks Fire and Rescue	£2400	£1200 (halved as LSP also contributing)
Rafes Place event	£1500	£1500
Chiltern Faith Café – Bucks Forum of Faiths	£1180	£0 £750 initially suggested based on support from other LAFs. Other LAFs have not supported the project
Contribution to project set up - Church2Community	£3000	£2000
TOTAL		£16800

Recommendation

- 4. Members of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum are invited to note the funding allocated from the Local Priorities budget for the following projects.**

Background

5. The Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF has a delegated Local Priorities budget of £20,000 to be used to help address local priorities contained within its Local Area Plan.
6. 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.

Agreed Bids

- **Good Neighbour scheme continuance - Age Concern**

7. In 2009/10 Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF agreed to allocate £4000 pump priming money to Age Concern to develop the idea of Good Neighbour Schemes in the area. Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community to those in need of help & support.
8. Age Concern sought a further **£4980** from the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Priorities budget in 2010/11 to develop, launch and support a volunteer Good Neighbour project in Chesham and the Chiltern Villages which delivers additional help to older people.

Cost breakdown

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request from LAF £
GNS facilitator pay, travel, training	4650	3100
Telephone, post, stationery, admin support	800	800
Questionnaire printing (for prospective volunteers and recipients of the service) delivery, newsletters, posters, leaflets, advertising	480	480
Volunteer recruitment, CRB checks, packs, steering group costs, meeting rooms, seed funds for volunteer expenses	600	600
Age Concern supervision and line management and travel	750	0
TOTAL	7280	4980

Agreed: - that the LAF contributes £3900 to this project to fund GNS facilitator pay, travel, training and admin support

- **Resurfacing of drive and car park – St Leonards Parish Hall Trust**

9. St Leonards Parish Hall has recently been extended and disabled facilities provided. New lighting has been provided for the drive and the car park. However it is used regularly by a playgroup and by the elderly for whom the drive is dangerous, particularly in the winter. The Parish Hall Trust sought **£5000** from the LAF to undertake this work. The cost of the whole project is £21,600.

Agreed that the LAF contribute £2000 to this project

○ **Bellingdon Play Space - Asheridge Village Hall**

10. Asheridge Village Hall successfully bid for a Play Builder grant of £50,000 as well as other funding with a view to commissioning a brand new natural play space to be co-designed by local children and built with community help. The Project producer for the Village Hall sought a further £10,000 to complete the funding needed, and made a bid to the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Priorities budget for **£4000**.

11. This bid is part of the much larger project to build a play space. The overall project links to priority 45 which related to play areas as meeting points for the wider community and to a growing movement of natural play championed by Play England. It also links to the wider local and national agendas of encouraging children to spend time outdoors in order to facilitate mental and physical wellbeing including combating childhood obesity including the CDC Play Strategy.

Cost breakdown

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request to LAF £
Project Management	11,200	0
Design Team	5,400	0
Build costs, landscaping, equipment, plants, materials	51,380	4,000
Total	68,000	4,000

Funding received and anticipated

Source	Amount
Playbuilder grant (via CDC) – confirmed #	£50,000
Village Hall funds - confirmed	£6,000
Chartridge Parish Council - confirmed	£1,000
Bellingdon Cricket Club – confirmed	£1,000
Lottery – anticipated	£6,000
LAF – anticipated	£4, 000
Total	£68,000

Agreed that the LAF contributes £2000 to this project

○ **Contribution towards cost of Planning permission for notice boards
Chesham Walkers are Welcome**

12. Walkers are Welcome is a national organisation devoted to encouraging walking both by residents of towns and villages and by tourists visiting the localities. Chesham recently obtained the status of a member of Walkers are Welcome by, amongst other things, getting 500 signatures of residents to support the application. Chesham is the first such town in the Chilterns and only the second in the south-east of England.
13. Under the Market Town Health Check (Chesham Community Vision) a set of six walking leaflets was developed to encourage walking within, around Chesham and circular walks starting in Chesham.
14. It is planned to have two notice boards to advertise the walks in the main starting points, Water Meadow Car Park and Chesham Station. With the accreditation of Chesham as a Walkers are Welcome town it was decided to extend the purpose of these boards to include the furtherance of the WaW aims. Planning permission is needed for the boards at a cost a £335 per board to make the application. The fee is halved if the application is made by Chesham Town Council, which CTC have agreed to do.

The Department of Education has written to all local authorities stating that savings need to be made from a number of capital budgets in 2010 -11 including play.

The local authorities are instructed with immediate effect and until further notice that we should avoid any new contractual liabilities; and that groundworks / construction work should not commence until further notice. Any capital grant that is not yet spent or where there is considered to not be a strong case to continue the commitments entered into , may be retained by the Department. Having made the case that the Bellingdon project has commenced CDC has yet to receive any further instructions from the DofE..

15. This left a shortfall of £335 for the planning application plus £65 to produce drawings for the Planning Department to their standards – a total of £400.

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request to LAF £
Boards	£965	0
Design	£375	0
Erection (labour free, est materials)	£60	0
Planning application (halved cost via CTC)	£335	200
Drawings	£65	0
Total	1800	£200

16. The remaining £200 toward the planning application and drawings will be paid by Councillor Noel Brown from his community leaders' fund.

Agreed that the LAF contributes £200 to this project

o **Community car scheme**

17. Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area plan, contains within it a number of priorities that relate to travel to and from services, communities and amenities in the area.
18. One way in which progress could be made on these priorities is to commission research and if possible the setting up of a community car scheme for the area. Elsewhere in the County, in conjunction with Community Impact Bucks, 'cluster' parishes which have similar aims and needs with regard to car schemes are being identified. It is then planned to organise public meetings to identify support within each local community for a community car scheme. If there is sufficient support the scheme will then be taken forward with Community Impact Bucks to further support the local community in setting up the scheme.
- 19 Initially, a sum in region of £2,000 per LAF was sought to contribute to Community Impact Bucks' costs, the time spent to organise up to public meetings and then to take work forward as required on community car schemes. Additional funding may be required later by individual car schemes.
20. There would be obvious synergies with the Good Neighbour Scheme bid since Age Concern's research indicates that transport to hospital/doctor/ dentist and to go shopping are high priorities for older people. There would also be links with existing small car schemes run by churches and clubs such as the WI and

Rotary. If both bids were to be funded by the LAF this would be on the understanding that discussions must be held between the two organisations to identify where each scheme could make the best contribution.

Agreed that the LAF contributes £2000 to the investigation of support for a community car scheme in the area

o **Enlarging and refurbishment of kitchen - Coronation Hall, Whelpley Hill**

- 21 The Coronation Hall, Whelpley Hill was built in 1937 and has had little updating since. In the last year the Village Hall Committee has instigated a refurbishment program which has been broken down in a number of small projects

The first phase of work costing approximately £58,000 work has almost been completed . This has been funded by £25000 from the church (Diocese of Oxford - as recompense for the sale of the village church), and the village hall has funded the balance.

Work still to do

Insulation board and skim to existing walls	£3200
Insulation board and skim to existing ceiling	£2680
Raise floor to rear of building	£1500
Replace kitchen	£9500
Purchase new kitchen appliances	£1000
Side extension	£29740

22. The Village Hall Committee sought **£5000** from the LAF Local Priorities budget to enlarge and refurbish the kitchen. This will entail moving existing units and appliances and the removal of an existing wall and building a new stud wall to incorporate the currently unused lobby areas into the kitchen. The kitchen will then be laid out afresh, fully refurbished and fitted with modern appliances and units.

23. An application has been made to CDC for a grant and the group are exploring all avenues to raise further funds including continuing to hold fund-raising events within the village.

Agreed that the LAF contributes £2000 to this project

SPARX Youth Project – Bucks Fire and Rescue

24. Bucks Fire and Rescue submitted a bid for **£2400** to run a 6 week (1 day a week) course in partnership with Chesham Park designed to engage with young people by giving them the opportunity to work with the Fire Service.

25. This is a new initiative designed by Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service to assist in raising fire safety awareness in the community.
26. The course targets school students who are at risk from exclusion and who have a history of poor attendance and low achievement levels. The project is a partnership project with the local Secondary Schools in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The objective is to take young people from year 10 & 11 who are struggling with the national curriculum. Award scheme Development Achievement network (ASDAN) is a current government scheme, which allows the young people to take part in workshop sessions as an alternative to some school lessons. To be eligible for the certificate the young people must complete the required challenges, through which evidence of skill development is demonstrated to an appropriate level.
27. Bucks Fire & Rescue are in discussion with three schools in Chiltern with a view to running courses during the autumn term in order to engage with Key stage 4 students who are generally under achieving at School. Each course costs a minimum of £2400 with in-kind resources coming via officers time and input from partners (Police, DAT etc).
28. The Fire Service submitted a bid to the Chiltern LSP steering group. It is anticipated that this bid will have a positive outcome although the LSP is would ideally like to see a contribution from the schools involved.

