



Tunbridge Wells Local Board Annual Report

➤ Introduction

The Tunbridge Wells Local Board is pleased to present its third annual report covering the period from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007.

The six Members (County Councillors) who make up the Local Board, and the respective areas they represented were: -

| | |
|---------------|---|
| John Davies | Tunbridge Wells West (Local Board Chairman) |
| Roger Manning | Cranbrook (Local Board Vice Chairman) |
| Roy Bullock | Tunbridge Wells North |
| Alex King | Tunbridge Wells Rural |
| Kevin Lynes | Tunbridge Wells East |
| James Scholes | Tunbridge Wells South |

The list of Members and their contact details are shown in Appendix 1.

No additional members were co-opted to the Local Board during the year.

➤ Meetings

All of the Local Board meetings are open to the public. In addition to the regular list of invitees and others who have asked for information about Local Board meetings, dates and times of the meetings are advertised widely to Parish and Town Councils, and other organisations, and via information displayed at public libraries, on local notice boards and the Kent County Council web site (www.kent.gov.uk/localboards). There has been press publicity for some meetings. There has been a relatively small attendance at most of the meetings during the year, with the largest turn out being at the July 2006 meeting in Hawkhurst.

There is a time allocated during each meeting to enable those present to ask questions on community issues or on Kent County Council services affecting the local area.

➤ Tunbridge Wells Local Board Meetings 2006/07

The Local Board has continued its practice of holding some of its meetings outside Tunbridge Wells itself. The Local Board met in Hawkhurst in July 2006, and will be holding the first of its 2007/8 year meetings in Paddock Wood.

| Date of Meeting | Venue | Main Topics | Attendees | KCC Members (of 6) |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| 27 April 2006 | Tunbridge Wells Library, Museum and Art Gallery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of the Library, Museum and Art Gallery • Member Community Grants and Small Community Capital Grants | 15 | 5 |
| 4 July 2006 | Hawkhurst CE Primary School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards 2010 • Revitalising Kent's Rural Areas – Rural Towns Health-checks • Annual Report of the Tunbridge Wells Local Board 2005/6 | 26 | 5 |
| 1 November 2006 | Pembury School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care in the Tunbridge Wells Borough • Small Community Capital Projects Grants | 16 | 5 |
| 21 February 2007 | Little Forest Children's Centre, Tunbridge Wells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Centres • Small Community Capital Projects Grants and Local Schemes Grants | 10 | 4 |

Future meeting dates and venues will be advertised on the KCC web site. See: www.kent.gov.uk/localboards

➤ Small Community Capital Grants

As in 2004/5 and 2005/6, KCC allocated £500,000 across Kent in its Capital Budget for the Small Community Capital Projects Fund. This was principally aimed at supporting small capital projects originating in local communities. The Tunbridge Wells Local Board allocated £38,200 of the

£500,000 to recommend grants to projects in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area.

Applicants for projects were given guidance about how to submit their bid, and the criteria by which the Fund operates. KCC had identified four areas as particular priorities for the fund in 2006/7. These were:

- Projects which enhance local community and voluntary organisations in the provision of services to the public.
- Projects which enhance KCC's Supporting Independence Programme
- Projects which improve the provision of public transport
- Projects which improve the provision of community safety

The Fund's main eligibility criteria included the following:

- Grants could only be given to organisations that are properly constituted. This includes organisations such as district, parish and town councils, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies, charities, etc.
- Grants could only be provided to a maximum value of £20,000 to any one project.
- Grants could only be provided to projects that enhance local communities or the provision of services to the public of Kent.
- Grants could not be provided as replacement funding for the loss of any other form of funding from KCC.
- The grant support was for the purchase or creation of capital assets. It was not to fund current or on-going running costs.

Via the Community Liaison Manager, the Local Board received ten applications to the Fund, and recommended six grants. The list of recommended projects then went forward to KCC's Cabinet, for approval. All were approved. These are listed on the next page of this report.

