

## East Area Panel, item 7

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>East Area Panel</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>1 March 2006</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Community Development Report</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>The Community &amp; Development Officer and The Leisure Manager</b>	Item for information
	<b>01799 510555/348</b>	

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### Summary

- 1 To advise the Panel of related community development activities and schemes with which officers have been involved since the previous Panel meeting.
- 2 To bring to the Panel's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

### Recommendations

- 3 That the Panel endorses the actions taken by officers to promote greater community capacity and well being for the community.

### Background Papers

Grant Report to Community Committee – March 2006

### Situation

#### Grants

- 4 The Community Project Grant Scheme is open to any properly constituted voluntary organisation or similar body in the Uttlesford District such as village hall committees, community shops, Town and Parish Councils, Community Associations, play and recreation clubs and groups. Applications from churches/religious groups, schools, sports and art groups are not eligible.
- 5 Grants will be considered towards expenditure incurred in the provision of any of the following:
  - Development of land for recreational purposes, including environmental improvements
  - Buildings/facilities that are available for community use
  - Car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building
  - Children's play areas, including equipment and safety surfacing

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- Improvements, refurbishment or extension to any of the facilities outlined above
  - Essential equipment that contributes significantly to the aims and objectives of the project
  - Training or one off staffing costs that contributes significantly to the development of the project or increases benefits to the community (wages and salaries cannot be paid)
  - All applicants must have raised at least 50% matched funding – this can include donations “in kind”
- 6 Currently, organisations are invited to apply for grants in April and May of each year with decisions being made by the Chairman of the Community Committee in conjunction with the Community Development Manager in June of each year. Projects must be completed by the March of the following year. The monies available in the budget for 2006/07 is £24,000.
- 7 In addition to the £24,000, the Community and Leisure Committee agreed at its meeting in November 2004 that the Promotion of Local Centres Grant Scheme be merged with the Community Project Grant Scheme. In so doing, it agreed that £16,000 be ring fenced for sole use by the four main urban centres – £4,000 being allocated for specific projects in Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Thaxted and Great Dunmow. Ergo, the total amount in the budget is £40,000.
- 8 With the advent of Area Panels, Members have expressed a wish for the Area Panels to be involved in the allocation of grants to the local community in their areas. To this end, a report has been written and will be presented to the Community Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The report proposes that the allocation of £24,000 be split three ways, i.e. £8,000 per panel and that the four urban centres retain their allocation of £4,000 each. Members of the Area Panels can then determine the allocation of the grants at the June/July meetings and applicants can be informed thereafter. Officers would continue to support the process through the provision of a written report and associated guidance at the Area Panel meetings.

### **Staffing Update**

- 9 Three posts are in the process of being advertised, that of Youth and Arts Officer, Community Development Officer (Drugs & Alcohol) and Diversity Officer. It is anticipated that interviews will take place at the end of March with appointments being made for officers to start as soon as possible thereafter.

### **HELP – Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Programme**

- 10 Uttlesford District Council, Leisure Connection Ltd., Uttlesford Primary Care Trust, the community Mental Health Team, Uttlesford MIND, and the Uttlesford Rural Network TURN and commercial partners Fitlinxx, have been successful in securing funding from Sport England to develop a 3-year project, known as

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HELP, which will promote healthy eating and physical activity to local people, with the overall goal of tackling the rising obesity levels.

11 HELP is a 10-week programme aiming to increase levels of participation in active recreation, sports, health and well-being and to tackle the rising tide of obesity through the introduction of a simple weight management programme. The programme will be supported by the newly appointed Outreach and Support Worker – Stephen Prosser and Leisure Connection’s Sports Scientist.

12 HELP includes home, community and leisure centre based exercise sessions all of which is supported with a specialised website which is the key to the success of the project from people living in the more rural parts of the district. The programme was officially launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 and will operate from all three of the Leisure Centres provided under the Private Finance Initiative.

### Z-BIKES – Moped Loan Scheme

13 Uttlesford District Council in conjunction with the young people’s charitable organisation RAINER operates a moped loan scheme to enable young people in the district to access training and employment for a minimal cost. The scheme is provided through external funding. Harriet Lovegrove is the newly appointed Co-ordinator and she is based in the District council’s Offices in Saffron Walden for 15 hours per week.