

Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	4 June 2013
Title:	SODC Market Town Fund and Infrastructure Grant
Purpose of the Report:	To consider projects that could be submitted
Contact Officer:	Helen Stewart, Town Clerk

Background

Town Councils, community groups and business groups are being encouraged to put forward ideas and apply for a share of funding which has been made available to help improve the town centre environment in towns and larger villages across South Oxfordshire.

A total of £150,000 is available over the next two years to Henley, Thame and Wallingford, as well as the district's 12 largest villages, to help pay for infrastructure improvements, such as street furniture, shop front improvements, Christmas decorations, signage and public access Wi-Fi.

The money will be allocated to projects which are in line with South Oxfordshire District Council's priority of "building the local economy" and objective to "invest to improve the viability and attractiveness of our towns".

It is hoped that projects which successfully apply for funding will help to improve accessibility to the local area, promote equality and diversity, support sustainable development and encourage community engagement.

The three towns will each receive an allocation of £18,750 per year for the next two years, with the villages able to apply for a share of a separate pot of the same amount.

Projects will need to have the support of the local business community, town or parish council or relevant charitable organisation. They will need to be match funded by up to 50 per cent, and will need to be completed by the end of March 2015.

Suggested Projects

- Trees surrounds for trees in Upper High Street car park
- Flag pole
- Charging post for electric cars
- Information board and leaflet display outside of the Town Hall

Resource Appraisal

Any project submitted would require match funding from the Town Council.

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To suggest projects that the Council would be willing to support with match funding.***