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From: "Skirton, Sara" <skirtons@mendip.gov.uk>
To: "Mendip LSP"

Cc:

Sent: 23 November 2005 16:46
Attach: 7 Review of MSP Funding Programme 2004-05.doc; 4 MSP minutes 4th October 2005.doc; 5 Monitoring the Community Strategy and Action Plan.doc; 6 MSP Funding Requests Nov 05.doc; 6a Broadband 2005 MSP funding bid.doc; 6b Meare and Westhay PC 1.11.05 .doc; 1 Agenda 29.11.05.doc
Subject: MSP Board meeting 29 November 2005 - Agenda

Dear MSP Board member

Please find attached the [agenda](#) and papers for the meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership Board to be held on Tuesday 29 November 2005, in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council, commencing at 3pm.

Representatives from Norton St Philip Parish Council will be presenting their Parish Plan at the meeting. Copies of the Plan were circulated at the MSP Board meeting on 4 October and Board members who were present are asked to bring their copies to this meeting. I have however requested some spare copies.

The following documents should accompany this message:

- 1 Agenda
- 4 Minutes of MSP Board meeting 4 October 2005
- 5 Monitoring the Community Strategy and Action Plan
- 6 MSP Funding Requests
- 6a Broadband funding bid
- 6b Meare and Westhay PC letter
- 7 Review of MSP Funding Programme 2004/05

Regards

Sara

Sara Skirton
Team Leader- Community Planning and Communication
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Mendip Strategic Partnership
Board Meeting 29th November 2005
3pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Public Participation

Councillor Pipes, Chair of Mendip District Council's Scrutiny Board, to address the MSP Board

3. Norton St Philip Parish Plan

A presentation from the Chair of Norton St Philip Parish Council

4. Minutes of the meeting of 4th October 2005

5. Monitoring the Community Strategy and Action Plan

The Board is asked to note the monitoring arrangements for the Community Strategy and Action Plan and to help identify appropriate additional data and indicators to measure progress

6. MSP Funding Requests

The Board is asked to consider a number of recommendations from the Budget and Finance Sub Group about recent funding requests

7. Review of MSP Funding Programme 2004/05

The Board is asked to note the progress of the review and delegate authority to the Budget and Finance Sub Group to evaluate review reports

8. Shepton 21

Update for information

9. Glastonbury SRB

Update for information

10. Any Other Business

11. Dates of future meetings

Please note dates for 2006 – 7 March, 20 June, 26 September, 28 November.
Venues tba

Mendip Strategic Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership held at 3.00 pm on Tuesday, 4th October 2005 at Wells Town Hall.

PRESENT:	Ron Ballantine	Chairman
	Elizabeth John	Mendip District Council
	Sonia Pike	Mid Somerset CAB
	Penny Baker	Mendip Association of Chambers of Commerce
	Jacqueline Hele Kergozou	Mendip Housing Limited
	Elaine Pugsley	NCH
	Tony Shepherd	Mendip Community Support
	Richard Dixon	Mendip Environment Forum
	Trevor Ashford	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
	Roger Kershaw	Somerset County Council
	Ian Wallace	Young Somerset
	Scott McMillan	Somerset Youth Volunteering Network
	Pauline Clarke	Somerset County Council
	Michelle Hawkes	Mendip Primary Care Trust

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sue Harrison	Committee Officer
Jo Milling	Senior Policy Officer – Community Planning
Sara Skirton	Team Leader - Community Planning and Communications
Rob Thurston	Service Manager – Street & Landscape Services
Malcolm Williams	Business Manager – Community & Regeneration

ALSO PRESENT:

Cllr Hasell	Mendip District Council
Cllr Roy Mackenzie	Mendip District Council
Cllr Gait	Mendip District Council
Lesley Rowan	Mendip District Council - Senior Waste Services Officer

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
1	Apologies Ian Bennett, Stephen Fowler, Caroline Gamlin, Kate Jeffreys, David Thomson, Stuart Brown, Harvey Siggs	
2	Public Participation Cllr McKenzie MDC asked the following questions: (i) Can the PCT reconsider the withdrawing of funding for minor	

