

**SOUTH JOINT COMMITTEE****18 DECEMBER 2008****Subject: Vision for Stour - Project Funding****Lead Officers: Contact Julia Aratoon  
Contact on 01789 260637****Portfolio Holder: District Councillor C Williams**

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**Summary**

This report provides updated information on the progress of the Vision for Stour projects and suggests funding allocations for the remaining 2008/09 budget of the 2020 Vision Action Plan.

**Recommendation**

**That Committee considers and agrees to the allocation of funds as requested and detailed below.**

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**1 BACKGROUND/INFORMATION**

- 1.1 In its budgets for 2008/2009 the Council has allocated £25,000 to be spent in support of the projects identified in the 2020 Vision Action Plan for Shipston and its rural Hinterland.

The community based and led *Vision for Stour* delivery has begun work on delivering the projects agreed by the South Joint Committee earlier in the year and progress is given below. The group have also identified the remaining projects they wish to be funded in the 2008/09 financial year and their findings are presented here together with requests for the allocation of the identified funds.

- 1.2 The control and management of these funds will remain with officers of the Council in conformance with Standing Orders.

**2 VISION FOR STOUR PROGRESS REPORT**

- 2.1 Better Welcome Project

The Better Welcome Project is on track for completion in December 2009. The artistic briefs, site locations and timetabled project management plans have been agreed with the Better Welcome Group and interested parties such as Highways and Construction and Planning and Property Team. It is anticipated that artists will be appointed by February 2009 who will work with local businesses to come up with exciting concepts for projects which will really give a boost to the town.

## 2.2 Community Sports/Play Equipment Bank

All Parishes in the Stour Area have been contacted to highlight local groups who may be interested in the scheme. Through specific leads, 6 groups have been identified where there are settlements of young people and little play provision, these are Quinton Primary School and Village Hall (to share), Little Acorns and Long Compton Sports Club (to share), Shipston Youth Club which encompasses the Church Youth Project and The Outhouse, Tysoe, Brailes Youth Club and Shipston Sports and Social Club who have requested football equipment to support their popular club.

The project is on track for completion in December 2008 when bags will be ordered and distributed.

## 2.3 Cycling Project – Shipston to Moreton Cycle route

A preliminary feasibility study has been carried out, which has examined safety issues, practicality and enjoyment. Both Shipston and Moreton Town Councils have been made aware of the plans, and parishes en route will be contacted by the end of December 2009. Consultant David Miller has been appointed to carry out the work and photographs have been taken and the map has been drafted for the route leaflet. Practical Implementation of the project will begin in January 2009 with completion scheduled for later Spring/Early Summer.

## 2.4 Bio Diversity Action Plan

An enthusiastic group of people has been meeting to discuss a variety of opportunities to support the biodiversity action plan. The complete project is on target for completion by March 2009, although it is hoped some elements will be completed sooner. Three elements have been agreed as follows;

1. Supporting Priority Species
2. A river ecology board for the River Stour
3. Enhancing and increasing use of a community Woodland at Flowers Wood Ilmington.

## 2.5 New members

The Vision Group meets regularly to monitor the progress of these projects, and to look at developing its future strategy. Gaining the interest of new members, especially those out in the parishes has proved to be challenging, but the projects we have worked on have opened some doors. It is important that the Stour Vision is communicated to the parishes to develop a representative group and the support of Members in achieving this would be welcomed.

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### 3.1 **Budget**

The Council has made available a budget of £25,000 which is to be allocated during 2008/09 and is available in support of the identified agreed projects.

Allocations to date and current requests are shown below

|   | <b>Allocation</b> | <b>Requested</b> |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Previously agreed</b>  |                   |                  |
| Application 845 Interpretative signage and visitor information point              | £5,000            |                  |
| Application 856 Implementation of aspects of the Parish Bio Diversity Action Plan | £3,000            |                  |
| Application 847 Provide 5 sets of Community Sports/Play equipment                 | £2,500            |                  |
| Application 848 Cycling   | £5,500            |                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>£16,000</b>    |                  |
| <b>New Applications</b>   |                   |                  |
| Application 866 Dig for Stour (3.2.1)   |                   | £4,800           |
| Application 864 Riverside Amenity Area (3.2.2)                                    |                   | £1,900           |
| Application 865 Hub@Shipston (3.2.3)  |                   | £2,200           |
| <b>Total</b>  |                   | <b>£9,000</b>    |

#### 3.2 **Projects**

##### 3.2.1 **Application 866 Dig for Stour**

This project aims to support healthy through working in partnership with Quinton Primary school. The project will deliver 2 areas;

1. Kitchen Garden - providing opportunities for young people to cultivate, harvest and prepare their own fresh produce.
2. Family Allotments – for use by families with children who attend Quinton Primary School. This will encourage families to interact with school life.

*The requested fund allocation...*

When combined with funding from Quinton Primary School, allow children and parents to participate in growing and preparing their own food.

*Anticipated outcomes Include...*

- More people enjoy a healthier lifestyle by extending opportunities for leisure pursuits
- Promote healthy eating

### 3.2.2 **Application 864 Riverside Amenity Area**

The project will encourage use of the playing field and play equipment at the sports and social club by installing new picnic benches next to the river Stour, and signposting the site from the town centre.

*The requested fund allocation...*

Along side free installation to be carried out by Shipston Town Council, provide a new seated picnic and leisure area by the river stour

*Anticipated outcomes Include...*

- More people enjoying healthier lifestyle through outdoor play and activity
- Awareness and improvement to a green space within walking distance of Shipston Town Centre

### 3.2.3 **Application 865 Hub@Shipston**

The Hub@Blackwell is a successful adult and community learning centre. This project will support the Hub in branching out into Shipston by purchasing equipment to be used for a range of courses in anything from IT to genealogy and craft.

*The requested fund allocation...*

With external funding that is being sought to make necessary improvements to the fabric of the building, allow adult and community learning courses to be held at Norgren Social Club.

*Anticipated outcomes Include...*

- Residents of Shipston on Stour will have improved access to education
- Extend opportunities for leisure pursuits in Shipston on Stour
- Help local businesses improve access to training and development opportunities

## **4 OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 The Committee has the option in each case of awarding or rejecting funding allocation requests.

## **5 MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- 5.1 None received

## **6 IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL**

### **6.1 *Legal/Human Rights Implications***

- 6.1.1 At this stage there are no legal/ human rights implications to the projects detailed in this report if this changes the implications of those changes will be considered and appropriate action taken

### **6.2 *Financial***

- 6.2.1 The total budget available is detailed in 3.1 above.

### **6.3 *Environmental***

- 6.3.1 All projects will wherever possible be based upon sound environmental principles.

### **6.4 *Corporate Strategy***

- 6.4.1 The potential projects directly address aspects of the Council's Corporate Strategy and also link to the 2020 Vision for Stour and the Action plan derived from it

## **7 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 The individual projects all require, to greater or lesser degrees match funding to ensure their progress to fruition, some of the funds are secured others not and for this reason the projects collectively are categorised as medium risk

## **8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1.1 At this stage there is no adverse Equality Impact implications as all of the projects are intended to be for the direct or indirect benefit of all members of the community. If specific issues are identified at a later stage these will be considered and appropriate action taken

## **9 CONCLUSION**

The Vision, its derived Actions Plan and the project proposals contained within this report follow extensive community consultation over a period of two years. The deliberations of the dedicated Action Plan delivery group has resulted in the prioritisations identified. These are aimed at furthering the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of Shipston and its surrounding Hinterland. It is recommended that the proposals are supported.

Robert Walsh

HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES