

Item 5

AREA 2 FORUM

9th September 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Update on Project Activity

This report provides the Area Forum with an update on project activity as part of Sedgefield Borough Council's Local Improvement Programme (LIP).

The purpose of the LIP Programme is to improve community assets and support community engagement in the regeneration of local areas. As part of this, Local Communities can propose projects against set criteria agreed by Sedgefield Borough Council. Through this Programme resources will be released to improve sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

The Borough Council established a 'cut-off' date for new LIP applications of 31st July 2008. This date was established to ensure that as we are in the final year of the scheme, that we had sufficient time to appraise and prioritise projects before the end of the programme in March 2009. A number of projects have been received for consideration by the Borough Council. These are summarised below.

The Area 2 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. This level of resource is available for community organisations and partner Town and Parish Council's to bid for to fund a range of eligible project activity.

LIP Approvals to date

Number 66	£64,400
Chilton Environmental Improvements	£93,455
Mainsforth Community Centre	£75,830
West Cornforth Community Centre	£119,393
Total Approved to date	£353,078

Total Funding Remaining **£482,922**

LIP Applications Received

LIP Funding Requested

Chilton Welfare Masterplan*	£169,471
Bishop Middleham Village Hall*	£39,391
Ferryhill Football Project*	£320,000
Dean Bank Institute Gala Room*	£35,000
Chilton Catholic Club	£27,800
Pentlands Play Area	£101,442
Total Requested from LIP	£693,104

* *Projects discussed at a previous area forum meeting*

Difference **+ £210,182**

The above table illustrates that we are over subscribed against the money remaining in the LIP Budget. This picture has been repeated across all other Area Forum Areas.

Project Proposals to be considered

Chilton Catholic Club Improvements – Chilton Catholic Club

The applicant has stated that the project aims to redevelop the toilets and kitchen facilities within the Catholic Club in order to enable them to extend the range of activities they can provide. Club members have approached the committee to enhance the services provided by the club. New facilities are required to enable pensioners gathering to play games such as bingo, dominoes etc. The applicant has applied for **£27,800** which is **100%** of the total project cost.

Pentlands Play Area - Chilton Town Council

This project aims to replace the play area at The Pentlands, Chilton. This play area has become underused and of little play value. The new park would consist of a dedicated toddler area including swings, gravity rider and roundabout, a junior area including city swings, 3.3m cone climber, aero whirl, and a teen area would be a 6 metre single mast activity net, and 1 play unit. The applicant Chilton Town Council feels that the new play area will create an area where young and old can meet; in particular parents and grand parents can sit comfortably and watch children play on the new innovative play equipment. The project aims to encourage healthy exercise for children to assist in counter acting the current climate of a rise in obesity in young children. The applicant has applied for **£101,442** which is **77%** of the total project cost.

Projects already discussed at Area Forum

The following projects were discussed at previous Area Forums. Information on these projects has also been included in this report so that Area Forum can see projects aspirations against other projects already considered and supported by the Area Forum but not yet approved by Sedgfield Borough Council.

Chilton Welfare Master Plan – Chilton Town Council

The Miners Welfare Master Plan was the result of one element of the LIP part-funded Chilton Environmental Improvements project which highlighted work still to be carried out in the Welfare Park. The report identified six phases of work, this project will address three of those phases. The project includes works to extend and refurbish the pavilion building, the creation of a mini -golf area, replacing trees and shrubs, the creation of a car park, new lighting columns, seats and bins, signage and the restoration of the gate piers and new gates. The applicant has stated that the project would provide a community hub which would include toilets, a café, play equipment and changing rooms and would also help resolve some anti-social behaviour issues. The applicant has applied for **£169,471** which is **53%** of the total project cost. Critical to considering a clear way forward with this project is to ascertain the commitment of the match funding towards the project.

Bishop Middleham Village Hall - Bishop Middleham Community Assoc.

The project will address the issues currently facing the village hall. A new roof will be installed as the current roofing needs replacing. The stage and hall floors will be replaced and new lighting and stage curtains installed. This will enable new activities such as drama groups to begin. The group hope to make the hall more child friendly. New zoned heating will also be installed. The applicant has stated that the project will improve the hall as a whole, improving the safety of all users and will provide additional activities for young people. The applicant has applied for **£39,391** which is **92%** of the total project cost.

Ferryhill Football Project - Ferryhill Town Council and Ferryhill Town Youth FC

The project will include the provision of a new clubhouse located in Dean Bank Park incorporating changing and social facilities to serve the needs of the club's teams, improvement to the drainage of the existing pitches, creation of two new pitches on the site of the derelict Ferryhill Athletic ground, new car parking and associated landscaping scheme to meet planning requirements. The applicant has stated that the development represents a major step forward in the clubs progress. It is vital to the clubs continued and future role in the community. Through the number of teams and participants the club is able to encourage the development of physical activity and active lifestyles, assist in the reduction of antisocial behaviour, encourage the development of confidence and self esteem, develop pride in the community and encourage adults to become involved in coaching and qualify as coaches. The applicant has applied for **£320,000** which is **31%** of the total project cost.

Dean Bank Institute Gala Room - Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute

This project replaces the previous learning room LIP application. The project will involve the removal of the wall between the Gala and Cabin rooms and replace it with sound proof sliding doors. This will give the flexibility to allow the room to be used as one large room or 2 medium sized rooms. The project will also include installing an acoustic floor system to the room directly above. The applicant has stated that the new project will enable the centre to offer better equipped and larger rooms to groups and users which would enable the Dean and Chapter room to attract more users / activities and indeed more use from the current groups and users. The project would also enable the centre to offer larger numbers on courses without affecting other bookings. The applicant has applied for **£35,825** which is **78%** of the total project cost.

Current Position

Given that the Local Improvement Programme is entering it's final year of operation (3-year programme from April 2006 – March 2009), the Capital Programme Team are keen to make progress on applications quickly given the timescales for decision making in the run up to the close of the scheme.

Next Steps

Given the amount of projects that have been submitted within the Area 2 locality and the available monies within the Local Improvement Programme for Area 2, the Capital Programme Team will now work in more detail with all applicants to discuss the impact and outcomes expected from the project and look at key issues such as local priorities and the deliverability of the overall project within the timeframe remaining for the LIP Programme. This will assist in the task of prioritising projects that will be taken through the decision making process of Sedgefield Borough Council.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the above list of projects and offers any comments about the projects in relation to priorities for the Area 2 locality and how each project will meet local needs. Representatives from the projects will be available to answer questions if necessary.