

Ref number:
090



Performance Reward Grant Scheme APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board	Trowbridge	
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)	John Cox, Chairman Wiltshire West District, the Scout Association 25 Deverell Close Bradford on Avon BA15 1UZ 01225 864270 jandbcox@hotmail.com	
Name of initiative	Roundwood Scout Campsite and Activity Centre	
Brief Description of Initiative	<p>Scouts in West Wilts have used a clearing in woods at Brokerswood for over 40 years on a lease. Following the death of the owner in 2009, the entire wood is to be sold and the scouts would have to vacate the site. This would entail nugatory expenditure by the Scouts of some £2000 to £5000 to return the clearing to its original condition prior to sale. The owner's heirs have, however, offered to sell a portion of the wood to the Scouts.</p> <p>The proposal is therefore to purchase at least 10 acres of mixed woodland at Brokerswood near Westbury and develop for use as a Scout Campsite and open air activity centre for use by the 900 young people and volunteer leaders that make up the 12 scout groups in Wiltshire West District Scout Association. The site will also be made available to all organised youth organisations (including Guides and youth clubs) school parties and Pre-school children.</p>	
Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support *It is only necessary to identify those ambitions on which you feel your bid will make a significant impact.	Building resilient communities	X
	Improving affordable housing	
	Lives not services	X
	Supporting economic growth	X
	Safer communities	X
	Protecting the environment	X
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	
	Improving outcomes for Children and young people	X
Amount of funding sought	<p>£40,000 (all capital expenditure)</p> <p>The Scouts are applying to other grant makers for assistance and firm pledges have been received for £36,000 so far. The Wiltshire CC funding will be matched by a contribution of up to £10,000 from the Scout District's reserves and by provision of volunteer labour from parents and volunteers for some of the</p>	

	improvement work.
What will this money be spent on?	<p>Total project cost is between £72,000 and £112,000, (dependent upon the amount of woodland purchased) Made up of:</p> <p>Purchase of between 10 and 20 acres of woodland (inc legal costs) £44000 - £84000</p> <p>Fencing, gates and access £ 5000</p> <p>Improvements to site (toilet improvements, disabled access, games area, tree surveys and surgery, brush clearance, secure storage) £15000 (all capital expenditure)</p> <p>Cost of loan from Scout Association to fund purchase if grants do not arrive in time, if needed £8000</p>
Is planning permission required? /No	No (unless it is decided to provide hard standing for car-parking at a later date) this has been confirmed with the Planning Officer
Have quotes been obtained? No	No - This is a one-off opportunity to buy a specific area of woodland. Extensive searches have failed to find a suitable alternative. A professional assessment has confirmed that the price of £4000 per acre is fair (see Note 1 attached)
<p>Note: Bids will only be considered if they help us to achieve our ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire. It is important that initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. In this section you are being asked to provide information about how your project contributes, and how you will measure that success. The level of improvement we expect to see will be proportional to the level of the bid: i.e. the more funding required, the greater the level of impact and improvement that will be necessary.</p>	
Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken	<p>General</p> <p>Scouting is becoming ever more popular. Total membership in Britain rose by 16,500 last year, the fifth consecutive annual rise so that today the UK Scout Association provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for nearly 500,000 young people in the UK aged 6-25. Waiting lists to join are at an all-time high, the constraint being the need to find more volunteer leaders. Internationally, there are over 28 million young people enjoying the benefits of Scouting in 218 countries. Locally, the Wiltshire West District Scout Association is made up of 12 Scout Groups each with an average membership of 50 young people ranging in age from 6 to 25 and each supported by a dedicated team of voluntary leaders and helpers. The Groups are located at Westbury (the nearest to the camp site) Broughton Gifford & Holt, Bowerhill, Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Mere, Southwick & North Bradley, 2 groups in Trowbridge, Warminster and Winsley, with a total membership of over 980 young people and adult leaders.</p> <p>Scouting believes that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing,' when they are given responsibility, face challenges, work in teams, take acceptable risks, think for</p>

themselves and have fun. The camp site will provide an invaluable aid as it is local to all of the Groups in West Wilts, will be relatively cheap to use and is a place where they can do what they want when they want and can make as much noise as they like without causing annoyance in a safe, secure environment.

