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**REPORT TO:** Housing and Community Services      **AGENDA ITEM:** 7  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 12 October 2006      **CATEGORY:**  
**REPORT FROM:** Director of Community Services      **DELEGATED OPEN**  
**MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:** M Roseburgh/D Fenton      **DOC:**  
**SUBJECT:** Community Partnerships Scheme      **REF: HCS 07**  
**WARD(S) AFFECTED:** All

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award three grants to

The Woodland Trust – Land Acquisition at Botany Bay	£25,000
South Derbyshire Organ Trust – Preserve and enhance Pipe Organ	£ 8,000
Frank Wickham Charity Trust - Village Hall Refurbishment	£ 5,945

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnerships Scheme and seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme.

### **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme for 2006/07 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.
- 3.2 In total three applications were received for the second bidding round of 2006/07 asking for £38,945 against a remaining budget of £147,652.

### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 from an annual budget of £100,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership Development Officer and the Community Partnerships Officer, assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.
- 4.2 The following applications were received and considered for the second round of the scheme in 2006/07:

## **The Woodland Trust – Land Acquisition at Botany Bay**

This project is requesting funding to purchase 39 hectares of current agricultural land at Linton within the National Forest and transform it into mixed woodland habitats. They plan to:

- Develop the land into woodland, wood pasture and wildflower areas;
- Open up access to the land and encourage visitors to the site;
- Actively involve the local community, in particular school children, in practical activities on the site;
- Link with existing habitats to create a wooded area in extent to 650 acres

The total cost of the project is £100,000, which includes the total cost of the land acquisition, access and boundary works. They have raised £25,000 towards the project already and have submitted a grant application to BIFFA for £40,000.

## **South Derbyshire Organ Trust – Preserve and enhance Pipe Organ**

South Derbyshire Organ Trust is a new organisation whose first project is to refurbish, enlarge and re-install the organ formerly in Ebenezer Methodist Church, Newhall into the Hill Street Baptist Church, Swadlincote. The organ will be completely restored and include state of the art data capture systems. The restoration will safeguard the annual performance of Handel's Messiah by the Swadlincote Messiah Choral Society, which has been performed in Swadlincote for 100 years. The Trust also wants to encourage tuition and education with young people in particular and will be offering free lessons to further this aim.

The total cost of this project is £32,000. The Trust have received a number of private donations totalling £5,300, anticipate further donations, have started a company sponsorship campaign and have made an application to the Coalfield Regeneration Trust for £5,000. They also hold concerts the proceeds of which go initially towards the capital project and will then cover running costs.

## **Frank Wickham Charity Trust – Village Hall Refurbishment**

This charity provides and maintains a village hall for the local residents of Etwell and surrounding areas. They are proposing to re-furbish both the kitchen area (the current one is very old and inadequate for practical and health and safety reasons) and the toilets particularly as there are no toilets for small children in the building. The application was supported by consultation with and letters of support from user groups identifying these aspects of the facilities as being priorities for improvement.

The total of this project is £23,783. The local parish council and playgroup are contributing £1,500 to the project and Toyota has donated £1,000 towards kitchen appliances. The Trust have also submitted grant applications to the Derbyshire Community Foundation and the Lottery's Awards for All programme.

- 4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 13 September 2006 to score the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions,

value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

Once the weightings had been applied the final scores of the projects were as follows:

<b>Woodlands Trust</b>	<b>6.50</b>
<b>South Derbyshire Organ Trust</b>	<b>5.67</b>
<b>Frank Wickham Charity Trust</b>	<b>5.50</b>

- 4.4 The point previously used, as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee was 4.67. The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant was therefore as follows:

<b>Woodlands Trust</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>South Derbyshire Organ Trust</b>	<b>£ 8,000</b>
<b>Frank Wickham Charity Trust</b>	<b>£ 5,945</b>

- 4.5 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources the projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. A successful project will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnership Scheme's budget allocation.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy and improving access to leisure and cultural activities. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

- 7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme continues to provide the District Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the

quality of life for local residents. It also enables the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 2 2006-07