6. Presentation from Opportunity Chard 2009 Winners

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Purpose of the Presentations

A year on from the 2009 Opportunity Chard event all the money has been spent. Representatives from three of the successful projects have been asked to give a short presentation to members to provide an update on what benefit the funding gave them and their experience of going through the Opportunity process.

In 2009, 32 applications were made to Opportunity Chard, of those 20 went forward to deliver a 3 minute presentation and the public were invited to vote. 713 votes were cast and £38,325 was awarded to various community groups.

Streetspace were the overwhelming winners of the night and received £5,000 as pump priming funding so that they could apply to the Lottery's Community Spaces fund for additional equipment at the Henson Park Skatepark. The support from the Opportunity event was a very positive addition to their successful application to the lottery, which gained them £49,999 to complete the necessary works. The new ramps are anticipated to be completed by July 2010.

Chard Methodist Church Friday Club are a good example of how a small amount of funding can make a huge difference. They were awarded £700 to buy additional sports and play equipment. Purchasing items such as table football, bats and balls they have been able to widen the activities available to the young people who attend.

South West Somerset Branch of the Alzheimer's Society received £3,240 to help establish a memory café in Chard. Celebrating their 1st birthday last month, this project has been a huge success supporting those with Alzheimers and delivering a necessary service for the benefit of the community.