

Area North Committee – 27th February 2008

14. Frontline Councillors Community Grants Scheme

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Purpose of the Report

To report on the progress of the pilot Frontline Councillor Grant scheme in Area North.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note and comment on the report.

Background

The Frontline Member Grant scheme was introduced as a pilot initiative, as part of the Councils work to enhance Area Working, promoting the role of the frontline councillor. This was approved by Full Council in December 2006 and a budget allocation made by District Executive to provide each councillor with £2,500 to support local community projects. The detailed arrangements for the scheme were agreed in July 2007, with an agreement to evaluate the success of the scheme in April 2008.

The aims of the scheme

- To enhance the role of Ward Members as Community Champions, providing them with the tools to support local groups in their communities and become more involved in local projects.
- Provide an opportunity for Ward Members to support projects they know that meet identified local needs.
- Enable projects to secure funding when they don't meet the criteria and priorities of other funding programmes.
- Provide a quick and easy, accessible pot to enable projects to get off the ground.
- Ensure flexibility to enable projects to secure their last bit of funding, and ensure that other SSDC grant money (particularly Area Grants) is not being held up by delayed projects.

Full details of the scheme are included in Appendix A.

The scheme is administered by the Area Support Team Leader, with the authorisation of grants delegated to the Head of Area Development. A quarterly report will be provided to the Area Committee on the grants awarded by each member.

Grants awarded (1st July – 31st January 2008)

App No	Parish	Project description	Grant amount	% of project cost
Ann Campbell			<i>Total</i> £ 1,900.00	13%
FC/07/05	Martock	Martock Youth Centre Refurbishment	£ 500.00	2%

App No	Parish	Project description	Grant amount	% of project cost
FC/07/06	Long Load	Improvement to entrance of Long Load	£ 600.00	12%
FC/07/79	Martock	Replace broken Boiler in Scout Hut	£ 300.00	12%
FC/07/108	Martock	To provide canopy for outside play area	£ 500.00	25%
Derek Yeomans			<i>Total</i> £ 2,500.00	40%
FC/07/07	Puckington	Parish Church Path Safety Resurfacing	£ 700.00	25%
FC/07/14	Kingsbury Episcopi	Redecoration of East Lambrook School Room	£ 600.00	70%
FC/07/18	Muchelney	Renovation of the Lady Chapel - installation of lighting and fixtures	£ 550.00	3%
FC/07/22	Barrington	New Village Hall Noticeboard	£ 650.00	61%
Jill Beale			<i>Total</i> £ 50.00	23%
FC/07/32	Compton Dundon	Junior Cricket Coaching	£50.00	23%
Keith Ronaldson			<i>Total</i> £ 2,500.00	25%
FC/07/57	Shepton Beauchamp	Renovation of Play area facilities, including hedge laying	£ 2,500.00	25%
Patrick Palmer			<i>Total</i> £ 1,400.00	12%
FC/07/08	Martock	Martock Youth Centre Refurbishment	£ 500.00	2%
FC/07/09	Long Load	Improvement to entrance of Long Load	£ 600.00	12%
FC/07/80	Martock	Replace broken boiler in Scout Hut	£ 300.00	12%
Paul Robathan			<i>Total</i> £ 1,494.32	63%
FC/07/67	Lopen	Printer, Paper & Sundries	£294.32	100%
FC/07/68	South Petherton	Cricket Club Flag	£250.00	100%
FC/07/71	South Petherton	Continue the provision of Bus café	£750.00	50%
FC/07/78	Lopen	Create new disabled toilet	£200.00	1%
Rupert Cox			<i>Total</i> £2,010.00	38%
FC/07/41	Long Sutton	Refurbishment and extension of BMX Track	£500.00	9%
FC/07/42	Pitney	Refurbishment of Play Area & creation of a cricket net area	£500.00	14%
FC/07/43	High Ham	Replacement of crockery and cutlery at village hall	£350.00	47%
FC/07/45	High Ham	High Ham Parish website	£160.00	100%
FC/07/56	Aller	Replacement of old bus shelter	£500.00	20%
Sue Steele			<i>Total</i> £1,800.00	48%
FC/07/11	Hambridge and Westport	Refurbishment of Hambridge village hall	£ 300.00	17%
FC/07/19	Beercrocombe	Preservation of Village Green	£ 300.00	40%
FC/07/55	Isle Abbots	New toys and play equipment	£300.00	88%
FC/07/94	Isle Brewers	Fixture of a durable bench	£300.00	81%
FC/07/98	Curry Mallet	New toys and play equipment	£300.00	100%
FC/07/110	Fivehead	Village Hall Enhancement	£300.00	20%
Sylvia Seal			<i>Total</i> £ 1,800.00	48%
FC/07/73	Norton sub Hamdon	Protective cases for film viewing equipment	£100.00	83%
FC/07/74	Stoke sub Hamdon	Hall fees for Stoke Youth Club	£700.00	58%

App No	Parish	Project description	Grant amount	% of project cost
FC/07/75	Norton sub Hamdon	Flooring for changing rooms in village hall	£1,000.00	3%
Tony Canvin			<i>Total</i> £50.00	23%
FC/07/31	Compton Dundon	Junior Cricket Coaching	£50.00	23%

The deadline for Members to award their grant allocation is March 2008.

Financial Implications

None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Applying the frontline councillor grant scheme contributes to a number of corporate priorities, at a very local level

- 8 Work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision
- 9 Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas
- 11 Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all
- 15 Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who generally feel engaged in and can influence decision that affect their communities
- 16 Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live
- 17 Increase economic vitality and prosperity.

Other Implications

The frontline councillor grant scheme provides the ward member with a simple means to make relatively small contributions to important parish projects – many of which have arisen through parish plans, or other identified local need. In addition councillors can support many of the priorities within the Area North Development Plan.

Background Papers: *Area North Councillor Grant file*
District Executive Report 7th December 2006
Full Council Report 14th December 2006
Full Council Report 19th July 2007