	<p>injuries treatment at a GP Surgery in Wells? In response, the Chairman proposed that the PCT would be informed that this issue had been raised, but he did not feel that it was within the remit of the MSP to discuss this matter further.</p> <p>(ii) What commitment there is from MDC to the MSP? Cllr McKenzie had seen an Audit Report that implied some lack of commitment. The Chairman explained that the audit report, which had questioned MDC's commitment to the MSP, is now over a year old and referred to the previous 12 months. Over the last 18 months there has been a considerable change, with MDC supporting the Partnership with regular attendance at meetings and officer support, which was greatly appreciated. However the board would not be totally absorbed by MDC – they are a partner, with other agencies, in the MSP.</p>	Chairman
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting on 7 June 2005 These were approved as a correct record of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters arising.</u> Item 9 – Shepton 21 The Chair had contacted SCC and MDC to ask for reasons why the planning permission for placing stone sheep on the roundabout took so long. It appears that there were good reasons for the delay based on funding, highway safety and design issues.</p>	Sue Harrison
4	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair Ron Ballantine was proposed and seconded for the post of Chair. There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.</p> <p>Richard Dixon was proposed and seconded for the post of vice-chair. There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.</p>	
5	<p>Parish Plans A presentation was given by Andrew Freeman, Field Worker, Community Council for Somerset. He gave a history of the parish plan process and explained what is going to happen in the future. A copy of the Norton St Philip parish plan was available for attendees. It was noted that six parish plans had been completed, or were in the process of being completed, in Mendip.</p> <p>Andrew confirmed that although parish plans cannot be adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the Council, they could be used by the MSP as consultation evidence for community issues.</p> <p>There is no formal requirement for the MSP to adopt a parish plan but he urged the MSP Board to agree to adopt them as they are a vital document and can be used to inform community strategy.</p> <p>The Community Council for Somerset has some funding available from DEFRA, through the GOSW, for future parish plans and it is likely that Mendip will be targeted as relatively few Mendip parishes have prepared them.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that at least twice during the preparation of a parish plan the community (village representatives) come along to a</p>	

	<p>meeting of the MSP – to report progress and gain input, advice and guidance from organisations represented on the MSP. Andrew Freeman was asked to feed this suggestion back to the Community Council to give guidance to Parish Councils and LSPs for the future.</p> <p>Members also suggested that a close link be made to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which could give advice to parishes.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Andrew for his informative presentation.</p>	
6	<p>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act</p> <p>Rob Thurston from MDC spoke about the report and the new Act. The aim is to get organisations to act more strategically and in an informed way to tackle environmental crime.</p> <p>The members noted the report and confirmed the support of the Board in exploring and pursuing a wider strategic approach to the tackling of environmental crime among member organisations.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that Rob Thurston contact each of the five Priority Action groups that have been set up. He can show them how the legislation might be taken forward in their work.</p> <p>The Board asked to be updated in a year's time.</p>	<p>Rob Thurston/ Sara Skirton</p>
7	<p>A Community Strategy for Mendip</p> <p>The Chairman introduced this report and explained the work that has been done to date.</p> <p>Once all Board members have agreed the content of the Community Strategy, its Action Plans and the Summary document, the next step will be to get the documents professionally set out and published in hard copy and on the website.</p> <p>There was some concern that the main document is too long. The Chairman explained that this detail is necessary for background reference and measurement but suggested that the smaller summary document would be more suitable for the public and be given wide circulation.</p> <p>All members are requested to contact Sara Skirton directly by email or telephone to let her know of any amendments that are needed prior to the final publication.</p> <p>There are 11 themes with long term aims and 5 Priority areas. The Partnership will take this work forward by using the action plans listed at Appendix B. Sub groups will focus on the 5 Priority areas. It will be the responsibility of the sub groups to report back to the MSP.</p> <p>There is a proposal to set up a monitoring group, details on pages 41, 42 and 43 of the Community Strategy, with a diagram to show how this might work. Consultation needs to take place with the community.</p>	

