

Item 7

AREA 4 FORUM

4th March 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Fox and Hounds Community Inn

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 4 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £152,000 has been allocated to the year 2007/08 of which £4,113 has been approved to date. A project was allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for additional project activity.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Fox and Hounds Community Inn Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Seymour Trust
- **Brief Description of Project:**
This application is requesting funding to carry out a technical study to investigate the options and costs associated with bringing back into use a series of unused buildings to the rear of the Fox and Hounds Community Inn, Shildon. The technical study will cover an extension and refurbishment of the buildings to provide a meeting room and ancillary rooms.
- **Requested from LIP: £15,000 (82%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £18,189**
- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the project will create employment. The applicants are also aiming to reduce anti-social behaviour; the project aims to attract 17-21 year olds to an exciting and meaningful programme of activities. The applicant has also stated that the project will offer a thriving community facility.

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

The applicant has stated that before the derelict pub reopened a sample survey was conducted of 40 local residents. On the basis and support of this survey, the initial community inn was opened in September 2007. No further community consultation has been provided.

Subject to endorsement by the Area Forum at this stage, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant during the full appraisal process to establish the detail of the lease arrangements and explore the links with other local community facilities in Shildon. The detailed appraisal will also involve investigation into the predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall impact of the project for the local community and to avoid duplication with other existing facilities.

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

The total project cost is £18,189, of which the applicant has applied for £15,000 (82%). The applicant will meet the additional costs.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Planning permission will be applied for as part of the technical study.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 4 locality.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant to resolve the above issues, and clarify any additional points raised through the Area Forum process.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 4:

To be discussed at Area Forum 4 March 2008

Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study	£15,000
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Under development

Vintage Vehicles Shildon Ltd. Technical Study £17,625

Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.

Pilgrim Club Technical Study requesting £9,000

Shildon Civic Hall Stage Sound and Lighting requesting £7,727

Projects Approved to date:

2006/07 Hackworth Tennis Courts £34,999

2007/08 Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Technical Study £4,113

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