

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Stratford-On-Avon Area Committee**

Date of Committee **21 September 2005**

Report Title **Review of past Community Development Fund grants**

Summary This report provides information to Councillors on the way in which Community Development Fund grants were spent for 2003/4, and an update for those funded in 2004/5.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers Guidance Notes and previous Application Forms

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Applies to all
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive David Carter, Reporting Officer
- Legal Peter Endall
- Finance David Preece
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No 4

Stratford-On-Avon Area Committee - 21 September 2005.

Review of past Community Development Fund grants

Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the Area Committee comments on the progress being made in the implementation of the projects funded by the Community Development Fund.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Community Development Fund was established to help small-scale community projects, particularly those in more deprived parts of the County. Applications are invited from local community and voluntary groups.
- 1.2 The arrangements for allocating the Community Development Fund have evolved over several years and the Area Committees have dealt with applications for the last five years.
- 1.3 When Area Committee agrees a grant to a project from its Community Development Fund, one of the conditions attached to the grant is that the organising group is requested to submit a brief final report and statement of accounts. This enables councillors to monitor progress of projects that have been funded through the Community Development Fund.
- 1.4 The Community Partnership Officer reviews the progress of each project, to ensure that it is delivered on time, and according to the original funding bid made.

2. Projects funded in 2003/4

At its meeting of 19 November 2003, the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee agreed awards for eight projects.

2.1 Inclusive Leisure Education Activities Project (ILEAP) - Scout Weekender

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee awarded a grant of £3,600 towards the total costs of the ILEAP Scout Weekender Project, to provide two

weekend breaks for disabled young people, aged 8-12 years and 13-18 years respectively, in partnership with the Scout Association.

The total cost of the Scout Weekender was £4,901.42, and the Community Development Fund grant was used towards the overall staff costs, camp fees (£315.75), and transport costs (£258.26).

The aim of the project was to raise confidence of participants, build self-esteem, and raise awareness of disability. The weekend breaks also gave members the opportunity to have new experiences and to provide a taste of Scouting in a safe and positive environment, which would serve as a stepping-stone for disabled young people to begin to take part in the Scouts within their local communities.

The weekend breaks took place on 5 and 6 June 2004, and 4 and 5 September 2004 at Broadwater Campsite in Meriden. For some young people, they were away from home for the first time.

The young people were given the opportunity to take part in challenging and rewarding activities within a mainstream setting, alongside their non-disabled peers, including abseiling, assault courses, archery, and go-carting.

The project also provided parents and carers with a break from caring, to in turn enable them to care more effectively, and also provided siblings of disabled young people time with their parents or carers.

The Scouts Association Count Commissioner presented certificates and overnight camp badges to attendees, and at least four of these have since gone on to become Scouts and Beavers with ILEAP support.

2.2 The Mayo Road Play Area Committee – Play Area Project

The Area Committee awarded £5,000 to the Mayo Road Play Area Committee, to provide a play area, cycle track and sensory garden at Mayo Road in Shipston-on-Stour. The play area was designed to be accessible to all children, disabled and able-bodied.

The Play Area itself was opened on 4 July 2004, with the official name of the 'Libby-Lou Play Area', named after the daughter of one of the residents involved. Footballer Dion Dublin performed the opening ceremony.

Equipment provided includes a roundabout, a seesaw, and a special needs multi-play unit.

There were delays with work on the sensory garden, due initially to the difficulties in recruiting volunteers for the work, and this was opened on 9 July 2005.

The Community Partnership Officer provided support throughout the duration of the project, and helped in obtaining donations from Pashley Cycles for a prize draw at the launch, support from the National Trust's Charlecote Park

with regard to advice on the sensory garden, and referrals for sources of potential volunteers.

The funding provided through the Community Development Fund was matched to other grants totalling £97,000 from a wide variety of sources including, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Living Spaces, the Lottery Awards for All, Tesco Community Awards, the Heart of England Community Foundation, plus a number of local businesses and other organisations.

