



Report to CHESHAM AND CHILTERN VILLAGES LOCAL AREA FORUM

Title: Bids for funding 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 2 proposals for funding from the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local priorities devolved budget for 2010/11
2. Bids received relate to a range of priorities agreed by the Local Area Forum (LAF) as a result of its Local Area Planning process. This report seeks agreement to allocate funding from the LAF's Local Priorities budget to enable the projects to be implemented.
3. The recommended projects and allocations are as follows

Project	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Chesham Women's Friendship Group (Chesham Asian Welfare Society)	2000	1500
Film and Pizza Night (Pond Park)	500	500

Community Association)		
TOTAL	2500	2000

Recommendation

4. **Members of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum are invited to agree that 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.

Recommended bids

- **Chesham Women's Friendship Group** (Chesham Asian Welfare Society)
 7. Chesham Women's friendship group (CWFG) is a community based support group for women. The group is open to all women with no restriction in terms of age, background, ethnicity or faith. Activities on offer include badminton, outings, aerobics and speakers on women's issues.
 8. The group also enables women to organise and celebrate women's events. Information, referrals and a support service is available on all issues.
 9. Formed in May 2010 the CWFG is based in Chesham and is run by Chesham Asian Welfare Society, an executive committee made up of local individuals, Over 140 women are supported each month. The mission of the group is to reduce the isolation suffered by women in particular the elderly. Research has shown that most of the women who attend the group feel isolated to some extent. The group gives the opportunity to meet in a safe space, interact with other women within the community and build up a support network.
 10. The bidder considers that the project supports Priority 3 (Elderly and infirm are isolated in the villages. More needs to be done to encourage members of the community to support older residents).and Priority 26 (more support is needed for older people and people with disabilities) . It

could also be argued to support Priority 13 (There are weak links with the Asian communities in the area)

11. The need for the group is supported by the consistent attendance of 25 women at weekly sessions and the positive feedback received.
12. The majority of the women attending the group will be aged 50 plus, are isolated and not able to socialise or have health issues. Younger women are encouraged to support the more mature members.
13. Research shows that women are three times more likely than men to suffer from poor mental health. For women experiencing isolation and mental health issues the group offers a place to build social and support networks, to grow in confidence and improve inter-personal skills. Social outings are much more than this – for instance an outing based on walking will have physical benefits as well as mental health benefits.
14. The progress of the project will be monitored by a volunteer and the results analysed.
15. Funding is sought to support running costs for 8 months during which time additional funds will be sought to ensure the long term sustainability of the group.

Cost breakdown

Item or activity	Total cost £	Request from LAF £
Rental	1000	900
Social activities	500	500
Staff costs	500	400
Fitness instructor	1440	200
TOTAL	3440	2000

Recommendation: that the LAF contributes £1500 to this project

○ **Film and Pizza night (Pond Park Community Association)**

16. Pond Park Community Association is keen to run a film and pizza night, once a week, to enable young people to get off the streets, to help cut anti social behaviour and to help social integration. It is proposed to run the events at Little Spring School, Greenway, Chesham.
17. This project would give an opportunity for young people to be “off the street” in an area acknowledged to have comparatively high levels of anti-

social behaviour and give the police an opportunity to engage actively with young people – who are traditionally a hard to reach group. A PCSO will monitor the outcomes

18. The project would meet priority 14 (few places for young people to gather without being accused of ASB); priority 30 (tacking anti social behaviour by young people in Pond Park and to some degree priority 37 (lack of communities building to hire in Pond Park).

19. It is intended to start the project in September subject to funding being available, and initially run until Christmas. It is hoped that the project will be successful enough to continue in the new year. In terms of longer term sustainability it is intended to make a small charge to help fund the project and a group of young people will be set up to choose the films etc so that they will hopeful start to “own” the project.

20. Applications have been made to Paradigm CEF fund, ChAP and the County Councillors Community leadership fund. Chesham Youth Council are providing technical knowledge and working equipment, Pond Park Community Assoc. will be selling soft drinks and taking part, PCSOs will be overseeing the project and parents will be volunteering to help out.

21. The bid from Pond Park Community Association is for £500 towards costs of £2000.

Recommendation : that the LAF contribute £500 to this project

22.. 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.

o **Summary of recommended bids**

Project	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Chesham Women’s Friendship Group (Chesham Asian Welfare Society)	2000	1500
Film and Pizza Night (Pond Park Community Association)	500	500
TOTAL	2500	2000

Further applications

23. Other proposals will be considered for the unallocated budget – currently £1200 – provided they meet local priorities criteria. Monies not committed to projects by November 2010 will be returned to the budget holder.

- Report ends -