	<p>The Board nominated the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to work with the Team Leader to agree the final text and approve the images and design of the documents, on behalf of the MSP Board.</p>	
8	<p>MSP Funding Programme 2005/06 and Partnership's Own Budget</p> <p>The Chairman gave details of the 5 bids that were considered for the funding.</p> <p>Board members were concerned that funds appear to have been promised or 'committed' for a further two years – particularly for the 'Tackling Climate Change Locally'. Roger Kershaw explained that funding through the second homes council tax monies is not guaranteed and an exit strategy should be in place. If funds are reduced in the future any commitments made now could be affected.</p> <p>It was agreed that clear measurable outcomes are needed for each of the grants. Action plans, provided by each of the successful bids will be used to provide accountability and measurable outcomes.</p> <p>The Board approved the allocation of second homes council tax monies for 2005/6 proposed by the Finance and Budget Sub-Group. It was noted that we are already half way through the financial year and the time left to commit this money is limited.</p> <p>The Board also approved the allocation of £4,000 from the MSP's remaining 2004/5 monies for the SBSG/SERC to fund phase 2 of the Biodiversity Action Plan Review.</p>	<p>Sara Skirton</p>
9	<p>Somerset Local Area Agreement</p> <p>Roger Kershaw from Somerset County Council gave a presentation on Local Area Agreements (LAAs)</p> <p>The Somerset Strategic Partnership is the lead body with a key role for LAAs.</p> <p>There was some concern from Board members that the timetable is so tight that the MSP will have no input into this process. Also that it is centred in Taunton and the wider community appears to get ignored. Roger Kershaw responded that there was strong representation of LSPs and District Councils in the process and the SSP was sensitive to the need for consultation on the themes covered in the proposed LAA for Somerset.</p> <p>The Chairman promised that he would attempt to keep MSP members aware of proposals and progress on the LAA and urged individual organisations and groups in the MSP to input to the process wherever they felt it necessary and helpful.</p> <p>Further details on the LAA process and progress can be found on the Somerset County Council LAA web site: http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/council/localareaagreement/index.cfm</p>	

10	<p>Mendip Community Strategy Biodiversity proofing Report and Biodiversity Briefing Notes</p> <p>The report has been produced by Vicky Breeze, Countryside Projects Coordinator, Countryside Services Group. It was noted that Richard Dixon is a member of this group and is therefore its representative on the MSP.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Priority Action leads use these guidelines and incorporate them into their action plans.</p> <p>There is information about Biodiversity in the Environment section of the Community Strategy. The Board agreed to work towards the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) targets.</p>	Priority Leads
11	<p>Shepton 21</p> <p>Sonia Pike spoke as member of the Shepton 21 group.</p> <p>The information provided in the report is positive. It was noted that the draft community strategic plan for Shepton Mallet will be available by the end of 2005.</p>	
12	<p>Glastonbury SRB</p> <p>Sonia Pike spoke as a member of Glastonbury SRB.</p> <p>The Board noted that work is ongoing to ensure that the momentum for regeneration initiated by the SRB programme continues when funding runs out at the end of the year.</p> <p>An SRB newsletter was circulated to board members.</p>	
13	<p>Dates for future meetings</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29 November 2005, commencing at 3pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council.</p> <p>Please note future dates for MSP Board Meetings in 2006. Tuesdays 7 March, 20 June, 26 September, 28 November. Venues TBA.</p>	All
15	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Sara Skirton had received a request for feedback on the proposed scope of the Older People strand of the LAA 'Long List'. She asked Board members to comment directly or through her with any feedback.</p>	

The meeting finished at 5.10pm

The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 5

FROM: MSP Monitoring Group Date: 29 November 2005
SUBJECT: **Monitoring the Community Strategy and Action Plans**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 4 October the MSP Board approved the Community Strategy document and the Action Plans for each of the five shorter term Priorities.

1.2 The Community Strategy includes details of arrangements that would be put in place to monitor trends in relation to the eleven Community Strategy Themes and also to track progress on delivery of the Action Plans for the five Priorities.

1.3 The attached diagram from the Community Strategy illustrates the proposed monitoring arrangements, which include the setting up of a multi agency MSP Monitoring Group.

2. MSP Monitoring Group

2.1 The first meeting of the Monitoring Group took place on 22 November 2006.

2.2 In relation to monitoring the eleven themes of the Community Strategy, the following was agreed:

- The existing contextual indicators which were included in each Theme 'Chapter' would be monitored and reported on annually. It was noted that these indicators were also used as part of the monitoring of the Local Development Framework.
- Work would continue to identify suitable contextual indicators for those Themes which do not currently have any, for example Food and the Arts (within Things to Do). These contextual indicators give a broad indication of whether key issues in Mendip are improving or not, and from this the MSP can use its strategic role to identify, with delivery agencies, key actions, or bring the theme forward as one of its priorities for action
- All MSP Partners would be asked to look at the Long Term Aims for each Theme in the Community Strategy and provide the Monitoring

Group with a list of the data or performance indicators they collect or report on that are most appropriate to measure progress. The Monitoring Group would then look at this data to how it could contribute to an information base about each of the eleven Themes and the Community Strategy overall.

2.3 For each of the five Shorter Term Priorities, it was noted that whilst the action plans included outputs, they did not yet include the desired outcomes on the ground, i.e. what change will come about as a result of the action being achieved, or how the outcomes might be measured.

2.4 The Monitoring Group agreed the following:

- The identified lead for each Priority would be asked to revisit their respective Action Plans, in conjunction with their sub group members and/or relevant colleagues, and agree outcomes for each action and the appropriate outcome measures. The Priority leads would then report back to the Monitoring Group

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

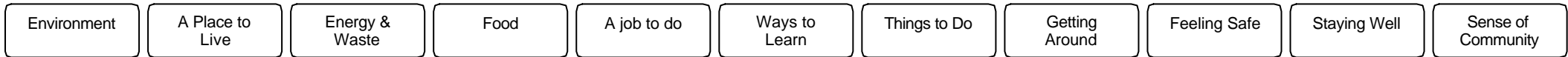
4.1 Members of the MSP Board are asked to:

- note the monitoring arrangements set out in the report
- provide, by 13 January 2006, a list of the data and/ or performance indicators they collect or report on that are appropriate for measuring progress on the Long Term Aims for the eleven Themes

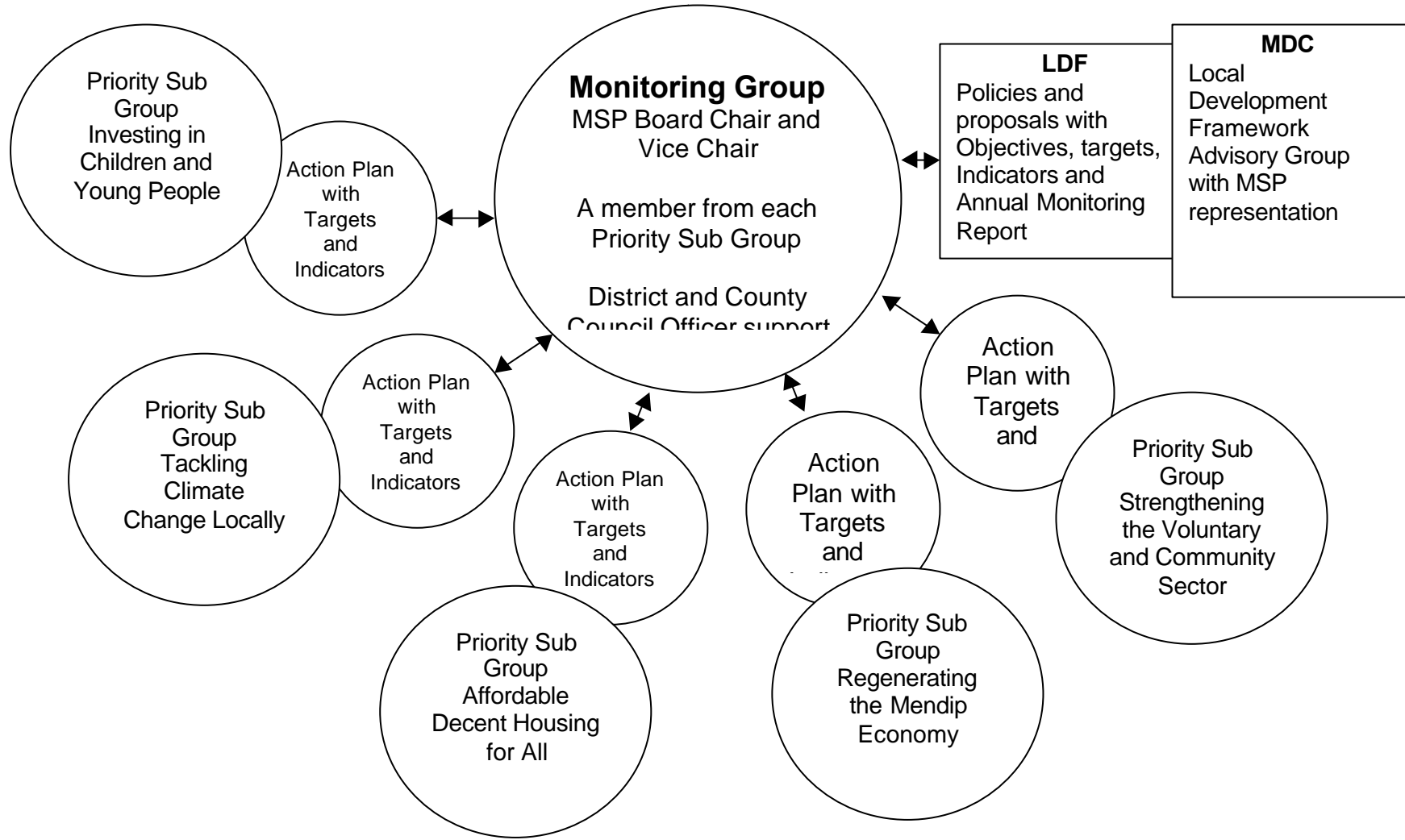
Contact: Sara Skirton 01749 341340
skirtons@mendip.gov.uk

Mendip Strategic Partnership

“By 2026 Mendip will be a thriving, iust and sustainable place to live in, work in and visit”



Contextual Indicators – Society, Economy, Environment Indicators for each of the 11



The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 6

FROM: MSP Budget and Finance Sub Group Date: 29 November 2005

SUBJECT: **MSP Funding Requests**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

This report sets out recommendations from the Budget and Finance Sub Group in relation to requests for and about MSP Funding.

2. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MSP

2004/05 Second Homes Council Tax monies

2.1 In 2004/05 the MSP put aside £15,000 for research to progress the aims of the community strategy. At the Board meeting on 4 October 2005 it was agreed that £4,000 would be awarded to Somerset Biodiversity Steering Group / SERC for the next phase of the review of Mendip's Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.2 This leaves £11,000 to be spent by 31 March 2006

2005/06 Second Homes Council Tax monies

2.3 The MSP had £121,490 allocated to it from Second Homes Council Tax for this financial year. £15,000 was allocated to Police Community Support Officers in July 2005 and at the MSP Board meeting on 4th October, proposals were approved to allocate £103,930 to the 5 MSP priorities as follows:

Strengthening the Voluntary & Community Sector	£11,430
Tackling Climate Change Locally	£35,000
Regenerating the Mendip Economy	£22,500
Affordable Decent Housing for All	£15,000
Investing in Children and Young People	£20,000

2.4 This means that £118,930 has been allocated and leaves £2,560 to be committed by end March 2006 (and spent by end March 2007).

2.5 Additionally the MSP has approximately £16,400 of its own 'non-second homes' monies.

3. FUNDING REQUESTS

Somerset Broadband

3.1 The Project Manager for Somerset Broadband (for which Connecting Somerset is the flagship project) has enquired about the availability of additional funding to increase the project's penetration in Mendip. Details of the bid and information about Broadband activity in Mendip are attached as Appendix A.

3.2 The MSP awarded £20,000 to the project from 2004/05 second homes monies. The new proposal is attached and the various elements total £9,750.

3.3 Officers from Mendip District Council's Business Support Service have had discussions with the Project Manager about the Connecting Somerset project and how it can help businesses in Mendip. The Officers consider that projects A and B of the proposal would be better able to achieve their objectives of engaging Mendip businesses and the community, and would provide greater value for money, if the Business Support Service were to deliver the events jointly with Connecting Somerset.

3.4 Budget and Finance Sub Group members have indicated that they require more detail about how previous MSP funding for this project has specifically benefited the Mendip district and how any additional future funding would add to this.

3.5 If all three elements of the proposal were funded at a total of £9,750 this would leave £1,250 from 2004/05 second homes monies (which need to be spent by end March 2006).

