

Community Partnerships Scheme

Six projects returned applications to the Community Partnership Scheme but one from Shardlow Parish Council for improvements to play equipment was withdrawn at the last moment when alternative funding from within the Leisure Facilities budget was identified. The remaining five applications are summarised below:

Burton YMCA – Happy Homes South Derbyshire – Furniture Van

Burton YMCA are seeking £3,750 towards a second hand van to support a furniture re-use service by collecting and delivering items. The project would operate through a team of driver and volunteers /trainees who would collect unwanted furniture items across the area. These would then be stored and matched to genuine needs identified by agencies or interviews with clients before being delivered free except for a token handling charge. The running costs would be financed through a second hand furniture shop staffed by volunteers and trainees in Swadlincote Town Centre selling donated items at a very low cost.

The YMCA have previously operated a similar scheme in Burton and already deliver to around 200 South Derbyshire homes. Although the balance of funding has not yet been secured other projects have managed to secure finance for vans through grant applications.

Findern Parish Council – Parish Rooms

Findern Parish Council are seeking £25,000 towards a project to repair and update the parish rooms and have set up an improvement committee consisting of interested individuals and user groups to develop the project.

The Parish Rooms were originally two cottages purchased over 100 years ago as a community centre for the village. Although still in limited use they have fallen into disrepair and require renovations that will retain their visual appeal at the centre of the village but allow for conversion from 2 rooms into 3 with kitchen, office and disabled toilets as additional facilities. The primary uses will be for training and small meetings, which should complement facilities available at the village hall.

The group has raised £3,700 itself towards the estimated cost of the work (£58,000) and has outstanding applications in hand for £37,000 to the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, Tesco and John Sainsbury Foundation.

Local residents have already undertaken some minor repairs to the fabric of the building and are engaged in community consultation exercises to ensure the rooms meet the villagers' needs.

Linton Brick Room

The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church Linton and Castle Gresley are requesting £25,000 towards the refurbishment of the "Brick Room" which is a church owned community facility. The refurbishment includes renewing the roof and floor, rewiring, upgrading heating, refitting the kitchen and improving access.

The total cost of the project is £89,778. The church has raised £13,000 of its own funds plus £20,046 from WREN, and £9,009 from a variety of other sources including £2,000 from Lloyds Community Foundation, and £2,000 from the Francis Wyndham Foundation. They also have applications pending to the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Derbyshire Community Foundation.

The overall aim of the project is to provide the residents of Linton with an improved, modernised, accessible community facility and increase community activity particularly for the young, the elderly and those with disabilities. Community consultation and various letters of support bear out the need for the project.

The project has been phased and prioritised and this application particularly relates to the second of three phases.

Melbourne Methodist Church – Athenaeum – a young peoples Internet coffee bar

The Church intends to convert the first floor of one of its premises into an Internet coffee bar. It is also seeking funding separately for a full time coffee bar manager (youth worker) to run the facility.

The project recognises the need for a young peoples meeting place in Melbourne and the project organisers have met regularly with local young people to determine what they want. It is anticipated that the facility will be made available to other non-youth groups during the day. The building for conversion was built 150 years ago and it is intended that the entire first floor be made available. This includes two large rooms; male and female toilets, a small kitchen and two separate stone built stairways at either end of the building. The Church and other organisations already use the ground floor of the building.

The conversion has been costed at £30,000. To date the church has £10,000 from it's own funds, £3,000 from grant applications and an application to WREN for £10,000 pending. The organisation and management of the project so far has been carried out on a purely voluntary basis and has attracted some support from local organisations and local media.

Staunton Harold Sailing Club

Staunton Harold Sailing Club are looking for a contribution towards the cost of sailing dinghies and windsurfers. This equipment will be used to introduce new people to the sport, offer new courses and allow for advanced techniques, and increase opportunities for youth training, corporate events and disabled access. The increase in fleet size is part of the clubs development plan.

The club is a non-profit making organisation operating from Staunton Harold since 1974 and managed by a committee with as much input from the members and consideration of the needs of the local community as possible.

The anticipated total project cost is £37,326 and to date the club have secured £10,450 largely from their own funds. They have identified some other funders to whom to make applications to but have been turned down by Sport England largely due to a decrease in their budget and an increase in their applicants.

Club members do provide a lot of voluntary instruction throughout the year, which amounts to a significant non-cash contribution to the project.

