

Committee:	North Area Panel	Agenda Item
Date:	25 February 2008	7
Title:	Community Development Report	
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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 the Panel's attention to 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 None.

Situation Community Project Grant

4 Who can apply?

The 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 authorities and schools are not eligible.

Sports and Arts Groups could consider applying for a Leisure and Cultural Grant.

What projects/initiatives/purchases are eligible?

Grants will be considered towards expenditure incurred in the provision of any of the following:

- Development of land for playing field or recreational purposes, including environmental improvements.
- Building/facilities that are available for community use e.g. village halls, community centres, pavilions, changing rooms, public conveniences etc.
- Car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building.
- Children's play areas, including equipment and safety surfacing.

- 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 a one off staffing cost that contributes significantly to the development of the project or increases benefits to the community (Wages and salaries cannot be paid)

How much can be applied for and when will I receive the grant?

The minimum grant available is £100 and the maximum is £3,500. Applicants must have raised match funding the level of which is dependent on the amount requested. If your application is successful, the District Council will send a cheque when it is satisfied that works have been completed in accordance with the conditions of grant and receives written proof of expenditure.

Application forms for the 2008/09 round of funding will available by the end of February and will be sent to all Parish Clerks. Projects must be completed after 1 April 2008 and before 6 March 2009. Completed application forms will need to be returned by 9 May 2008 and decisions will be made by the Area Panels in their first meeting after this date.

5 Young Firefighters

A 17 week young fire fighters course has been running at Newport Fire Station culminating in a Passing out Parade held at the station on Tuesday 5 February 2008. The Course is directed at young people between the ages of 13-16yrs (yrs 7 to 11). The aim of the course is to encourage the development of all young people and offers;

- Self development, confidence and discipline
- Teamwork
- Basic First Aid
- Challenging tasks and Environments
- Personal challenges

Four senior schools within the area were asked to put forward names of young people they feel would benefit from the project. The young people were asked to complete an application form and formal interviews took place. There were unsuccessful candidates!

Whilst attending the course the young fire fighters are encouraged to participate in challenging activities that range from employing fire fighting hose and fire hydrant to ascent into the training tower by means of an extension ladder and the wearing of breathing apparatus, Search and Rescue, Aerial Platform and Hydraulic Cutting Equipment.

At the Passing out Parade, attended by families, schools, local dignitaries and Chief Officers of the Fire Service, each successful student received a Certificate of Achievement and achieved the Service and Skills sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

6 Reality Roadshow 2008

Community Safety event for young people in Uttlesford
Reality Roadshow is a new event to Uttlesford, organised by the Community Safety Action Team and partnership agencies, for all year 9 pupils (13/14 year olds) in the Uttlesford District.

The Reality Roadshow Days are planned to be an intensive and interactive event for these young people. Creating an opportunity for each participating pupil, to begin to learn and develop the knowledge and skills to feel confident to make choices for themselves and to take responsibility for their own actions. This event runs between 19 February & 7 March 2008, visiting Saffron Walden County High School, Helena Romanes School, Newport Grammar, Mountfitchet College and The Friends School.

The Agencies involved in running the sets aim to give important and essential information to the pupils. The sets that are planned are;

Fire Safety	Anti Social Behaviour & the Law
Road Safety	Relationships and Respect
Substance Use	Internet Safety

Additionally we are working with Theatre Active who will host an interactive play focusing on diversity issues.

7 Information Points in Schools

In order to develop young people's skills in supporting each other, information gathering and managing meetings the Community Development Officer (Youth & Arts) has organised another residential training session. This will be held at St Marks, Audley End on 3 and 4 April 2008 and will involve approximately 30 young people from Mountfitchet Maths & Computing College, Newport Free Grammar School, Saffron Walden County High School and Helena Romanes Secondary School. Funding for this initiative has been secured from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (£1,000) and Essex County Council (£600).