The Small Community Capital Grant requests received by the Tunbridge Wells Local Board in 2006/7 were as follows:

| Project Title | Applicant | Grant requested | Grant given |
|--|--|------------------------|--------------------|
| Enhancement of Barnett's Wood Local Nature Reserve | Kent High Weald Project | £8,710 | £8,710 |
| New Kitchen, for new Centre | Headway, Tunbridge Wells & District | £8,000 | £8,000 |
| New Showers | Brenchley Cricket & Football Club | £3,972 | £3,972 |
| Ridgeway Sports Hall Improvements | Ridgeway Football Club | £18,909 | £6,000 |
| Play and Learn Zone | Sherwood Park Community Primary School | £19,278 | £6,500 |
| New Club House | Pembury Athletic Youth Football Club | £10,000 | £5,000 |
| | | Total allocated | £38,182 |

Application forms for Small Community Capital grants in the 2007/8 financial year are now available. The Local Board will consider the first applications in the autumn of 2007.

➤ Local Schemes Grants

For the first time in 2006/7, KCC allocated £400,000 across Kent to a grant scheme called "Local Schemes Grant". This was available for a range of types of project. The money derives from the income from Council Tax for second homes, and was allocated to Local Boards pro rata to their District's share of that income. There are relatively few second homes in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area, and the Tunbridge Wells Local Board's allocation under Local Schemes Grant was £29,200. At the Local Board meeting on 4 July 2006, the Local Board agreed to notionally apportion this equally to the six Members of the Local Board, and each was able to make recommendations during the year for projects up to the value of £4,867.

The table on the next page of this Annual Report sets out the projects which the Local Board recommended should receive a share of the Local Schemes Grant allocation. These, totalling £29,049, were recommended by the Local Board meeting on 21 February 2007 and all were subsequently agreed by KCC's Cabinet Member for Finance.

| Project Title | Applicant | Grant recommended |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Art for all Ages | High Weald Housing Association | £1,750 |
| "Trinitees" Children's Theatre | Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells | £5,300 |
| Tree Planting Work, Southborough | Kent Highways Services | £4,867 |
| Resurfacing work, Kilndown Millennium Green | Kilndown Millennium Green Trust | £2,000 |
| Data projector for School Hall | Claremont Primary School, Tunbridge Wells | £2,897 |
| St Andrew's Recreation Ground improvements | Paddock Wood Town Council | £2,368 |
| Sherwood Movie Making Project | Sherwood Park Community Primary School | £667 |
| Upkeep and upgrade to Scout & Guide Headquarters | Pembury Scouts & Guides | £4,200 |
| Low energy lamps for street-lighting | Frittenden Parish Council | £2,500 |
| Footpath reinstatement work | Benenden Amenity Society | £2,500 |
| | | Total allocated £29,049 |

➤ Member Community Grants

Each KCC elected Member on the Tunbridge Wells Local Board can recommend grants for local community projects up to a total value of £10,000 in the financial year. The Member Community Grant Scheme was first introduced in the 2004/5 financial year. All recommendations by individual Members of the Local Board are submitted for ratification by a Member of KCC's Cabinet before a grant is agreed.

A summary of the grants agreed from each Local Board Member's allowance is shown in Appendix 2.

➔ Conclusion

The Local Board is now an established part of the County Council's engagement with local communities in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. The Local Board meetings are a forum to keep County Council Members and the public briefed on significant issues in the Borough, principally linked to KCC's services, but also to those which represent a partnership between KCC and other agencies. The Local Board is grateful for the support and active participation of local people at its meetings during 2006/7 and looks forward to offering further opportunities to meet in the 2007/8 year.

During 2007/8 it is likely that there will be developments nationally and locally, in response to the Local Government and Health Bill, which is passing through Parliament at the time of writing this Annual Report. These developments will include new features to widen and improve the range of ways in which local government bodies engage with neighbourhoods and local issues.

Members of the KCC Tunbridge Wells Local Board

The Local Board Members are the six elected Kent County Councillors whose electoral areas collectively cover the Tunbridge Wells Borough area.