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

3.6 The CAB is seeking assistance to help it continue to provide a weekly outreach service in the Glastonbury Mini Sure Start and Frome Family Centre until the end of March 2006. The amount sought is £2,790 to continue the Glastonbury service or £5,580 to continue the Glastonbury service and reinstate the Frome service.

3.7 A request has been submitted to Glastonbury SRB for funding the Glastonbury service and the outcome should be known by 24 November. If the bid to Glastonbury SRB is successful, the request to MSP would then be for £2,790 to reinstate the Frome service.

Meare and Westhay Parish Council – Project to Develop a Preteen Play Area

3.8 Meare and Westhay Parish Council was awarded £5,000 by the MSP from 2004/05 monies. They have however struggled to find match funding and in July 2005 the MSP agreed to keep the offer open for a further six months. The Parish Council has now decided on a different approach, i.e. to construct the play area themselves, and is seeking permission from the MSP Board to use the award in a slightly different way. The letter of request is attached as Appendix B.

3.9 As the £5,000 has already been allocated, granting this request would not impact on the available resources as detailed in 1 above.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Taking into account the views of BFSG members on the requests in 3 above, the MSP Board is asked to consider the following recommendations.

That:

1. £3,750 is allocated from 2004/05 monies to take forward Project A and Project B of the Somerset Broadband / Connecting Somerset proposal, with the condition that Mendip District Council's Business Support service jointly delivers the events detailed in Projects A and B of the proposal
2. further discussions take place with the project manager before a decision is taken regarding funding project C of the Somerset Broadband / Connecting Somerset proposal
3. £2790 is allocated to CAB to reinstate the weekly outreach service in the Frome Family Centre.
4. should the bid to Glastonbury SRB be unsuccessful, consideration is given to allocating further funds to CAB to continue the Glastonbury outreach service.
5. permission be given to Meare and Westhay Parish Council to use the allocated £5,000 as set out in the proposal letter

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Somerset Broadband Programme – Mendip Experience

Information for the November MSP meeting on the Mendip broadband situation.

Table 1 has figures sourced by BT and relates to (a) availability of broadband to telephone customers and (b) customers (residential and business combined – BT are unable to release separate figures) signed up to using broadband delivered via the phone line.

Table 1

	UK	SW	Som	Mendi p
Broadband availability (% exchanges enabled)	na	na	97%	100%
Broadband sign-up	23.1%	22.9%	26.1%	na

Table 2 uses data from the Connecting Somerset (CS) project, as at 31 August 2005.

Table 2

	Som	Mendi p
Businesses known to CS	25484	4894
Businesses expressing an interest in CS	1251	296
Businesses applying for CS assistance	257	52
No. of CS e-adoption steps approved	336	73
No. of CS e-adoption steps taken and paid for	63	10

Business growth is measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). We ask businesses who take e-adoption steps to measure GVA beforehand and we will sample these businesses after 12 months and/or 24 months to measure how much the business has grown. The project has an overall target to grow Somerset's GVA by £3.5m. Mendip's share of this is around £1m.

Among the businesses benefiting from Connecting Somerset, we are using some as case studies:

"Roger White was a pig farmer for forty years before he set up Somerset Local Food Direct. The company uses a database-driven website. 'Our customers log on and place orders, our producers and growers check their orders and our van drivers log on to plan their delivery routes - all at a time that suits them and ties in with their hectic schedules.' Roger has recently had broadband installed at his home and finds it has transformed the way he works."

"It was a steep learning curve for Sue Oberholzer when she bought Glastonbury delicatessen, the Truckle of Cheese, three years ago. Sue had previously run Glastonbury's post office, so the move to selling charcuterie, cheeses and other high quality groceries was a major departure. 'I am very excited about the new opportunities that eCommerce will bring and I can see a huge amount of potential,' she says. 'For example, we are going to offer picnic hampers to order online, and the South African delicacies in which we specialise can now be promoted nationally.'

Mendip Strategic Partnership - Broadband Actions **Briefing note for MSP Budget and Finance Sub Group**

Overall objective

To help Mendip businesses and communities to make the most of broadband and ICT. This will promote a stronger economy and give everyone better opportunities to access services and advice.

Outcome areas

- Move businesses up e-adoption ladder (steps are: broadband connection, simple website, advanced website, selling through website, e-business). Measured by Gross Value Added.
- Help communities use the Internet for access to services, advice, benefits and leisure.