Two members of the community group have since been recognised with Shipston-on-Stour's top community award.

2.3 Church and Community Project, the Graham Adams Centre, Southam – Building Bridges

A grant of £3,200 was awarded to the Church and Community Project at the Graham Adams Centre in Southam, to provide a roof over a central courtyard. This is part of a wider project to develop facilities and to release space for activities for young people, and to provide an area for a community café and ball pool for toddlers.

The cost of the roof was estimated at £80,000, with the total project costs originally estimated at £180,000, now £226,000. The Community Development Fund grant has been matched to a number of other grants including funding from Promoting Inclusion and Enterprise (PIE), Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Southam Town Council, Waste Recycling Environment Limited (WREN), Biffa, and Southam United.

The project experienced delays in securing funding for such a large amount and from a variety of sources. This in turn meant that the contractors identified to undertake the work were not able to allocate another time-slot until March 2005.

Work is now progressing, and a celebration event is planned for the autumn to mark the official opening of the new facilities and to thank all of those who have been involved.

A working group has been established to plan service provision, and a schedule of activities has been developed, with the community café and youth club for example each taking place on three days a week, plus a number of weekend activities, such as table-top sales, children's parties as well as sports and social activities. The centre will generate revenue from hiring space to other groups.

2.4 Brailes Village Hall Management Committee – Drainage of Playing Field

The Area Committee awarded £3,200 to the Brailes Village Hall Management Committee towards the drainage of the village hall playing field in Brailes (£13,942.85 in total). The project also received a grant of £3,000 from

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, £5,000 from the Heart of England Community Foundation, and £2,000 from Brailes Parish Council.

The work was undertaken by specialist contractors, and the project was completed on time in May 2004.

The field is now available for use by the community all year round, which had not previously been possible in the autumn and winter months. The project has ensured that the village hall and pavilion are better used, and enables the local primary school to make use of the sports area all year. It also provides year-round access for village children to the play area and equipment.

2.5 Escape: Community Art in Action – Escape Studley

The Area Committee agreed a grant of £5,000 to Escape: Community Art in Action for work in Studley. This was towards the development of a pilot community led project to provide a series of free inclusive creative workshops, operated on a drop-in basis, plus parent/child activities, informal health advice, taster sessions, informal social cooking activity, social events, training opportunities, and free child-care.

Escape worked with a number of partners and agencies to obtain direct referrals, including Studley Health Clinic, Stratford District Mencap, Stratford District Parenting Project, Connexions, the Family Support Team, Youth Offending Team, CHARM (Children's Area Risk Management), Alne Bank Learning Disability Day Service, and Redwoods Day Hospital.

The project started on 27 January 2004, with the initial pilot running for a four-month period, with a contribution from Community Education, and subsequent support from Warwickshire Children's Fund and Stratford District Parenting Project to help continue the work.

A full evaluation was undertaken at the end of the pilot project, which highlighted good attendance rates throughout its duration, and representation from people from a variety of backgrounds, including hard to reach groups. On average 18 people attended the core activities per week, though this figure does not include the number who 'dropped in'. 71% of participants were unemployed, 46% had a registered disability. The project also attracted 6% of attendees from the Black and Minority Ethnic community.

Escape – Studley has since been successful in obtaining a grant of £57,000 from the National Lottery's Community Fund to continue the project in Studley for three years.

2.6 Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Services (WDVSS) – furniture for Stratford Women's Refuge

A grant of £5,000 was awarded to WDVSS towards the total costs of furniture for Stratford Women's Refuge, a newly built refuge for victims of domestic violence.

Following some delays to building works, the refuge is now fully operational and opened to residents on 11 April 2005. The furniture provided through the Community Development Fund grant includes: wardrobes, drawer chests, coffee tables, beds and mattresses. The total cost of these items was £5,821.00.

The refuge itself offers much needed accommodation to victims of domestic violence. Victims contact the domestic violence helpline number and are referred from there to the refuge that offers five secure one and two bedroom flats.

