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REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	19
DATE OF MEETING:	3 February 2005	CATEGORY:	
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh/D Townley-Jones	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Community Partnerships Scheme	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	HCS07

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### 1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling **£67,367** to:

Aston On Trent Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall Upgrade	£25,000
Money Spider Credit Union	Administration & Outreach Services	£ 3,367
Repton Pre-School	Building for the Future	£22,000
Woodville Parish Council	Garden of Remembrance	£15,750
Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust	Bretby Art Pottery Showroom, Woodville	£ 1,250

### 2.0 Purpose of Report

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

### 3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2003/04 has continued according to the same processes and procedures as was agreed when the scheme was launched last year with the addition of formalised terms of reference. In addition to allocating grants, the scheme allows for funding advice and project development support to the voluntary and community sector.

3.2 In total six applications were received for the third bidding round of 2004/05 asking for £73,114 against a remaining budget for the year of £102,475. Five applications were recommended to receive a grant and one recommended to receive additional support prior to a resubmission.

### 4.0 Detail

4.1 A revamped Community Partnership Scheme was re-launched midway through 2002/03 offering capital grants of up to £25,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising of five Councillors, with advice

from the Partnership Development Officer was set up to assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.

4.2 In addition to simply operating a grants programme, the Community Partnership Scheme through the Partnership Development Officer and the Community Partnerships Officer is also able to offer some advice in relation to making funding applications, sources of funding and project development. Further in some instances the officer is able to offer direct project development support.

4.3 The amount of grant available for distribution through the Scheme has been increased from £50,000 in 2002/03 to £150,000 in 2003/04 and 2004/05. The total available for distribution this year is £176,975 as £26,975 has been carried forward from last years scheme due to some under strength applications and some project underspend.

4.4 In Rounds 1 and 2 of the scheme, five grants were made totalling £74,500 to:

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust	£ 6,000
Church Broughton Village Hall & PF Committee	£ 1,000
Findern Parish Rooms	£17,500
Hilton Harriers Football Club	£25,000
West Street Development – Phase 1	£25,000

4.5 The applications received and considered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round were as follows:

**Woodville Parish Council – Garden of Remembrance  
(Requesting £15,750)**

One of the Parish Council's priorities was to establish a Garden of Remembrance. A dedicated working group was established to realise the project that included members from various interest groups, such as the Parish Council, British Legion, Methodist, Local School etc.

The Parish Council wanted to explore, document and celebrate the heritage of the Woodville area by creating a formal Garden of Remembrance on land currently owned by the Methodist Church. The land is currently overgrown, underused and the church would be pleased to pass on the ownership.

The Garden project would include a re-sited war memorial and environmental improvements linked to the creation of an accessible garden and a heritage area that reflects the rich heritage of Woodville. This will include a heritage mosaic designed by local school children, a re-created rope walk, a re-sited Victorian post box and up to 10 heritage interpretation boards.

The project would involve the community in discovering and acknowledging their heritage by undertaking activities with community participation in mind through events such as workshops, memory/recollections sessions, outdoor educational training etc.

Home Developers such as Radleigh Homes, Wilson Homes and Wimpey also support the project by providing both cash contributions and in kind support in relation to drawings and technical information.

The anticipated total project cost is £83,000. The project has requested £15,750 from this scheme. Some of the remaining funding has been matched from the Local

Heritage Initiative and various Developers. Other applications are in the pipeline to secure the shortfall.

### **Aston On Trent Memorial Hall – Upgrade of building (Requesting £25,000)**

The Aston-on-Trent Memorial Hall was built around 1924 as the memorial to the men of the village who lost their lives during the First World War. Although this building has been carefully maintained, the kitchen and sanitation areas are inadequate by modern standards. The present building is also not able to cope with the increasing demands of the expanding village of Aston.

The building accommodates many local activity groups including playgroups, scouts/brownies, Women's Institute, Social activities for older members of the village, public meetings, musical activities and sports classes etc.

The aim of the project would be to enhance and upgrade the memorial hall to meet the existing needs of Aston's expanding community, to incorporate facilities for the disabled and to provide the opportunity for additional activities.

The project has consulted current user groups and the remainder population of the village and this has demonstrated an overwhelming need for expansion of the current facilities that would be fully utilised by current and new user groups covering various age ranges, from toddlers to senior citizens.

Architectural drawings have been commissioned and have been granted full planning permission. A surveyor has been engaged to make preliminary assessments of the costs and to project manage the building phase of the work.

The total project cost is anticipated at £403,000. The project has requested £25,000 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from various sources such as Big Lottery Fund, WREN, Biffaward etc. They also have some funding from their own reserves.

