

Item 7b

AREA 3 FORUM

8th November 2006

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

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 3 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council cabinet.

The Area 3 Forum has been allocated £532,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £177,334 was allocated for 2006/07 of which £71,099 has been allocated to date, leaving a balance of £106, 235.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Memorial Children's Playing Field - Fishburn
- **Name of Applicant:** Memorial Children's Play Field Charity
- **Legal Status:** Registered Charity- Number 520797
- **Date of Application:** 2nd October 2006
- **Landlord:** Trustees of the Memorial field- Charities Commission are custodian trustees.
- **Brief Description of Project:** To provide play equipment and associated works for use by local children. The intention is to design a scheme that meets the needs of both toddler play and opportunities for older children.
- **Requested from LIP:** £58,900
- **Total Project Cost:** £150,000 Estimated
- **What will the LIP be used for:** To provide a range of modern and stimulating fixed play equipment on land gifted to the trustees for use as a play area. The existing limited play equipment has fallen into disrepair and has been removed due to safety concerns.

LIP Criteria

- **Department for Communities and Local Government Definition:**

The land is not used at the moment to its full potential - this project will bring the area back into effective use for enhanced community use.

- **Community Strategy Objectives:**

The project links to two of the four community strategy objectives. Healthy – the project will improve the health and well being of the local community and Attractive – the project will develop and maximise the leisure and cultural facilities in the borough.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has stated that, it was highlighted in the 2002 Community Appraisal that the village needed new play sites and that there was a need for new leisure facilities. The village has also grown dramatically in the last few years, and no additional play facilities have been provided. The group have consulted the community – a public meeting has been held and a grant was given from the Awards for All Fund for the local children to produce a DVD about the play area and the need for the new equipment. The youth club, primary school and nursery school have also been consulted and a fun day has been held at the site to consult local people on the project.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The applicant has applied for £58,900 of Local Improvement Programme funding which is 39% of the total project cost. The remaining funding (£91,100) will be funded by various sources, of which £11,100 is already confirmed. The remaining £80,000 has been applied for from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) and the Big Lottery Fund. The applicant has outlined that Fishburn Parish Council will cover the future revenue costs associated with the project.

The remaining match funding that has been identified for the scheme has recently been applied for. The outcome of these external funding decisions will not be known until Dec / January. Therefore it is unlikely that the project could be given full approval until the outcome of the Lottery and CRT applications are known to ensure that the full funding package to implement the project is in place.

The group intend to use 'Kompan' to carry out the project, who is the preferred supplier of Sedgefield Borough Council who has been chosen following a full tender process.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issue:

- The relative priority and need for this project within the Fishburn / Area 3 locality.

Subject to being happy with the above points that the Area Forum supports the progress and further development of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 3:

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 determination by the Forum.

- Sedgefield Parish Hall – Sedgefield Town Council – LIP requested £37,000, Total project cost £37,000
- Sedgefield Advice and Information Development – Sedgefield Town council – LIP requested £65,000, Total project cost £90,000
- Ceddesfeld Hall Cellar and Attics Technical Study- Sedgefield Community Association- LIP requested £1,500, Total project cost £1,500

The following project is under development and no application has been received to date. Once an application received this project will be brought forward to the Forum for debate.

- Sedgefield Cricket Club – Refurbishment of the club house for use as a community venue- no costs as yet

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