They are:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>John Davies (Tunbridge Wells West)</p> <p><i>(Local Board Chairman)</i></p> | <p>Tile Hatch Bishops Down Park Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 8XS</p> |  | <p>Alex King (Tunbridge Wells Rural)</p> | <p>1 Chittenden Cottages Slip Mill Road Hawkhurst Kent TN18 4JT</p> |  |
| <p>Roger Manning (Cranbrook)</p> <p><i>(Local Board Vice-Chairman)</i></p> | <p>Bramley Dial Cranbrook Road Cranbrook Kent TN17 4ET</p> |  | <p>Kevin Lynes (Tunbridge Wells East)</p> | <p>5 The Down Lamberhurst Tunbridge Wells Kent TN3 8EX</p> |  |
| <p>Roy Bullock (Tunbridge Wells North)</p> | <p>Walsynghams Old Town Hill Lamberhurst Kent TN3 8EN</p> |  | <p>James Scholes (Tunbridge Wells South)</p> | <p>14 Claremont Gardens Tunbridge Wells Kent TN2 5DD</p> |  |

Kent County Council Member Community Grant 2006/7

The total grant of £10,000 available to each Member of the Tunbridge Wells Local Board was allocated as follows in the 2006/7 financial year (1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007):

| Projects | £ |
|----------|---|
|----------|---|

➤ John Davies

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Fair Trade "Ask For It" Stickers | 501 |
| Family Residential Visit, TW/Rusthall TOC H | 2,500 |
| Play area equipment, Bidborough | 3,000 |
| Speed indicator device, Speldhurst | 1,800 |
| Youth Activities Programme, Trinity Theatre | 2,199 |
| | £10,000 |

➤ Alex King

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Creating DVD of school opera, Goudhurst and Kilndown CEP | 250 |
| Rural Business Initiative, Goudhurst Neighbourhood Watch | 1,065 |
| Replacement Oil Tank, Lamberhurst War Memorial Hall | 2,540 |
| Equipment costs, "Medix" volunteer emergency ambulance | 700 |
| Playground equipment, Brenchley & Matfield Parish Council | 1,500 |
| Walking Bus, St Mary's CEP Lamberhurst | 500 |
| Goudhurst Gateways, Goudhurst Parish Council | 1,000 |
| Community web site, Capel Parish Council | 700 |
| Access work, Horsmonden Institute building | 1,745 |
| | £10,000 |

➤ Roger Manning

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Replacement computer, Sandhurst Parish Council | 940 |
| Production of Plans and drawings, Puddleduck Pre-school | 500 |
| Interactive speed sign, Sissinghurst | 1,500 |
| Web site production, Hawkhurst Parish Council | 750 |
| Crane Valley Nature Reserve "Have a Go" day | 1,200 |
| Breakfast Club, Hawkhurst CE Primary School | 1,200 |
| Entrance work to Jubilee Field, Sissinghurst | 2,400 |
| Parish Sign and picnic area furniture, Sandhurst | 1,500 |
| | £9,990 |

➤ Kevin Lynes

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Cook for Day Care Centre, Pembury Baptist Church | 940 |
| Transport to young people's 5-a side football tournament | 500 |
| PA system and bingo machine, Sherwood Community Centre | 700 |
| Purchase of a wheelchair for Pembury Out and About Club | 280 |
| Litter bins, local playground, Pembury Parish Council | 680 |
| Circus de Normandy, Pembury School | 3,000 |
| PA equipment, U3A, Pembury | 1,097 |
| Equipment etc, HI Kent | 650 |
| Visits by young people, 121 Youth Befriending | 778 |
| "Schools Out" Project, Sherwood Community Primary School | 1,315 |
| | £10,000 |

➤ Roy Bullock

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Minibus trailer, Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets | 2,027 |
| Computer Projector, Tunbridge Wells Army Cadets | 1,000 |
| Alterations to parking restrictions, Southborough Common | 1,000 |
| Picnic bench with disabled access, Barnett's Wood | 500 |
| Camping equipment, Kent Weald Girl Guides | 3,414 |
| Tree planting work in Southborough | 2,059 |
| | £10,000 |