Recommendation: - that the LAF contribute £1200 to this project – this figure being matched by Chiltern LSP

- **One day interactive sports, music and arts event – Rafe’s Place**
29. Rafe’s Place is a Chesham based project, working in co operation with Ultimate Solution (MUSIC) Ltd (a well established under 18’s music night in Amersham) and local organisations in Bucks to break down barriers between different age groups, cultures and genres.
 30. Rafe’s Place aims to become a between local authorities/ service providers and the youth. They provide tailored and targeted services and promotions allowing effective communication with the local community
 31. Rafe’s Place particularly wanted to support young people whose sports of choice is Skating, BMX riding and inline skating since these groups are particularly “hard to reach” , participants are often loaners who do not go for team sports, they often have a lot of energy to burn off but not many goals to focus on.

32. Funding was sought from the LAF to support an interactive one day community, music and arts event in Lowndes Park, Chesham on 11 September 2010. The intention is to unite young people from all cultures and backgrounds, enabling the enjoyment of shared interests, as well as connecting generations and supporting families from the local area. The event will provide valuable experience for local students studying events management and crowd safety, for artists, musicians and skaters
33. The event featured a live bands stage featuring an eclectic mix of music genres from national and local acts; a skateboard and BMX competition featuring 4 of the U.K.'s top professional skateboarders including the British Champion and 2008 British Champion; a DJ tent for up and coming local DJ's; a Street Art demonstration, Live Art creation by members of the public and a local art completion and exhibition.
34. Approximately 1800 people attended the event, of which 500-800 are likely to either enter in or be a spectator of the skateboarding competition as well as taking advantage of the many other activities.

Cost breakdown

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request to LAF £
Provision for skateboard competition - 4 professional skaters - full PA - experienced MC - King Ramps Gazebo - prizes for local competition - giveaways for all who take part	£1300 (plus VAT)	£1300
Security	1200	200
Marketing	800	0
Portaloos	700	0
1 st Aid	300	0
Total		1500

Other support gained:

CDC for stall to promote themselves and services	£200
CHAP	£250
Nexus - stall to promote their services	£150
Various trading stalls	£150
Buckinghamshire Community Foundation towards security costs	£1000

Agreed that the LAF contributes £1500 to this project (on the basis that the bid has already been scaled down following LAF feedback)

○ **Chiltern Faith Café – Bucks Forum of Faiths**

35. The Bucks Faith Café initiative (Bucks Forum of Faiths), received funding of £12,000 from a Faith in Action grant, administered through Community Development Foundation on behalf of Communities and Local Government. However after the grant was first applied for it became apparent that some costs will be greater than initially envisaged.. Additional funding was sought from LAFs to ensure that the Faith Café event in the Chiltern District area is successful. The additional funding is being sought to support a one day event for Chiltern District, to be held in Chesham, based on “World Café” principles #

36. The aim of the project is to promote dialogue, understanding and joint working between faith communities and with the wider community across Buckinghamshire. It is hoped that bringing faiths and cultures together in a supportive atmosphere may facilitate the set up of interfaith forums in Chiltern and South Bucks.

37. There would be a strong focus on intergenerational involvement and the project co-ordinator is working with County Council officers to try to involve 6th formers from Chiltern schools and colleges from September 2010 onwards in the planning and running of the event. It may be possible to actually run an extra event in one of the colleges.

38. Much of the benefit of such a project accrues from the involvement of communities and individuals in the actual process of putting the event together. Formal evaluation will be via video interviews with participants on the value they got from the day; the successful building of the exhibition and demand for it in different parts of the County; feedback on the exhibition as it tours. But long term outcomes will be largely dependent on the use that community organisations make of the feedback.