2.7 Soroptimist International of Stratford-on-Avon and District – Data Link

The Area Committee awarded a grant of £4,350 to the Soroptimist International of Stratford-on-Avon and District towards the Data Link project, serving Stratford-on-Avon District. The project also received additional support from Land Rover, South Warwickshire Housing Association (SWHA), and Neighbourhood Watch.

Data Link is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, who might be reassured to know that essential information would be readily available to the Emergency Services, should they suffer sudden accident or illness. It ensures vital information is available to identify an individual, and to advise of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact addresses. The scheme works by storing details in a clearly labelled plastic container, which is kept in the participant's fridge. Labels, known to the Emergency Services and other care agencies are displayed in the home, one on the outside of the fridge and one inside.

The funding awarded was used to cover the production of canisters (£2502.69) and their distribution (£243.09), plus promotional costs (£1604.22).

Work began on 10 February 2004, and the project's official launch was held on 22 March 2004 at Stratford-upon-Avon Library. Nearly 10,000 canisters were distributed by August 2004.

2.8 Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council - Youth Meeting Points

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council was awarded a grant of £3,200 by the Area Committee, towards the overall costs of a project to install three youth shelters, two in the town of Bidford-on-Avon, and one in the village of Broom. The project also received an award of £3,879 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

A youth shelter was installed in October and November 2004 at the Big Meadow site in Bidford-on-Avon, at a total cost of £4333.00. Included in Appendix A is a photograph of the shelter.

The overall project has incurred a delay in establishing the sites for the remaining shelters because the Parish Council needs to undertake further

consultation with young people and residents. The Parish Council is endeavouring to encourage young people to get involved in the village through a Youth Forum at the monthly Parish Council meetings, and will notify the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee of progress.

3. Update on projects funded in 2004/5

At its meeting of 15 September 2004, the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee agreed awards for eight projects.

3.1 Wootton Wawen Village Hall Management Committee – Disabled Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities

The Area Committee awarded a grant of £5,000 to Wootton Wawen Village Hall Management Committee, towards the total costs of a project to install a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities at the village hall in Wootton Wawen

The costs were originally estimated at £5250, with the balance for the project to be paid by the Village Hall Management Committee.

The disabled toilet facilities and associated works were completed by January 2005, totalling £5250. Included in Appendix A is a photograph of the disabled toilet. The baby changing facilities will be installed during 2005, match funded by the Village Hall Management Committee.

3.2 Tanworth/Earlswood Childcare Services Development Project – Tanworth/Earlswood Nursery and Out of School Feasibility Study Group

A grant of £3,800 was given to the Tanworth/Earlswood Childcare Services Development Project, to fund the start up costs of a trust that will provide childcare services. This includes equipment, publicity and consultation costs, and training.

The overall project is to set up and run a community nursery and the owner of the current private nursery (run in the village hall) is willing to transfer this to the non-profit making trust. This will provide before and after school care and holiday activities for children in Earlswood, Tanworth-in-Arden, Ullenhall and the surrounding area. The long-term aim is to fundraise for a building on the site on Tanworth-in-Arden school as the current nursery faces difficulty in meeting OFSTED requirements.

Excellent progress has been made with the project – trustees have been recruited, and the deed of trust was finalised and signed at the inaugural trustees meeting on 18 November 2004. At least half of the trustees have not previously held a position on a local community committee or acted as a local trustee.

Consultation has been held with a number of key stakeholders including the Tanworth Education Foundation (owner of the school land and buildings), Tanworth School Governing Body, the Parish Council, the Church of England Birmingham Diocesan Board of Education (which covers the school), parents of children at the current Tanworth Nursery, and parents of pupils at Tanworth School. The latter involved a survey of parents' views on before and after school provision and holiday activity schemes. The results showed substantial interest in this type of childcare provision, which is not currently available in the area.

A design for a nursery building has been drawn up, and is being considered. Presentations are being planned to the Parish Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council with regard to the planning application for the building.