Background

- Somerset Broadband Programme has been set up with European Social Fund and Regional Development Agency funding to help businesses and communities throughout Somerset to make the most of broadband and IT.
- It is a programme of projects: Connecting Somerset is the flagship project, offering businesses advice and grant to move up the e-adoption ladder. Connecting Somerset started in April 2005 and will run until June 2007.
- Managed by stakeholder group: SCC, District councils, Business Link, RDA, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, Learning & Skills Council
- Reports through to Somerset Strategic Partnership.

Mendip Strategic Partnership

- MSP agreed a funding amount of £20k from 2004/5 LSP budget. This was aimed at supporting the overall schemes for business, local community projects, promotion and education.
- Attachment 1 shows progress so far on (a) availability and take-up of broadband, (b) on engagement by Mendip businesses and (c) Mendip case studies.
- The attached page summarises the opportunities for Mendip Strategic Partnership to support local broadband work. Both projects will address significant needs.
- The LSP is asked to support both of these projects.

MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES

Project A	Workshop for Support Organisations
	Somerset Broadband Programme (SBP) will work with MDC to hold a workshop for agencies working in Mendip interested in supporting businesses and communities in their use of broadband and IT. This has recently been successful held for South Somerset Together LSP.
	MSP Priorities Regenerating the Mendip Economy - Creating a more enterprising and business friendly culture in the Mendip area Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector - Market voluntary agencies and their strengths to statutory agencies and generally build up faith and trust; - Attract specialist skills and expertise from the private sector
	Outputs Half day workshop held in January 2006. Analysis of: current broadband/IT support activities; planned activities; gaps where more support is needed.
	Cost: £750
Project B	Broadband and IT Information Day
	SBP will work with MDC to hold a drop in day for all Mendip businesses and communities. Local agencies will be present to answer questions about projects underway, support available and to collect further information about support needs.
	MSP Priorities Regenerating the Mendip Economy - Creating a more enterprising and business friendly culture in the Mendip area Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector - Market voluntary agencies and their strengths to statutory agencies and generally build up faith and trust; - Attract specialist skills and expertise from the private sector
	Outputs Full day Information Day held in February 2006. Significant advertising and awareness raising to ensure good attendance. As a result more businesses engaged with Connecting Somerset and other projects. More community organisations using internet and websites and helped by Mendip's community support agencies.
	Cost: £3000
Project C	Business Adviser works with businesses based in Mendip. Business Adviser holds roadshows; visits businesses; gives advice about what broadband/IT can do for their business; helps them produce business case; helps apply for Connecting Somerset grant; organises training.
	MSP Priorities Regenerating the Mendip Economy - Creating a more enterprising and business friendly culture in the Mendip area
	Outputs Businesses committed to making a difference by moving up the e-adoption ladder.
	Cost: 24 days (to end March 2006) of a contract Business Adviser, in depth help for 24 businesses, cost £6k

HOMEWAY FARM

**Homeway Farm
Westhay Road
Meare
Nr. Glastonbury
Somerset
BA6 9TL
01458 860287**

1/11/05

Dear Sara

Meare and Westhay Parish

As you know we were given some land at the end of Muddy Lane in Meare to be developed into a childrens' play area. I have been fundraising and was hoping to raise a total of £40,000 in order to have a professional contractor carry out the work.

Over the last 18 months I have only managed to raise £12,000 of which £5,000 is promised from the Mendip Strategic Partnership Fund. After so many disappointments from so many applications I have asked our council if we can do what most neighbouring parish councils have done which is to build the play area ourselves using local volunteer labour and they are agreement. I have made initial costings and feel that this will be in the region of £10,000.

I am writing to you to request that you will approach your committee to allow us to use the £5000 grant to prepare the site – this consists of clearing, drainage, secure animal proof fencing, a bridge with a four foot and twelve foot access gates and wood surrounds to the actual play areas. The remaining money will be used to purchase the play equipment, including a play house on stilts, to lay bark in the actual play areas and purchase two picnic tables to allow 'the mums' to supervise their children.

We are also in the process of reforming the parish junior youth club and the planned play area would become a big asset to the youth leader of this group.

