

AREA 2 FORUM

20th June 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration Sedgefield Borough Local Area Improvement Programme Application Report

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 2 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council cabinet.

The Area 2 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009, £64,400 of which has been allocated to date, leaving a balance of £771,600. £214,300 of the remaining resource has been allocated to 2006/07.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Duncombe Cemetery Development
- **Name of Applicant:** Ferryhill Town Council
- **Legal Status:** Town Council
- **Date of Application:** 25th April 2006
- **Landlord:** Ferryhill Town Council / Dean and Chapter
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project aims to provide a footpath link from the Cemetery to the Carrs Nature Reserve as well as providing an adequate car parking facility and toilet block (for use by both able-bodied and disabled) with storage unit for the five resources, which are currently being developed at Duncombe Cemetery.
- **Requested from LIP:** £112,752 (39.5%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £285,601 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The LIP will be used to provide a number of items to complement the planned refurbishment of the derelict chapel into a heritage centre. This will include a footpath link from the Cemetery to the Carrs Nature Reserve, adequate car parking, a toilet block (for use by both able-bodied and disabled), storage units,

drainage work including installation of a pumping station and tidying up of the area and the removal of an old fence which is dangerous in places and levelling out of land. It is also hoped to install a public notice board.

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**
 The land is under used at the moment - this project will bring the area back into effective use.
- **Community Strategy Objectives:** **Medium**

| | |
|------------|--|
| Healthy | The project will address three of the five key priorities. |
| Prosperous | The project will address none of the four key priorities. |
| Attractive | The project will address three of the six key priorities. |
| Strong | The project will address none of the four key priorities. |
- **Evidence of need and community support:** **High**
 Members of the Community first identified through the 2001 Community Appraisal and then more recently through Community Partnership Meetings that one of the main requests were that a Museum or Heritage Centre should be developed in Ferryhill. Members of the community attending Partnership meetings discussed at length the essential requirements of the Duncombe Cemetery development including the need for a Heritage Centre with toilet facility, car park and also improved access to the Carrs Nature Reserve from the Cemetery and development of a memorial and ashes garden. While it has been 5 years since the Community Appraisal for Ferryhill was published, recent monthly meetings with members of Ferryhill's Community Partnership, which comprises representatives of members of the public, local businesses and schools and colleges, has identified this project as still being an essential development which residents of Ferryhill want to see go ahead.
- **Value for money and Revenue Implications:** **Medium**
 As highlighted previously the applicants are applying for 39.5% of the overall capital costs and have fully secured the £172,849 of the remaining costs. However, of this figure £150,000 is an In-kind contribution from the Town Council for the use of the old chapel for the Heritage Centre. This would mean that of the cash costs only 17% is actual match funding.
 There are no revenue implications for the project – Should the car park need repairing in the future then Ferryhill Town Council will take responsibility for these repairs. The maintenance of the footpath link will also be the responsibility of Ferryhill Town Council as will be the ongoing maintenance of the toilet facility, storage unit and public notice

board as well as the memorial and ashes gardens. The History Society will be responsible for the upkeep of the Heritage Centre. Three quotes and a full breakdown of approximate costs have been provided.

- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**
- **Statutory Approvals:** **All in place**

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issues:

- Area 2 has been allocated £278,700 in 2006/07 of which £64,400 has been allocated to a West Cornforth project. This project is requesting £112,752, which would leave a balance of £101,548 for 2006/07.
- The terms and conditions of LIP state that where the applicant is a Town or Parish Council that they should contribute at least 33% of the funding to the project. In this case, Ferryhill Town Council are contributing £150,000 of In kind match funding but no actual cash funding, meaning that of the cash funding, the LIP would be contributing 83%. The remaining cash match funding is from CDENT (£18,000) and Awards for All (£4,849).

Subject to being satisfied with the above points that the Area Forum support the progress of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 2:

In taking the above decision, the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination.

- Chilton Environmental Improvements £102,784 LIP, Total cost of £226,785
- West Cornforth Community Centre £215,000 LIP, Total cost of £350,000.

We have not currently received any other expressions of interest from Area 2 Forum locality.

This page is intentionally left blank