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PRIORITISING PROJECTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME :
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Project appraisals will be undertaken for all applications submitted. The assessment will be as follows: -

Step One The project must meet one or more of the Council's aims or objectives. Meeting this minimum threshold allows each project to progress to the full assessment and prioritisation stage.

COUNCIL AIMS & OBJECTIVES (Weighting 15%)
1 What are the main aims and objectives, which the project will contribute towards?

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|---|---|
| 3 | Essential contribution to agreed Council aim/objective |
| 2 | Key contribution to agreed Council aim/objective or agreed strategy |
| 1 | Contribution to Council aim/objective or outline strategy |
| 0 | Minor or no contribution |

Step Two Further assessments against the following questions will be made to score and prioritise each project

EXTERNAL FUNDING (20% Weighting)
2 Is the project likely to secure external funding?
 > What conditions apply to the external funding?

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| 3 | All external funding secured or likely to be secured |
| 2 | Some funding secured, other bids submitted and likely to be successful |
| 1 | Bids submitted for funding, outcome unclear |
| 0 | No other bids made, other funding unlikely |

SUSTAINABILITY (Weighting 25%)
3 How have the capital costs been assessed?
 > What action could be taken if the final capital costs exceeded the budget?
 > Would other partners increase their contributions if capital costs rose?

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|---|---|
| 3 | Estimates over the last 12 months with professional input |
| 2 | Estimates produced over 12 months ago but uprated for inflation |
| 1 | Some attempt to estimate costs based on similar schemes |
| 0 | No detailed estimated |

4 What assumptions have been made in assessing running costs?

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| 3 | Detailed assessment based on experience of similar projects |
| 2 | Indication of costs of similar projects elsewhere |
| 1 | Some attempt to look at experience elsewhere |
| 0 | Lack of detail and little basis on previous projects |

5 What evidence of need is there for the project?

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| 3 | Extensive research and consultation |
| 2 | Some research and consultation |
| 1 | Little research and consultation |
| 0 | No research or consultation |

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6 **Is there a clear forward strategy in place?**

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| 3 | Forward strategy documented and in place |
| 2 | Some consideration given to a forward strategy |
| 1 | Little consideration given to a forward strategy |
| 0 | No forward strategy |

7 **Is the organisation able to support running of the project?**

- > Are there appropriate structures and mechanisms for management and finance?
- > Are the management responsibilities clearly defined?
- > Are there any procedures in place for monitoring?

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| 3 | Organisation fully equipped to manage project |
| 2 | Organisation capable of managing project |
| 1 | Management capabilities of organisation weak |
| 0 | Organisation unable to manage project |

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Weighting 20%)8 **Are volunteers and the community involved in the project?**

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| 3 | Large scale volunteer and community involvement in the project |
| 2 | Some volunteer and community involvement in the project |
| 1 | Little volunteer and community involvement in the project |
| 0 | No volunteer and community involvement in the project |

9 **What impact will the project have on the community?**

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|---|---|
| 3 | Large scale impact on the local community |
| 2 | Significant impact on the local community |
| 1 | Limited impact on the local community |
| 0 | Minor impact on the local community |

VALUE FOR MONEY (Weighting 10%)10 **Does the project offer value for money?**

- > Does the project add value to any other Council activity, strategy, spending programme?
- > Would the project be able to go ahead without Council support?

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| 3 | Project offers excellent value for money |
| 2 | Project offers value for money |
| 1 | Project offers some value or money |
| 0 | Project offers little or no value for money |

RISK (Weighting 5%)11 **Are risks clearly identified?**

- > Are their contingency plans for dealing with them?
- > Is the project deliverable in the time scale envisaged?
- > How dependent is the project on factors outside the control of the lead partner?
- > Are substantial risks justified by potentially high outcomes?

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| 3 | Risks identified and contingency plans in place |
| 2 | Some risk analysis and management |
| 1 | Little risk analysis and management |
| 0 | No risk analysis |

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (*Weighting 5%*)12 *Is there any evidence of commitment to equal opportunity principles?*

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| 3 | Project underpinned by equality of opportunity |
| 2 | Some reference to equality of opportunity |
| 1 | Little reference to equality of opportunity |
| 0 | No reference to equality of opportunity |

The initial appraisal will be carried out by the Partnership Development Officer and a panel of three Councillors who will make recommendations to the Council's Housing and Community Services Committee. The Housing and Community Services Committee will then make the final decision on which projects to support.

