

Item 5

AREA 3 FORUM

17th 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 3 Forum has been allocated £532,000 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

Trimdon MUGA	£58,325
Trimdon Centre Fees	£12,774
Sedgefield Parish Hall Phase 1	£37,000
Ceddesfeld Hall Technical Study	£1,762
Fishburn Memorial Playing Field	£58,900
Fishburn Recreation Development Tech Study	£11,280
Trimdon Community College MUGA Tech Study	£7,640
Trimdon Community College MUGA	£45,000
Sedgefield Parish Hall Phase 2	£80,000
Total Approved to date	£312,681

Total Funding Remaining

£219,319

LIP Applications Received

LIP Funding Requested

Trimdon Grange Play Area *	£70,000
Ceddesfeld Hall Redevelopment	£103,000
Sedgefield Squash Club	£33,000
Sedgefield Cricket Club	£29,820
Trimdon Community Centre	£100,000
Fishburn Recreation Project	£unknown amount

Total Requested from LIP

£335,820

** Projects discussed at a previous area forum meeting*

Difference

+ £116,501

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

Sedgefield Squash Club Court and Shower Refurbishment Programme - Sedgefield Squash Club

The applicant has stated that the project aims to refurbish two areas within the squash club building. This consists of Wall and Floor replacement on both Courts and refurbishment of Ladies and Gents showers and changing rooms. The applicant has stated that with improved facilities the club would encourage increased membership and use of the facility thereby giving a longer lifespan to the club. The applicant has applied for **£33,000** which is **99%** of the total project cost.

Development of Changing Facilities – Sedgefield Cricket Club

This project aims to create a new change/shower facility. The applicant has stated that the new facility would be used by members of Sedgefield Cricket Club, the local Rugby club and the local Bowls Club. The current facilities are of a poor standard, are small, outdated and fail to meet the basic needs of female and disabled users. The applicant has stated that the impact from this facility would increase membership, increase coaching, increase school involvement and increase use by other sports activities. The applicant has applied for **£29,820** which is **75%** of the total project cost.

Trimdon Colliery Community Centre – Trimdon Colliery Community Association

This project aims to demolish the existing aged temporary community building and rebuild a new community centre, to create a focal point for residents. The applicant has stated that the new centre will provide services for the residents of Trimdon Colliery and the wider communities in Sedgefield and County Durham. These will include a multi use sports and leisure hall/function hall, training rooms, social enterprise rooms, counselling/advice rooms, a culture and heritage room, a café and a dedicated state of the art childcare facility.

An application to the Big Lottery Fund is presently being considered and has reached the final decision making stage, other match funding is being applied for. The applicant has applied for £100,000 which is **10%** of the total project capital cost.

Fishburn Recreation Project – Fishburn Parish Council

The aim of this project is to bring together 3 distinct groups, Fishburn Boys' Football Club, South Durham Boxing Club, and Fishburn Bowls Club, to provide them with first class facilities in which they are able to prosper. The construction of a new pavilion would provide training, changing and social facilities for all users, along with a Multi Use Games Area, new play area, three extra football pitches of a superior standard. The applicant has stated that the facility would enable increased participation in sport and active recreation. The applicant is applying for funding from various sources and has applied for an unknown amount of LIP monies against a total project cost of £2,083,328.

To be able to take a project of this size forward within the LIP timescales, significant progress will have to be made securing the match funding necessary to implement the scheme.

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 Sedgefield Borough Council.

Trimdon Grange Play Area – Trimdon Grange Community Association.

The project represents phase one of a larger scheme to provide a junior play area and MUGA on land adjacent to Trimdon Grange Community Centre. Phase one, funded by LIP, would provide a new junior play area, consisting of 4 pieces of dedicated play equipment and firesmart grass mats safety surfacing on an area of land 325 square metres. The applicant has stated that the project will combat anti-social behaviour, as the children will have a safe area to play, socialise and create a healthier village. The applicant has applied for £70,000 which is 84% of the total project costs.

Ceddesfeld Hall Redevelopment – Sedgefield Community Association

This project will enhance the existing facilities and open up disused and underused spaces in the first floor, attics and basement, all of which will become available for public use. The first phase, to which this application relates, involves the installation of a lift to all levels, a new IT facility, IT education in the community provision, refurbished toilets and new office accommodation for the neighbourhood warden and the association. The applicant has stated that this project will give added value to the existing provision, offer new opportunities for groups and individuals who are currently not catered and will in turn help in protecting the longevity of the association. The applicant has applied for £103,000 which is 48% of the total project costs.

Current Position

Given that the Local Improvement Programme is in its 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 3 locality and the available monies within the Local Improvement Programme for Area 3, 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 3 locality and how each project will meet local needs. Representatives from the projects will be available to answer questions if necessary.