

Brownhills & Aldridge North Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 19th February 2007

LNP Funding – Part A

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP on the progress of the projects the LNP have agreed to fund to date from their £22,000 resource allocation for 2005/2006, and £10,000 allocation for 2006/2007.

Recommendations

The LNP is asked:

1. To note progress on projects
2. That project champions feedback progress at the next LNP meeting
3. That project ideas under section '*potential projects for 2006-2007*' be agreed or declined.
4. Changes to the 'parade planting' fund be noted and agreed or declined

Funding allocation for 2005-2006

Project Ref	Project	Allocated	Spent	Remaining balance
BAN/1	Brownhills Activities Centre refurbishment - completed	£12,000	£12,000	£0
BAN/2	Heritage Project – In progress	£5,000	£3,052.39	£1,947.61
BAN/3	Brownhills Common improvements - completed	£4,930	£4,930	£0
BAN/4	Planter/Ornament at the parade	£70	£0	£70
	Totals	£22000	£19982.39	£2017.61

Projects update

Planter refilling – at the last LNP members agreed to using the whole £70 to plant flowers at the bottom of the parade. Having consulted Streetpride they provided details on how the round bed that used to be on the corner of the parade was removed this year by them due to the amount of problems experienced in recent years from local youths pulling out the plants, walking over the bed and even cycling over the bedding. As the plants were never allowed to flourish due to vandalism Streetpride felt it was best to grass the area and mow along with the surrounding areas.

In regards to re-planting flowers Streetpride have expressed concerns around if bedding plants are to be used again this summer what will be planted next autumn and the following summer and who will fund such schemes? There is also the on-going cost of weeding and watering the planting.

Streetpride believe that the better option would be to plant a tree, which once planted would not require any maintenance in the next few years. Admittedly trees can be

vandalised but if it was planted away from the shelter it may not attract to attention from the vandals.

Although the LNP have already agreed to plant flowers it was felt that before proceeding the LNP are made aware of potential pitfalls. It is now up to the LNP to consider Streetprides concerns outlined above and reach a decision on whether to fund replanting of flowers or a tree.

Heritage project – the remainder £1947.61 will be spent on marketing and promotion which will include a big event.

All other projects for 2005-2006 are complete.

Funding allocation for 2006-2007

Project Ref	Project	Allocated	Spent
BAN/1/2006	Dog fouling signs	£400	£400
BAN/2/2006	Bins outside St John CE primary School	£520	£520
BAN/3/2006	Brownhills Island Christmas Lights	£2950	£0
Totals		£3870	£920

Projects update

Dog fouling signs – Ken Rhodes from Public Protection attended the CAG on 22nd January to discuss the locations for the dog fouling signs. As so many suggestions were made and no consensus was reached Ken asked members to call him after they have carefully considered options and suggest their priority location. Ken will then proceed with installing the signs.

Potential projects for 2006-2007

1. **Community Cash Scheme** – please refer to Funding report part B.

Contact Officer

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LNP Funding - Part B

Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the proposed 'community cash scheme'.

Recommendations

- To agree the overall amount of allocation inline with the 3 options presented.
- To agree the maximum allocation per application be £400
- To agree the representation on the project selection panel as follows:
 - 1 councillor from each ward (2 in total, 1 of which needs to be the LNP Chair)
 - Safer Stronger CAG Chair
 - People & Health CAG Chair
 - 1 representative from the partner agencies
 - 1 LAP
 - LNP Senior Support Officer
- To agree the selection panel reports progress and recommendations for projects at future LNP meetings

Background

It is proposed, in order to utilise the LNP funds effectively, the LNP consider offering a community cash scheme to voluntary and community groups located within the LNP area.

The proposed project will create a pot of funding offering grants of up to £400 to constituted community and voluntary groups (or those working towards becoming constituted) for projects and activities that will contribute to the Brownhills and Aldridge North LNP pledges. In addition groups will need to demonstrate their project will deliver some form of environmental improvements.

Offering grants of £400 will allow the LNP to engage with a wider range of voluntary and community groups. This will also allow voluntary and community groups to benefit and become more involved with influencing change within their neighbourhoods.

A selection panel will need to be established to meet and discuss the applications and eventually make recommendations to the LNP.

Financial allocation

Following all project allocation thus far for 2006/2007 the LNP have £6130 remaining. The LNP need to agree the total amount for funding to be allocated to this scheme.

The LNP are asked to consider the following options when deciding on the amount to allocate towards the community cash scheme:

Option 1: the LNP allocate £4800 for the community cash scheme with the remainder £1330 being used for future projects/ideas. The initiative would fund a minimum of 12 projects across the LNP based on each application being granted the maximum of £400

Option 2: the LNP allocate £4000 for the community cash scheme with the remainder £2130 being used for future projects/ideas. The initiative would fund a minimum of 10 projects across the LNP based on each application being granted the maximum of £400.

Option 3: the LNP allocate £3200 for the community cash scheme with the remainder £2930 being used for future projects/ideas. The initiative would fund a minimum of 8 projects across the LNP based on each application being granted the maximum of £400.

Timescale

The proposed timeline for the scheme is as follows

Date	Activity
26 th February 2007	Start publicising the scheme
26 th February 2007	Application forms with guidance note available for groups to access
6 th April 2007	Deadline for project submission
Week commencing Monday 23 rd April March 2007	Selection Panel to meet
June/July 2007	Recommendations brought back to LNP
1 st August 2007	Projects can commence
31 st March 2008	Deadline for grants to be spent

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