➔ James Scholes

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Publicity for Heritage Open Days, TW Civic Society | 2,000 |
| Lawn maintenance equipment, RTW Croquet Club | 1,000 |
| Playhouse, St Peters CE Primary School | 1,500 |
| Start up costs, Friends of TW Library, Museum & Art Gallery | 500 |
| Garden chairs and tables, Halliwell Care Home | 850 |
| Purchase of equipment, Number One Community Trust | 1,127 |
| Purchase of band equipment, Tunbridge Wells Sea Scouts | 1,523 |
| Interpretative Boards, TW and Eridge Railway | 1,500 |
| | £10,000 |

Overall position:

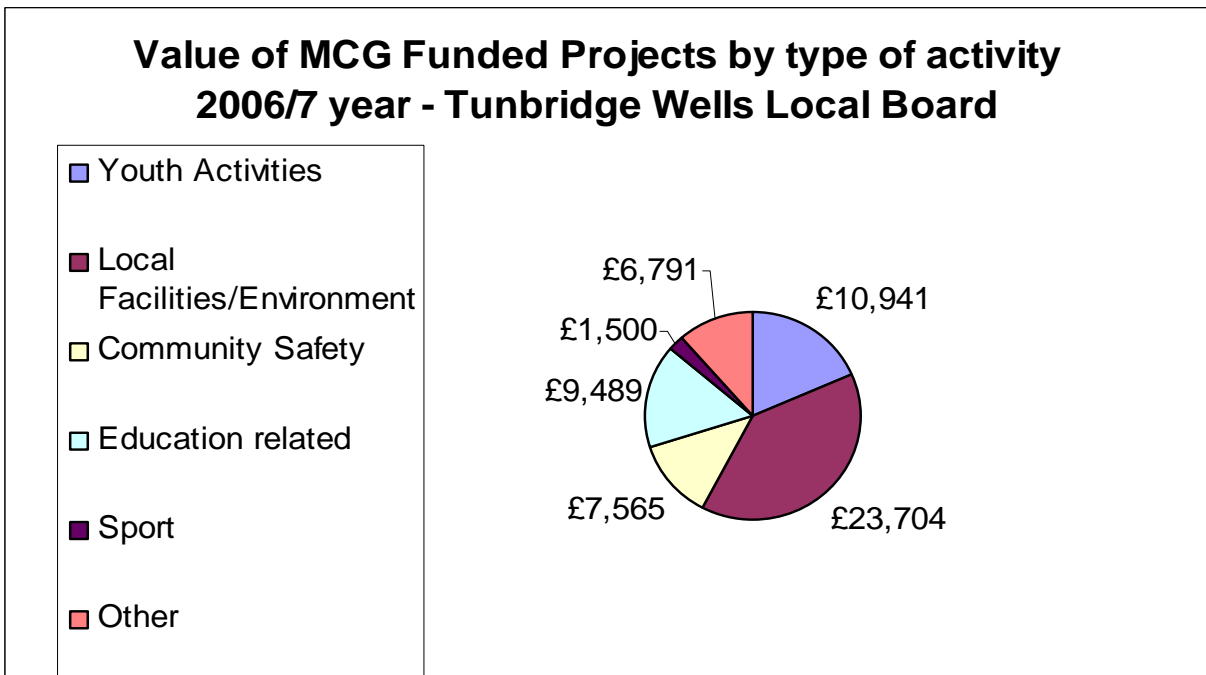
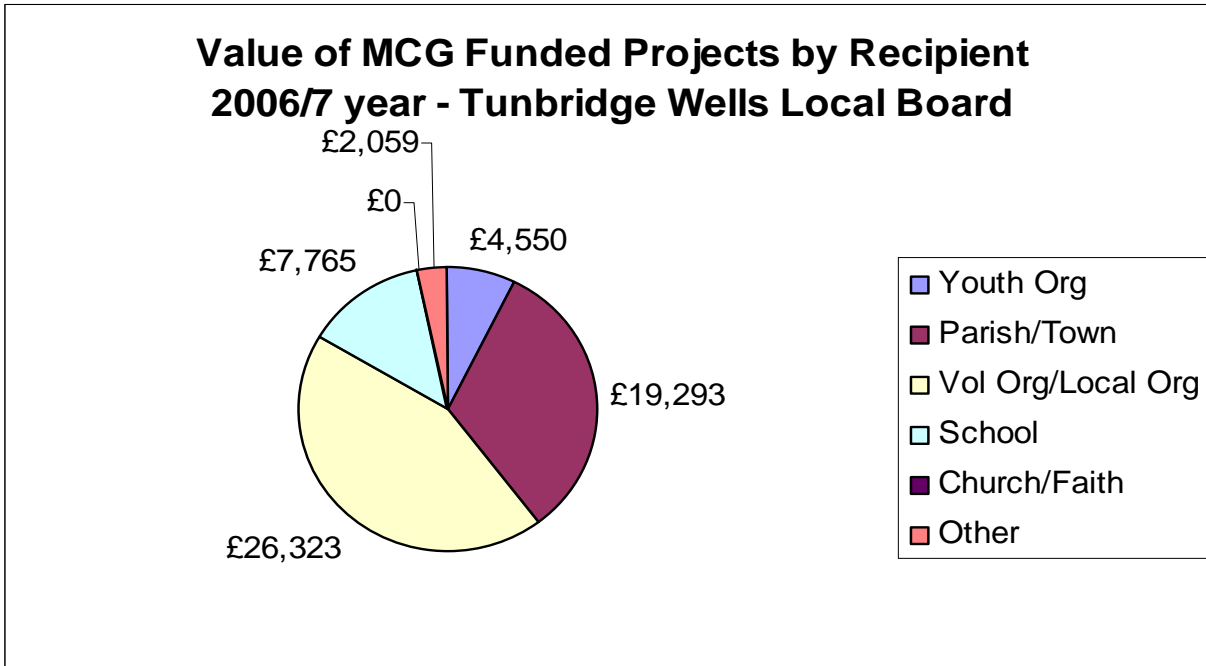
Total allocated = **£59,990** (99.98% of total available)