#World Cafe is a participative process which enables people to have creative conversations while sitting cafe-style around small tables. Paper table cloths are often used so that the ideas and issues which emerge from the conversations can be recorded. After about 20-30 minutes, people move to a new table and the conversation continues

Cost breakdown

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request to LAF £
Enabling Training for the Core Steering Group. This training will help the core group to resolve and focus on the issues to be discussed and to facilitate discussions at the event. Training provider will be Art Beyond Belief – Insight Training: two half days duration for 4 people:	£480	£480
Refreshments and food for the event x80 people	£400	£400
Creating a welcoming café environment – room and table decoration, art work, hire of café table and equipment	£150	£150
Transport to assist people to attend the events from other community centres in the district – the Chalfonts, Gt. Missenden, Amersham and the more rural areas. In addition, transport provided for some elderly residents who may not be able to attend without this assistance	£150	£150
Total		£1180

39. It is anticipated that the event will be held in Chesham. However since it is intended to be for people from across the Chiltern area contributions of £150 were sought from each of the other 3 Chiltern LAFs. These contributions have not been agreed by the other Chiltern LAFs.

Recommendation : In the absence of support from other Chiltern LAFs it is recommended that the Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF do not contribute to this project

○ **Church2Community**

40. Church2Community is a project within Chesham Methodist Church. It has management group which reports to the Church Council, which currently consists of church members and local partner representation, but as the project develops will include volunteer and user representation to ensure that volunteers and users are fully involved in the management and development of the project.
41. Church2Community aims to provide a range of support services to people in the community experiencing isolation, and provide training and activities to families, older people, young people, those experiencing mental health difficulties and/or unemployment and single and absent parents. The needs for

services to these communities have been clearly identified by local strategies, and local authorities have already identified ways of working together in partnership to provide new services and support the work of the project.

42. The church has recognised the need to reach out to the local community in new ways. The local community in Chesham has identified needs as shown in the community strategies for the area; these have been developed through research undertaken by the local strategic partnerships. Some of the specific communities that have been identified in need of services and support include young people and older people, and those experiencing mental health difficulties. Church2Community is a response to these identified and emerging needs.
43. The project has a clear mission to reach out to those in Chesham and the surrounding area. The project is already beginning to work alongside the community, in partnership with residents, statutory bodies, voluntary sector organisations and corporate organisations to help local people provide solutions to their problems and to reduce isolation.
44. The projected expenditure including staff, for the first year of the project is £78,000, with actual and expected income totalling £14,600.
45. The bid sought **£3000** from the Local Priorities budget to support the first year of a three year project, which aims ultimately to be at least a 10 year process. No numbers are quoted in terms of how many people could be reached by the project but by definition the project seeks to reach many people as need it of all ages, backgrounds and abilities from the resident population of over 20,000.

Agreed that the LAF contribute £2000 to this project

- **Funding for flood alleviation work , Arrewig Lane – The Lee Parish Council**

46. The Lee Parish Council put forward a request for funds from the Local Priorities budget to address an acute flooding problem in the Parish, on Arrewig Lane. The Parish feel that this problem could be solved by new kerbing as well as more regular drainage.

Transport for Buckinghamshire staff have reported that a sum of at least **£3000** would be needed to pay for investigation works into what would improve the situation on Arrewig Lane. This would involve negotiating with the landowner, with a view to piping water away from the road and onto his land. However, so far, the land owner has not been amenable to this suggestion. Discussions will continue but as there is no specific scheme on which the money could be spent, it is felt that it is unlikely that the money could be put to good use in this financial year.

Agreed that the LAF does not fund this project in 2010/11

Summary of recommended bids

Project	Amount request	Amount recommended
Good Neighbour Scheme	£4980	£3900
Resurfacing of drive and car park – St Leonards Parish Hall Trust	£5000	£2000
Bellingdon Play Space - Asheridge Village Hall	£4000	£2000
Contribution towards cost of Planning permission for notice boards Chesham Walkers are Welcome	£200	£200
Community car scheme investigation and set up	£2000	£2000
Enlarging and refurbishment of kitchen - Coronation Hall, Whelpley Hill	£5000	£2000
SPARX Youth Project – Bucks Fire and Rescue	£2400	£1200 (halved due to LSP match funding)
Rafes Place	£1500	£1500
Chiltern Faith Cafe	£1180	0
Church2Community	£3000	£2000
Total		£16800

47. Monies are allocated subject to satisfactory completion of the work before 31 March 2011 and proof of expenditure. The LAF contribution should be acknowledged in any publicity with regard to the proposals.

Further applications

48. Other proposals will be considered for the unallocated budget, if they meet local priorities criteria. Two additional bids have been received and are the subject of a separate report on the agenda

- Report ends -