

## **AYLESBURY VALE FUNDING ADVICE DAY**

**TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008 AT CHEDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

I met the following advisors at this event, and summarise below the salient points relating to our Pavilion Project.

### **Matthew Cox – Project Manager, WREN**

We should re-submit an entry to the WRG Communities Challenge (maximum £250,000) before the closing date on 30.05.08. Now that Oving has lost the Methodist Chapel, we should emphasise the lack of a Meeting Facility in the village (40% of applications are for community halls and centres). Twenty projects totalling £3.6m, including several village halls, were successful last year. Our application was the only one submitted in the Bucks and MK area.

If we are unsuccessful in the Challenge, our project would meet the criteria for a Grant (maximum £50,000), and Matthew indicated that he is rolling over substantial funds from one year to the next. We would need to find an additional 11% from a third party, such as AVDC. Grants are paid against invoices, and 100% project funding should be in place.

### **Sue Butt – Grants and Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer, AVDC**

AVDC are keen to provide leverage (such as the 11% third party funding required by WREN) for projects in its area. Last November, they made a grant of £8,000 to Whitchurch PC to support a WREN grant of £72,000 for development of a recreation area. Their normal maximum is £10,000, but this can go higher in exceptional cases.

I have already identified the Football Foundation as a potential source of funds, and Sue suggested that contact should be made at an early stage. She believes that they have substantial funds for projects such as ours. She also suggested the Foundation for Sports and Arts (UK) which was established in 1991 by Littlewoods and other football pools companies to channel money to a wide range of sporting and artistic causes, especially involving young people.

There is also Sport England Community Investment (East England), which normally provides £1 for every £2 raised from other sources to promote community access to sports. Our project meets a number of their criteria.

### **Laurie Johnson – Funding Advice Officer, Bucks Community Action**

Laurie is the funding guru in Bucks. He confirmed that WREN, The Football Foundation and AVDC are our best targets. Support from AVDC will reinforce applications to other

funders, and we need to develop a relationship with them. We shall also need to have a viable Business Plan.

The Community Buildings programme of the Big Lottery Fund is now closed, but a new programme for 2009-12 is due to be announced soon. Local Authorities will circulate details when they are available.

Laurie felt that we were seeking to raise a significant amount of funds, and a lesser project cost would improve our chances. He agreed that we should emphasise the lack of a Meeting Hall in the village. We should also seek to establish sports training programmes for young people, such as a junior team at Oving Football Club. Tennis coaching for young players is already established, and should continue to be encouraged.

Planning permission should also be an early priority.

### **Alison Griffiths – External Funding Officer, Bucks CC**

Alison agreed with the general points about a village meeting facility and funding from WREN and the Football Foundation. She also referred us to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) Community Sustainable Energy Programme Fund (under the Big Lottery umbrella). The BRE scheme will fund the installation of energy efficient measures and micro-generation technologies in community-based projects in England.

Bucks CC will also provide interest-free loans up to £50,000 to Town and Parish Councils to help the funding of projects with the purpose of reducing energy use and combating climate change.

### **Conclusions**

1. A more modest project cost would increase chances of funding.
2. The need for a Meeting Hall as well as a Sports Pavilion should be emphasised.
3. Our first target should be the WRG Communities Challenge (maximum £250,000).
4. If this fails, we have a very good chance of a £50,000 grant from WREN.
5. We need to develop a relationship with AVDC, who are keen to support local projects.
6. We need to make contact with the Football Foundation.
7. We need a Business Plan which includes development of youth training programmes.
8. The new building should be energy efficient.
9. We need an early indication of planning permission.

RCB 13.03.08