Building Resilient Communities:

Scouting helps young people develop their leadership skills and team skills and provides training in that thing called citizenship and try to do it in a fun and adventurous way. This means that they need to get out and about in the countryside and the proposed camp site will provide a safe environment in which a variety of training activities can be staged. One of the aims of scouting is to encourage young members to take an active part in the local, national and international community. The training programme has within it elements designed to foster understanding of why individuals should contribute to the well-being of the community of which they are part and the benefits that they as individuals and the community at large will derive from this. They hope that by the time they reach adulthood their young members will have a keen understanding of the needs of their community and be willing and able to contribute to the life of the community and to strengthen the voluntary sector in years to come.

As well as being used by Scouts and Guides from outside the District, the camp site will be made available to other organised youth groups. For example, a local pre-school group has asked if they might use it as an outdoor classroom in the warmer months. In time, the scouts envisage the facility being utilised by schools and youth groups for a variety of educational and sports activities. Their long-term aim is that the site will become some form of hub for youth outdoor activity.

Lives not Services

Increasing levels of obesity and low fitness in young people is a matter of national concern. The Scout training programme encourages and fosters a healthy life style based upon healthy eating, hygiene, exercise and outdoor pursuits. This is reinforced by specific badge courses related to sports, diet and cooking. The camp site will enable these important life-skills to be reinforced by means of day visits and over-night camping where young members will, for example, plan their menus, buy their provisions and cook for themselves. Other activities which will be undertaken at the site include a variety of open air sports and games, tracking, assault courses, orienteering and wide games, including night games. This part of our training programme will provide strong foundations which will encourage the young people to make the right choices in life, develop the strength of character to maintain a healthy life-style as they grow into adulthood and throughout their lives and, by so doing, provide a

good example to their peers.

Supporting Economic Growth

Scouting aims to promote the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the individual, helping them achieve their full potential. Scouting believes that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing,' when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves. The training scheme culminates in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, which is proving to be an important asset in helping young people find work. The leadership and team working skills that young members acquire, together with the self confidence that the training engenders helps to provide them with the skills that future generations of leaders and of our national workforce will need in order to make planned economic growth become a reality. The camp site will provide an excellent facility for nights and days away under the stars at which the training and acquisition of these essential skills will be reinforced.

Safer Communities

Past and present Governments have been keen to try to find constructive and useful things for young people to do and to educate them to become useful members of society. Membership of scouting carries with it obligations to help, to behave in a creditable manner and Scout training helps young people to find the strength of character to make the right choices and helps give them the maturity to resist pressures to take a part in activities such as drug dealing and gang cultures. Many church leaders, members of the police force and social workers value the contribution that scouting makes towards achieving better, safer communities. The activities which will be conducted at the site will reinforce these important messages.

Protecting the Environment

The area to be purchased is very attractive visually, supports a wide variety of broadleaf and coniferous trees, wild flowers, birds and deer, and gives young people a very real opportunity to appreciate the great outdoors and to gain an understanding of the rural environment and how to respect and protect it. The training which will be provided will foster understanding of how communities and individuals need to integrate with the countryside and how the actions and behaviours of young and old alike impact on the environment. Each of the age groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) have specific badges which are aimed at improving awareness of these important issues. Ownership will enable the young people to gain practical, hands-on experience of conservation and woodland and wildlife management. The scouts will be contacting organisations such as the RSPB to devise ways to encourage birds such as

nightingales back onto the land, finding ways to improve breeding numbers of birds and to encourage species such as bats. They plan a practical course in forestry for 20 or so older members each year, where they will learn important skills as well as help maintain the woodland. They also intend to construct nature trails for use by all the organisations that use the site. It is their hope that the knowledge and skills acquired at the site will encourage, enable and equip the young members to carry these important messages back to their communities and, in later life, to their workplaces.

The aim is to provide a safe, self sustaining environment in which both the trees, the flora and the wildlife can flourish alongside and integrated with the important citizenship training that will be provided.

Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People

Scouting is offering exciting opportunities to a wide age range of young people aged from 6 to 25 from all backgrounds and abilities. However, to be effective the organisation needs to provide a wide ranging, active and adventurous programme that appeals to young people from all walks of life, social backgrounds, ethnic groups and abilities, delivered in a safe, thoughtful and structured way in accordance with the rules of the Scout Association. One of the tenets of Scouting is helping ourselves and others, particularly those who are less fortunate in one way or another. Camping and outdoor pursuits organised on a team and confidence building basis help to reinforce these messages, encourage self sufficiency and awareness of the needs of others, hopefully reducing or eliminating the frame of mind which looks to the state as the first port of call in adversity. The site at Brokerswood will provide first class facilities and training opportunities for young people, helping to build the strong foundations that young people need if they are to realise their full potential in later life, are to succeed and are not to be a burden on the state. Scouting gives strong encouragement for volunteering and giving help to others. Additionally, it is hoped that the provision of this facility will encourage the volunteer leaders in their work and that it will help recruitment.

Family cohesion: A number of our Groups hold “Father and Son /Daughter” camps which, as well as being great fun, have helped greatly to foster understanding and cohesion within families. A number of fathers say that sleeping together under canvas away from the distractions of modern life has been the first time that they have really talked with their children.

Single parent families: A number of school children have been accepted into local scout groups under the Government’s Freetime Scheme. This recognises the useful role that scouting provides for out-of-school activities under the mentorship of

adult males, particularly in households which have no male role models.

Young disabled people and carers: Scouting makes no exception in its readiness to take all such young people into membership and to offer them the full range of activities which are taken for granted by their more fortunate colleagues. A nationwide survey carried out between 2004 and 2005 showed that 13% of Scouts in Wiltshire were disadvantaged physically, mentally or both. The site improvement programme includes provision of improved access for disabled people. In addition Wiltshire Council and Government statistics show that a number of areas in our catchment are recognised as areas of social deprivation..

Disadvantaged Children: Many of the areas of Wiltshire which are in the high deprivation category (income deprivation affecting children), are within the catchment areas of one or more of our Groups, as follows:

- ❑ Worst 10% of the most deprived areas (by ward) in Wiltshire
Trowbridge John of Gaunt, Westbury Ham
- ❑ Worst 20% of most deprived in Wiltshire
Melksham North, Trowbridge Adcroft,
Trowbridge Drynham
Bradford on Avon South
- ❑ Worst 30% of most deprived in Wiltshire
Paxcroft, Warminster West, Bradford on
Avon North
Warminster East, Holt. Western and Mere,
Atworth and Whitley, Westbury
Laverton, Trowbridge College

(Source: Wiltshire Council Corporate Research Centre IMD report, 2007 Part 1)

Wiltshire West has Scout Groups in all of these areas. These are run by dedicated teams of leaders and helpers who give their time energy and knowledge voluntarily for the benefit of the young people in their locality.

Conclusion

The proposed facility will greatly assist the 12 Scout Groups in the area to provide training for young people in a very cost effective manner at no further cost. Sustainable outcomes are expected over the next 40 or so years in 6 of the 8 ambitions of the Performance Reward scheme.

The current lease permits only Scouts to use the site. Owning a portion of woodland as well as the camping area will enable us to encourage others to use it.

<p>What makes this initiative a local priority (e.g. evidence from research and local support)</p>	<p>The District Scout Executive sought the views of its 900 members. Only 3 of our 12 Groups (with membership totalling 190) did not support the plan to acquire the camp site and many were appalled at the very real prospect of losing it. Those that did not support the project felt that it would not be possible to raise the money at a district level and feared that they might have to divert their very scarce financial resources to this project.</p>
<p>How will you know you have been successful?</p>	<p>Increasing membership numbers, larger waiting lists and anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that scouting is a success. Having to leave the site will be detrimental to the training that we offer. We will know that we have been successful if the numbers of those using the site increases, and if we can stimulate its use by other organised Youth Groups and, in the longer term, by schools. We will ask our Groups to provide details of skills badges earned as a result of using the facility. We will also monitor the numbers who come back for subsequent visits.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<p>The Scouts will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor bookings of the site against previous years. endeavour to count numbers attending keep records of other organisations using the facility. ask users to complete a satisfaction survey recording numbers present, what they did, what they liked and what improvements they would like to see. Ask Scout Groups to provide details of skills badges earned as a result of using the site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? 	<p>Year 1 - Match usage figures for 2010 Year 2 – achieve up to 5% usage by other youth organisations Year 3 – increase overall usage by 10% and proportion of usage by others to 10% Year 3 - complete site improvements Year 3 – user satisfaction surveys to show 30% improvement on year 2</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? (<i>this is one-off funding</i>) 	<p>Scouts have had the use of the site for 40 years and have a well organised and motivated team of volunteers who maintain the site. Scouting itself has been in existence for over 100 years and is currently enjoying a sustained period of growth. The West Wilts District has a team of over 150 trained and committed volunteer leaders and helpers who can be expected to continue to improve the lives and the prospects of the young people in this area of Wiltshire for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>Who will benefit from this initiative?</p>	<p>The main beneficiaries will be the 750 young members and 150 volunteer leaders of the 12 Groups in the Wiltshire West District.. Of these, 20 or so older boys and girls per annum will be given training in forestry and conservation skills. An as yet unknown number of members of other organised youth organisations, pre-school and, in the longer term, school parties will be able to enjoy the benefits. (We plan to advertise the site and its facilities once we are sure of being able to</p>