Yours sincerely

Jack Palmer

The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 7

FROM: Sara Skirton for the MSP Budget and Finance Sub Group Date: 29 November 2005

SUBJECT: **Review of MSP Funding Programme 2004/05**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 In 2004/05 the MSP allocated £95,860 of the available £120,860 Second Homes Council Tax monies to a number of community focused projects. The remaining £25,000 was allocated to the Somerset Strategic Partnership (£10,000) and the MSP (£15,000 for research).

1.2 All 2004/05 second homes Council Tax monies need to be spent by 31 March 2006.

1.3 A review of the awards made to community projects began in October 2005 which involved the project organisations being asked to submit progress or final reports, as appropriate and detailed expenditure reports. The closing date was 11 November 2005

1.4 The attached table provides an overview of the progress of each of the projects that were funded in 2004/05, where reports have been received. Some reports are still outstanding and follow up requests have been made.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Budget and Finance Sub Group meet early in 2005/06 to:

- evaluate the reports received
- agree a course of action in any case where reports have not been received
- make recommendations, if appropriate, about the reallocation of any committed 2004/05 monies that are unlikely to be spent by 31 March 2006

Contact: Sara Skirton 01749 341340
skirtons@mendip.gov.uk

Organisation	Project	MSP award	report received @ 23.11.05?	Award spent	Project complete?
Somerset County Council	Somerset Broadband Project	20,000	Yes	Yes	Ongoing till March 2007. Further funding sought from MSP for work in Mendip. See BFSG report
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	to provide two Police Community Support Officers for Frome	10,000	No, but contact made / informed it is imminent		
Community Council for Somerset	for a Volunteer Recruitment Agency for Mendip	9,960	No, reminder sent		
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	Mendip Farm Plastic Recycling Project	5,000	Yes	no but will be by 31.3.06	ongoing
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	to provide a Police Community Support Officer for Glastonbury	5,000	No, but contact made / informed it is imminent		
Inaura the Inclusion Charity	to develop a full Social Inclusion Network	5,000	No, but contact made / informed it is imminent		
Centre for Sustainable Energy - Warming Mendip project	Warming Mendip project	5,000	Yes	Yes	Ongoing

Organisation	Project	MSP award	report received @ 23.11.05?	Award spent	Project complete?
Somerset Biodiversity Steering Group / SERC	to review Biodiversity management within Mendip	4,400	Yes	Yes	Ongoing. Request to MSP for further funding – see BFSG report
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	Mendip Bat and Dormouse Project Phase 1	4,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Victim Support	To instigate and improve the quality of Victim Support's volunteer infrastructure	3,000	Yes	Yes	Ongoing
Mid Somerset CAB	County Court Project to tackle homelessness and debt	3,000	Yes	Yes	
Trudoxhill Village Hall	Refurbish and provide disabled facilities	2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whitstone School and NCH	To continue to employ through NCH a Counsellor for school students (11-16)	2,000	Yes	Yes	Project closed when funding ran out
Life Education Centres (Somerset)	To purchase a second mobile classroom, hire and train a specialist Educator to extend availability of Life Education Centres to schools in Mendip	2,000	Yes	Yes	ongoing with funding from other sources
Batcombe Parish Council	Improvements to Playing Field and Play Area	2,000	Yes	Partially	Anticipated that project will be complete by 31.3.06
Somerset Child-Safe Partnership	To provide child protection advice to those involved in children and young peoples' sport and group activities	1,500	Yes	No, clarification required /being sought	Ongoing

Organisation	Project	MSP award	report received @ 23.11.05?	Award spent	Project complete?
Stoke St Michael Community Playing Field	To install playing equipment and safety	1,000	No, but contact made / informed it is imminent		
Mendip Care and Repair	To recycle stair lifts and make them available to those on low incomes (part of lottery bid)	1,000	Yes	Yes	
Meare and Westhay Parish Council	To develop piece of land as a Preteen Play area	5,000	money not yet claimed – see BFSG agenda tem		
Wanstrow Village Hall	To pump prime larger project to extend existing hall and improve facilities	2,000	money not yet claimed – offer open until Jan 06		
Mendip Primary Care Trust	To address unmet health, social and welfare needs in rural communities	3,000	Yes	No	Project came in under budget. Proposal for spending remained due 30.11.05
	Total	95,860			