

Area West – 19th September 2007

9. Update on the Outcomes of the Chard Community Forum held in February 2007

Head of Service: Andrew Gillespie, Head of Area Development (West)
Lead Officer: Bob Chedzoy, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: bob.chedzoy@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01460) 260359

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the outcomes of the Chard Community Forum held in February 2007.

Recommendations

That members note the contents of the report.

Background

On the 21st February this year Chard held its first community forum event. The forum was a great success with nearly 100 local people attending and giving their views on the projects proposed for the town. As part of the forum process, local people voted to award money to nine projects in Chard. Following the forum, members asked to be kept informed as to the outcomes of these allocations of money.

Report

At the Chard Community Forum event nine schemes received sufficient local support to be approved for funding. The schemes, allocations agreed and spending to date are as follows:

Organisation/Contact	Allocation Agreed	Spend to Date	Remaining
Chard Disability Action Group	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Chard in Bloom	£400.00	£400.00	£0.00
Somerset Portuguese Society	£4,250.00	£4,250.00	£0.00
Avishayes Swimming Pool	£2,500.00	Nil	£2,500.00
Chard Youth Centre	£5,000.00	£3,397.44	£1,602.56
Chard Christmas Lights Action Group	£5,000.00	Nil	£5,000.00
Chard Museum	£2,500.00	£2,188.44	£311.56
CLOKS - Chard Light Operatic Kids Society	£3,500.00	£900.00	£2,600.00
Chard Girl Guides	£3,500.00	£2,522.43	£977.57
Total	£28,650.00	£15,658.31	£12,991.69

Reports back from the nine projects indicate the following:

The Chard Disability Action Group

The Group have placed an order for a disabled swing and it is to be delivered and installed within the next month.

Chard in Bloom

The flower planters were provided and an impressive floral display provided throughout the summer.

Somerset Portuguese Association

A successful friendship festival was staged in Chard during the week of 22nd – 28th August. Seven events were held including a football tournament, fado evening, film night and craft fair. The event received favourable press coverage and most of the events were well supported by people from both the Portuguese and non Portuguese speaking communities.

Avishayes Swimming Pool

The applicants have contacted us asking if they can delay spend on this project until 2008 as there has been a delay to some of their building plans.

Chard Youth Centre

Chard Youth Centre has carried out a successful renovation of one of their community rooms, which has allowed them to increase centre bookings and thereby improve their own financial sustainability.

Chard Christmas Lights Action Group

The Chard Christmas Lights Action Group has not yet spent their grant allocation. The group wrote explaining that spend was unlikely to take place until the end of the year as this is when they purchase their lighting equipment.

Chard Museum

The museum has successfully developed its own website <http://www.chardmuseum.co.uk/> which has been favourably received. The site is a dynamic one, capable of being updated by the museum group. The group are currently in the process of advertising the site and creating links to other sites including the SSDC website.

CLOKS

Chard light Operatic Kids Society has staged a successful production of “One day in the sun” involving a large number of local children. The chairman of CLOKS has written to the Committee saying:

“Thank you once again for believing in us and for giving the children of Chard and its area a chance to become involved in the world of singing and drama”.

Chard Girl Guides

Chard Girl Guides have had a number of successful camps using the new camping equipment, which their grant allowed them to purchase.

Financial Implications

None.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

None.

Background Papers: *Report to Area West Committee – 20th December 2006*