46 grants made.

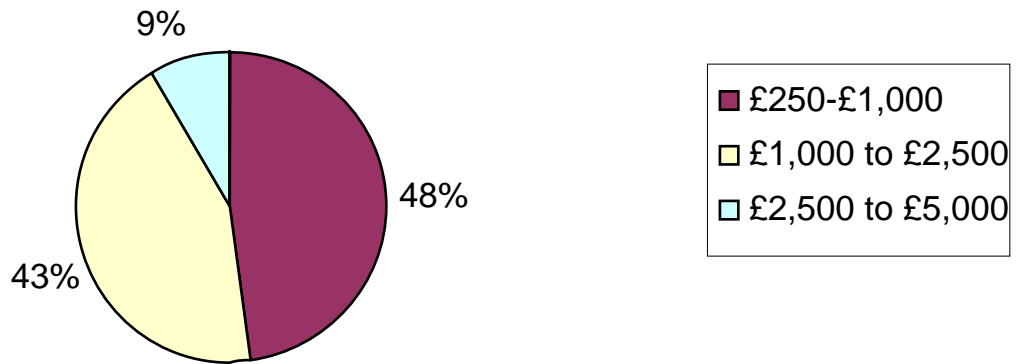
Average grant = **£1,304**

See Appendix 3 for further analysis

**KCC Member Community Grant (MCG) in Tunbridge Wells Borough
2006/7 Financial Year**



Analysis of Member Community Grants 2006/7 by size of grant - Tunbridge Wells Local Board



This Annual Report has been compiled by:

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Further information about Kent County Council's Local Boards initiative can be found on the Kent County Council web site at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/localboards>