The group has so far claimed £2136.53 of the total award. This has paid for the purchase of a laptop computer, stationery, out of pocket expenses (including childcare and travel costs), and training on 'Success for Childcare' for three trustees.

3.3 The Ettington Crew Youth Club - Ettington Community Playing Field Equipment

The Area Committee awarded a grant of £5,000 to the Ettington Crew Youth Club for a project to provide equipment on the community playing field at Ettington, near the village hall. This will include play equipment for 8-14 year olds, and young children aged 6-10 years, plus a youth shelter.

A total of £15,000 has been raised towards the overall cost of the scheme, estimated at £20,000 and further progress is being monitored. Additional support has been provided by the Community Partnership Officer, including a referral to a one-to-one fundraising surgery run by Council for Voluntary Service with the Heart of England Community Foundation.

3.4 Youth Club and Temple Herdewyke Action Support Group - Skate Park Project

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee awarded £5,000 to the Youth Club and Temple Herdewyke Action Support Group towards a skate park project in Temple Herdewyke Village.

Much work was done to submit applications to other funders however, the project was unable to attract further support and was aborted. The award granted will be carried forward to this financial year, to be allocated with the Community Development Fund for 2005/6 at the next meeting of the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee on 23 November 2005.

3.5 Bishopton Community Nursery - Facilities Improvement

A grant of £3,000 was awarded by the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee to Bishopton Community Nursery, towards the overall costs of a project to

provide an additional toilet with disabled access, hot water for the children to wash their hands, and improvements to the outdoor area. Works commenced in February 2005 to provide the toilet, a heater and hot water. The total cost for this work was £2920. The Nursery planned further works to convert the entrance to the toilet for disabled access and for safety bars to be added.

A subsequent award was made to the overall project from the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust. The unspent balance of £80 will be carried forward to this financial year, to be allocated with the Community Development Fund for 2005/6, at the Area Committee meeting of 23 November 2005.

3.6 Napton Youth Club - A Youth Club for Napton

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee awarded a grant of £2,750 towards Napton Youth Club, to fund the set up costs of a fortnightly youth group for the community. The project was also awarded £500 from Napton Parish Council.

The need for the project was highlighted in a survey of young people by Napton Parish Council, in preparing a Parish Plan. The youth club is now open to all young people of all abilities, aged 12 and above, from the Napton, and the surrounding area of Shuckborough, Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and Southam. No similar services were previously available outside Southam.

The grant has now been spent in full, on time, and a final report and statement of accounts are expected shortly. The grant funded administration costs (including stationery), funding for events and activities, equipment and a storage shed. Equipment purchased included a table tennis table and bat set, a tabletop football game.

3.7 Henley SK8 Cru - Henley-in-Arden Skate Park

A grant of £5,000 was awarded to Henley SK8 Cru towards the first phase of a project to provide a skating area adjacent to the Youth and Community Centre in Henley-in-Arden, to fund initial ground works and surfacing.

Good progress is being made in securing match funding for the total project costs of £42,735. Over £32,000 has been raised so far from a variety of sources including Stratford District Council, and South Warwickshire Youth Bank, with donations received from the community and local businesses. Additional fundraising events have taken place recently, including a 'Gourmet Garden Party' on 19 August 2005.

3.8 First Steps to Health, Shipston-on-Stour – First Steps to Health

The Area Committee awarded £3,000 towards First Steps to Health in Shipston-on-Stour, to expand and promote a project to provide 'Healthy

Walks'. The award will be used towards promotional materials, and to provide training for volunteers involved in leading walks locally.

First Steps to Health was originally part of the 'Waking the Way to Health', a national initiative to get people walking. It was initially funded through this scheme, and the project proved so successful that members of the local community have formed an independent community group to run and expand the scheme, with the support of a co-ordinator.

After some initial delays in establishing the group, and obtaining insurance for the scheme, the project is progressing and will be further monitored.

DAVID CARTER
County Solicitor and Assistant
Chief Executive

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Warwick
September 2005