### **Repton Pre-School – Building for the Future (Requesting £22,000)**

Repton Pre-school has been established for 40 years and has a proven track record of effective service and financial management. It provides pre school education for the children of Repton and surrounding areas. Children between 2½ - 4 years from a range of economic, social and cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to learn through play and activities, in a happy and stimulating environment.

The projects aim is to continue providing high quality, affordable pre-school education in a safe secure and stimulating environment by relocating the facility into a new building facility.

The project currently use a building owned by the Guide and Scout Association and due to a 65% rent increase in 2003-04 and a further 73% rent increase in 2004-05, the committee has serious concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the pre-school within its existing premises. A survey of parents and carers demonstrated support for the development and both the LEA and Repton Primary School are also in support of this project.

The total project cost is anticipated at £88,050. The project has requested £22,000 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from various sources such as Lloyds TSB Foundation, the local parish council, the co-op community fund and Sainsbury's charitable trust. They also have some funding from their reserves, totalling £20,000.

**Money Spider Credit Union – Administration & Outreach Services  
(Requesting £4,605)**

The Money Spider Credit Union is a non-profit savings and loans co-operative, promoting financial prudence and offering low cost credit to members. Membership is currently open to anyone living or working in South Derbyshire. The organisation currently has 92 members. The credit union is ran by a Board of Directors who meet monthly. In addition two sub-committees, several ad-hoc groups and an internal audit committee, all meet regularly and report to the board.

The project aims to integrate existing IT systems onto standard industry software and develop ICT systems to two further collection points outside the Swadlincote Urban Core. This would enhance the service already provided and enable volunteers to out reach to more areas within South Derbyshire.

The total project cost is anticipated at £18,517. The project has requested £4,605 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from various sources such as DDEP, Derbyshire Learning Consortium, County Council and Community Champions.

**Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust – Bretby Art Pottery Showroom  
(Requesting £1,250)**

The Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust's aim is to identify neglected or abandoned historic buildings in the county in danger of decay or demolition, and to work for their preservation and modernisation without damage to their essential character. The organisation has been in existence for 30 years.

The project has established a listed showroom and a small section of the former works is now all that remains of Bretby Art Pottery. It has been empty and deteriorating for over six years and is on the Derbyshire "Buildings at Risk" register.

The aim of the study is to assess the feasibility of restoring it and giving it a viable new use. The extent and cost of repair, restoration and conversion will be assessed as will the viability of a range of uses. If the viability can be established, the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust will carry out the repair and then the building will be sold.

The total project cost is anticipated at £5,000. The project has requested £1,250 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from The Architectural Heritage Fund.

**Phoenix After School and Holiday Club – Phase 1 Ebenezer  
(Requesting £5,747)**

The organisation provides inclusive out of school care for children between the ages of 3 – 16 years. The organisation has a voluntary management committee made up

of members of the community and parents who use the service. The committee employ a full-time chief executive to manage the day-to-day running of organisation.

The aim of the project is refurbish a church building, refitting the kitchen area, adding a disabled toilet and ensuring disabled access to the building.

To ensure the viability of the project, they must secure a long-term lease allowing for future development that is currently being negotiated with the church.

The total project cost is anticipated at £33,065. The project has requested £5,747 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from the organisations own reserve, county council and the coalfield regeneration trust. However it is unclear as to which funding bodies have committed at this stage.

- 4.6 The Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel met on January 18<sup>th</sup> and scored 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.

In the discussion prior to the scoring of the application from Phoenix After School and Holiday club the panel identified some concerns around the financial information provided, principally that the budget, quotes for work and grant information did not accurately balance. For this reason the panel decided not to score the application but instead requested that an officer visit the project, advise on presentation of financial information and support Phoenix in submitting a revised application to the next panel meeting.

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

Aston On Trent Memorial Hall	7.67
Money Spider Credit Union	6.67
Repton Pre-School	6.50
Woodville Parish Council – Garden of Remembrance	6.33
Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust	5.67

- 4.7 All five out of the six projects assessed scored higher than the point previously used as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee (4.67).

The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is therefore as follows:

Aston On Trent Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall Upgrade	£25,000
Money Spider Credit Union	Administration & Outreach Services	£ 3,367
Repton Pre-School	Building for the Future	£22,000
Woodville Parish Council	Garden of Remembrance	£15,750
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The grant allocated to Money Spider Credit Union was reduced from their original request of £4,605 to £3,367 in order to fit in with scheme guidelines allowing for grant of up to 25% of capital costs.

- 4.8 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources all projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects 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 Partnerships 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 reintroduced 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 3 2004/05