

Minutes



Listening Learning Leading

OF A MEETING OF THE

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND PANEL

HELD AT 10.00AM ON 12 JUNE 2007

AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Present:

Ms J Bland, Mr D Bretherton, Mrs J Carr, Capt J Flood, Ms E Gillespie, Ms R Myer, Mr M Newland, Mr J Nowell-Smith, Rev'd A Paterson, Mrs P Slatter, Ms P Tomlinson

Officers:

Mrs J Bolton, Ms V Taylor, Mrs J Thompson

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED

To elect Capt J Flood as Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The Panel decided to dispense with the appointment of a Vice-Chairman.

3. Bids for funding from the Community Investment Fund

St Thomas' of Canterbury Church, Goring on Thames

Mr B Loveridge (Churchwarden), Rev'd M Blamey (parish priest), and Rev'd C Hargreaves (Curate) representing St Thomas' of Canterbury Church presented their application for grant aid towards the cost of an extension to the side of the church building to accommodate a servery and two meeting rooms, providing accommodation for social, educational and mission purposes for people of all ages within the village. They answered questions from the Panel.

They outlined the church's plans to provide a new extension with good quality facilities for local residents and local community groups, to cater for the needs of a vibrant community. The extension and reordering of the church would provide a multi-purpose space for worship and wider community use, including meetings,

children's groups, music events which complemented heavily-used facilities elsewhere in the village. Although Goring and Streatley had good community buildings, demand for rooms exceeded supply and more small groups were starting up. The extension could if necessary house the post office if the main branch was closed. A management committee would oversee the letting of the church and extension to ensure that the two interlinked spaces worked together. The design was environmentally sustainable with a number of renewable sources of energy and energy-efficient design. All necessary permissions were in place, and the balance of funding could be covered by a loan to allow work to start immediately.

Dorchester Sailing Club

Mr P Fleming and Mr D Gray, training officer, presented the application for grant aid towards the cost of building a new club house with changing, showering and toilet facilities, a kitchen, social area and training room with disabled access. The existing clubhouse would be converted to workshop and storage. He answered questions from the Panel.

He explained the background of the club and the reasons for the application. The club offered a variety of sailing, training, and schools activities. The current clubhouse had inadequate changing facilities to encourage families and female members, and had little accommodation for on-shore activities. Better facilities would allow more use of the lake shore by non-sailors, encourage families to come together, and encourage new members to use the club. Better community use would be possible as there would be an attractive setting for meetings or functions and the lake would be more accessible to the public. They had good links with two local secondary schools and would like to expand these. The lake had good car parking, access and was open to the public when the club was open. Competent casual hirers were welcomed and free taster sessions were offered.

Berinsfield Amateur Boxing Club

Mr M Corrigan, head coach of Berinsfield Amateur Boxing Club, presented the application for grant aid towards the cost of building an extension to the existing facilities to provide a larger training area and club office to allow the club to expand and improve. He answered questions from the Panel.

He explained the background to the application, including having been given the lease for the whole building now occupied, meaning the previous grant had not been needed at the time. However, the club had expanded and was now at capacity. The extension would allow the club to provide high quality training facilities to more local residents. The spectators' area would be expanded to provide a drop-in area for teenagers to socialise. The club offered complementary facilities to the leisure centre, and would be able to accommodate other groups when space and time permitted.

This was the only boxing club in South Oxfordshire and had a history of working with challenging teenagers, producing national standard boxers, and encouraging

continuing involvement in the sport. The club have just been awarded Beacon Status. The ABA have just awarded a £20,000 grant towards the project.

Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Parish Councils

Ms E Lewin, Chairman of the Parish Council, Ms V Biggs, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, presented the application for grant aid towards the cost of replacing the existing pavilion with a community building and ancillary facilities. They answered questions from the Panel.

They outlined the background to the project including other recent community projects in the villages and the use made of these. The pavilion could not be used for community events other than outdoor football and cricket matches because of its small size and poor quality. A new community building with detached storage garage, would provide modern changing facilities, catering, and smaller meeting areas than the main village hall which was heavily used. Using the new space would allow small groups to expand and more sports- related and outdoor events to be hosted.

There had been extensive community consultation and locals supported the project. The parish precept had been raised to provide funding for the pavilion. The parish had a good recent track record of completing and utilising ambitious village projects.

Sinodun Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Ms C Storey, board member and company secretary of Sinodun Players, presented the application for grant aid towards the second phase of the major refurbishment of the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. This would refurbish the rear of the building to create a studio, meeting rooms, and adequate changing rooms to meet the regulations covering child performers. She answered questions from the Panel.

She explained that phase one of the project was nearly complete and preparations for the second phase of improvements to the backstage area were underway. The refurbishment was split into two separate phases because of the scale of the project. The rear area was underused because there was no public access, and the proposals would open this up to form additional community space, provide disabled access including a stair lift, and upgrade the dressing rooms and wardrobe area. This would allow greater use of the building, space for workshops and space for a small cinema when the main theatre was in use for productions.

The Panel queried the levels of committed and uncommitted reserves now available to the Sinodun Players as no financial information more recent than 31 May 2006 was on hand.

Little Milton Village Hall

Mr S McGill, secretary of Little Milton Village Hall, presented the application for grant aid towards the cost of building an extension and conservatory to the village hall to

house a community shop, post office and community coffee shop. He answered questions from the Panel.

He explained the background to the application, the current location and size of the post office, and the improvements the new building would bring to the village. The proposals would provide a hub for the village, secure the future of postal services in some form regardless of the outcome of the Post Office Counters review, and provide a community-owned and run shop to serve the village. He outlined the business case for the post office which was breaking even at present. As the community would own and manage the shop, they had an interest in its success, and a viable business model based on other village shops had been drafted. The parish council were keen to contribute funding but OALC had advised any funding would be illegal.

1st Chalgrove Scout Group

Mr D Bretherton declared a personal interest in the outcome of this application, as family members were involved with Chalgrove Cavaliers football club who may choose to make use of the Scout hut. Mrs J Thompson declared that she knew the applicant but had no connection with the Scouts or input into the decision.

Mr R Heath-Whyte, Chairman of Trustees of the 1st Chalgrove Scout Group, presented the application for grant aid towards the cost of purchasing the plot of land on which the Scout Headquarters currently stands. He answered questions from the committee.

He explained that the landlord had withdrawn their free licence to use the site, making the Scout hut unavailable for use. Scouting could continue but on a smaller and much restricted basis at the scholl with permission from the guides. If the Scouts purchased the land, the hut would continue to be well used for Scout activities. It could also be used for meetings of Age Concern, indoor training for the village football club, and for other small village groups. The long-term aim was to develop the site for community use with unrestricted access and to replace the building with a more permanent structure. He outlined the reasons for the termination of the licence and sale of the land, how the balance of funding would be met, and how the project met the Council's key aims. Most of the remaining funding would come via a sizable loan from the Parish Council and from personal donations.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm

Chairman

Date