	<p>purchase it)</p> <p>The Government indices of deprivation show that many of the areas of Wiltshire which are in the high deprivation category (income deprivation affecting children) are within the catchment areas of one or more of our Groups, which are run by dedicated teams of leaders and helpers who give their time energy and knowledge voluntarily for the benefit of the young people in their locality.</p>
<p>Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative</p>	<p>There will be the following on-going commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Balance of purchase costs: to be funded from grants from other providers, for which applications are currently being made, and from matching funding of up to £10000 from the District Scout Association's own resources. If the money is not all available by completion date for the purchase, we have a facility to borrow money from the Scout Association at an advantageous rate. Loan costs are included in the project plan ❑ Site improvements (£20000 over 3 years) –to be met from grants from charities, local fundraising and volunteer labour ❑ Maintenance & Running Costs; estimated at £600 per annum, in addition to volunteer labour. These costs will be met from site booking fees. ❑ In addition, the District Executive will, as in the past, allocate funds for specific improvements or repairs
<p>Will ongoing maintenance of premises/equipment be necessary?</p>	<p>Yes. The Scouts have a management committee which operates and maintains the site on behalf of the Executive Committee. Regular work-days are held with parents and young members.</p>
<p>What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?</p>	<p>As receipts currently match expenditure on running costs and maintenance, and rent will no longer be due, it is concluded that there is little risk that the scouts will not be able to afford the upkeep of the site. Steps are being taken to broaden the membership of the Management Committee and to encourage some youth members to participate.</p> <p>The following risks and remedial actions have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That funding does not come in fast enough to match the timing requirements of the financial plan. The financial plan is built around a number of scenarios connected with the timing of the payment of grants and donations so that expenditure can be readily tailored to match income. If there is a shortfall of cash to meet the purchase price then there is the option to take out a loan from the UK Scout Association and to spread the repayments over a time-frame that matches receipts. ▪ That sufficient funding will not be forthcoming from grant making bodies. If this occurs, the scouts will, in order of priority:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rely more heavily on volunteer labour ▪ Defer work on lower priority items in the development plan ▪ Borrow sufficient money to complete the purchase from the UK Scout Association, at an advantageous rate, repayable over 10 years. ▪ That sufficient funding will not be obtained to pay off any loan and interest accruing. If this happens the scouts will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ step up local fund raising efforts at District and Group level ▪ abandon low priority improvements for the time being ▪ use District funds in addition to the £10,000 already allocated ▪ That the task of maintaining the site will prove to be beyond the capabilities of the Scouts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this is considered to be unlikely, the Scouts have a well-supported management committee, which includes a professional groundsman. We can also call on the services of two professional tree surgeons free of charge. We have managed the site well for 40 years and have every expectation to expect to be able to continue. To do so.
Who will manage the initiative	John Cox, Chairman Wiltshire West District, the Scout Association 25 Deverell Close Bradford on Avon BA15 1UZ 01225 864270 jandbcox@hotmail.com

Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated:

NB: It is the responsibility of the Area Board to ensure that:

- bids are robust and well-founded
- public money is spent appropriately and in accordance with the details of the bid and with any conditions placed on approval by the PRG Panel
- the initiatives are managed well to achieve the benefits and that performance improvement is reported