

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

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 2 Forum for their consideration and comments which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

The Area 2 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009, £64,400 of which has been allocated to date, leaving a balance of £771,600. £214,300 of the remaining resource has been allocated to 2006/07.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Chilton Environmental Improvements Programme
- **Name of Applicant:** Groundwork East Durham / Chilton Town Council
- **Legal Status:** Environmental Registered Charity / Town Council
- **Date of Application:** 11th April 2006
- **Landlord:** Chilton Welfare Park- Chilton Town Council. Other elements -Sedgefield Borough Council & Durham County Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The Chilton Environmental Improvement programme is a package aimed at improving the physical landscape, and the quality and number of facilities available for use by the local community.
- **Requested from LIP:** £102,785 (45%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £226,785 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The Chilton Environmental Improvement programme will redevelop the tennis courts, install a multi-use games area and two youth shelters as well as a number of litterbins, dog bins and seats at Chilton Welfare Park and adjacent

land. CCTV to ensure that the users feel safe and secure, will also cover the area. A number of pathways will additionally be laid linking the park to the rest of the town.

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**
The land is under used at present - this project will bring the area back into effective use.

- **Community Strategy Objectives:** **High**

Healthy	The project will address four of the five key priorities.
Prosperous	The project will address one of the four key priorities.
Attractive	The project will address three of the six key priorities.
Strong	The project will address one of the four key priorities.

- **Evidence of need and community support:** **High**
The Chilton and Windlestone Community Appraisal (January 2002) highlighted the issues of litter, dog excrement, planters and flowers, increased use of current community facilities for sports and leisure and lighting. Chilton Community Partnership's three-year action plan 2005 / 08 – An Attractive Chilton highlighted flowers, tubs and planters and litter (provision of more bins) as high priority issues. A Healthy Chilton highlighted the need for a multi-sports facility. The Chilton appraisal highlighted that dog dirt, litter, flowers / planters, sports provision, provision for young people and lighting were all high priority issues for the community of Chilton. The community have been involved in a number of consultation exercises regarding the regeneration of the town and the facilities of the Welfare Park - the project is the result of those consultations.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:** **High**
As highlighted previously, the applicants are applying for 45% of the overall capital costs and have secured the £115,000 of the remaining costs with only £9,000 awaiting confirmation from Awards for All and the Police. There are no revenue implications for the project – maintenance will be absorbed into the Town Council's maintenance programme. The Town Council will pay lighting costs. The applicant has not yet supplied three quotes; the project will be subject to a full tendering process to select a contractor. A full breakdown of approximate costs has been provided.

- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**

- **Statutory Approvals:** **All in place**

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issues:

- Area 2 has been allocated £278,700 in 2006/07 of which £64,400 has been committed to a West Cornforth project. This project is requesting £102,785, which would leave a balance of £111,515 for 2006/07.
- Included in the match funding for this project is £12,500 from the mainstream capital budget. The LIP funding would therefore be matching Borough Council monies with the like.
- The applicant, Groundwork East Durham is working on behalf of their client, Chilton Town Council who are not contributing to the monetary cost although they will be responsible for the maintenance of items on their land.

Subject to being satisfied with the above points that the Area Forum support the progress of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 2:

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 future determination.

- Duncombe Cemetery Development, £112,752 LIP Grant requested, Total project cost £285,752
- West Cornforth Community Centre £215,000 LIP, Total cost of £350,000.

We have not currently received any other expressions of interest from Area 2 Forum locality.

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