

Item 6

AREA 5 FORUM

30th 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 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 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 in Area 5 Forum

Great Aycliffe Way	£162,991
Middridge Village Hall	£76,485
Woodham Community Centre	£25,200
Neville Parade Community Centre	£44,353
Neville Parade Methodist Church	£18,475
Simpasture Park Refurbishment	£89,245
Moore Lane Refurbishment	£25,089
Newton Aycliffe Sporting Club	£299,770
Total Approved to date	£741,608

Total Funding Remaining **£398,392**

LIP Applications Received

Aycliffe Village Hall *

St Oswalds Park *

LIP Funding Requested

£44,815

£134,740

NASSA Community Project	£100,000
Agnew Centre	£264,375
St Joseph Primary School	£62,527
Total Requested from LIP	£606,457

** Projects discussed at a previous area forum meeting*

Difference **+ £208,065**

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

Agnew Community Centre – Agnew Community Association

This project aims to replace the existing temporary wooden building with a new purpose built community centre. This facility would be a multi usage community building by having one main hall and one smaller meeting room. The applicant has stated that the facility would provide a variety of activities for the local community such as, youth club, after school drop in, dance music and drama sessions, healthy lifestyle courses, social events including tea dances. The applicant has also stated that by providing a new building with activities provided in consultation with the young people of the area would expect to see a reduction in anti-social behaviour. The applicant has applied for **£264,375** which is **100%** of the total capital costs

NASSA Community Project – Newton Aycliffe Scouts Supporters Association.

This project aims to provide a community facility by extending the existing scout hall. The complete project has been split into 3 phases of development and the first phase, which LIP funding has been applied for, will provide the central core of the project. This first phase will provide a production kitchen, able to provide meals for functions, a dining room/function hall, digital recording (music) studio, digital video/film/animation suite and digital photography and printing facility. The applicant has stated that the facility will provide an informal drop in centre, a daily lunch club, a credit union office, a job/careers club. The applicant has applied for **£100,000** which is **18%** of phase one total capital costs of **£557,000**.

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.

St Joseph School Garden Project – St Joseph Primary School

This project aims to create an area suitable for community and school use which will be designed to inspire play activities, areas for quiet moments, nature area and growing area, fixed play equipment within a safe environment. The applicant has stated that the local residents groups are interested in participating in the partnership of the project. The applicant has applied for **£63,527** which is **100%** of the total project capital 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.

Aycliffe Village Hall- Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association

The aim of the project is to provide stage lighting and curtains, a glazed entrance feature and improved access to the Village Hall. The applicant has stated that the project will provide a facility to enable amateur theatrical group performances, a glazed entrance which would create additional space to be used for social activities including library, coffee club and social meeting space. The applicant has applied for **£44,815** which is **92%** of the total project capital costs.

St Oswalds Park

The aim of the project is to refurbish St Oswald Park. There are four areas, which, Great Aycliffe Town Council has identified as particularly requiring capital investment for improvement; these at present consist of a disused roller skating rink, disused bowling green, junior play area and infant play area. The applicant has stated that the project will create a junior play area, an infant play area, formal garden area and picnic area. The applicant has stated that the project will provide a safe, dedicated facility parents/grandparents/carers and children up to the approximate age of 12 to use. The applicant has applied for **£134,740** which is **55%** of the total project costs.

Current Position

Given that the Local Improvement Programme is in it's final year of operation (3-year programme from April 2006 – March 2009), the Capital Programme Team, who manage LIP 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 5 locality and the available monies within the Local Improvement Programme for Area 5, 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 Sedgfield 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 5 locality and

how each project will meet local needs. Representatives from the projects will be available to answer questions if necessary.