

REPORT TO: Corporate & Policy PPB
DATE: 4th September 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Communities
SUBJECT: Local Area Forums 2011/12
PORTFOLIO: Neighbourhood, Leisure & Sport
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of the spending profiles of the Local Area Forums for the financial period 1st of April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The report be discussed and a recommendation on introducing a revised funding application and approval letter agreed (appendix A &B).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Local Area Forums were set up in 2001 taking decisions and policy development into communities and bridging the gap between key agencies working within the Borough. Each Local Area Forum is led by local Councillors and supported by a Senior Officer from the Council. Other partner organisations such as the Police, Fire Service, Housing Associations, Youth and voluntary sector bodies also attend Local Area Forums to keep the community informed of local developments and to respond to local concerns. The Local Area Forum Projects Coordinator works closely with the Local Councillors, Community Development, External Funding, Housing Associations, and local residents in addition to other partners.

3.2 Each year funding has been allocated to the Local Area Forums to spend on small-scale projects that are identified by the community or to support larger scale initiatives providing improvements to the local area. In 2011/12, £600,000 was allocated to the Area Forum. It is allocated on a per capita basis across the seven Local Area Forums that cover the Borough.

AF1 – Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale
AF2 – Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside
AF3 – Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View
AF4 – Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey,

AF5 – Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill
AF6 – Beechwood and Halton Lea
AF7 – Daresbury

- 3.3 The local community are invited to raise ideas for neighbourhood projects to enhance their local area. Access to funding requires a form being submitted to the Area Forum. A revised form is attached (appendix A) it is proposed is introduced. This will help gather more information to support accountability and reporting information and for clarity to support any Council decisions. The Forum then considers these ideas involving partners and securing other sources of funding as appropriate and an action plan agreed. Actions must have community support and not result in a long-term financial commitment.
- 3.4 The Community Development team support locality working through the Local Area Forums encouraging community involvement and developing community initiatives in the neighbourhoods. They support local community groups to engage with members, council departments, partner agencies and support the leverage of additional funding to community development projects.

4.0 LOCAL AREA FORUM EXPENDITURE

- 4.1 The projects funded through the Local Area Forums are wide and varied. However they have been categorised into a number of key areas, which are listed below:-

Landscapes

This category includes increased planting, allotments and provision of dog bins.

Safety

This category includes road safety improvements, traffic calming and speed surveys.

Youth Facilities

This category includes Improvements to youth and community centres including facilities, lighting, creation of kick about areas and sporting equipment.

Improved Parks

This category refers to an initiative which allows the provision of gardeners in parks at the weekends which helps deter vandalism, improves public reassurance and the general appearance of the parks. In addition the forum provides additional planting and improved facilities such as benches.

Pedestrian Access

This category is for making improvements to the local infrastructure, such as pathways.

Security

This category includes alley gating initiatives. It also includes other projects such as fencing and lighting to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

Other

This category is for community facilities and resources, community initiatives, sports facilities, events organised by local groups and improvements at pre-school venues. This supports thriving, cohesive, vibrant and safer communities throughout Halton.

- 4.2 Case study information is appended to the report (appendix C) to demonstrate the community impact of area forum grants.

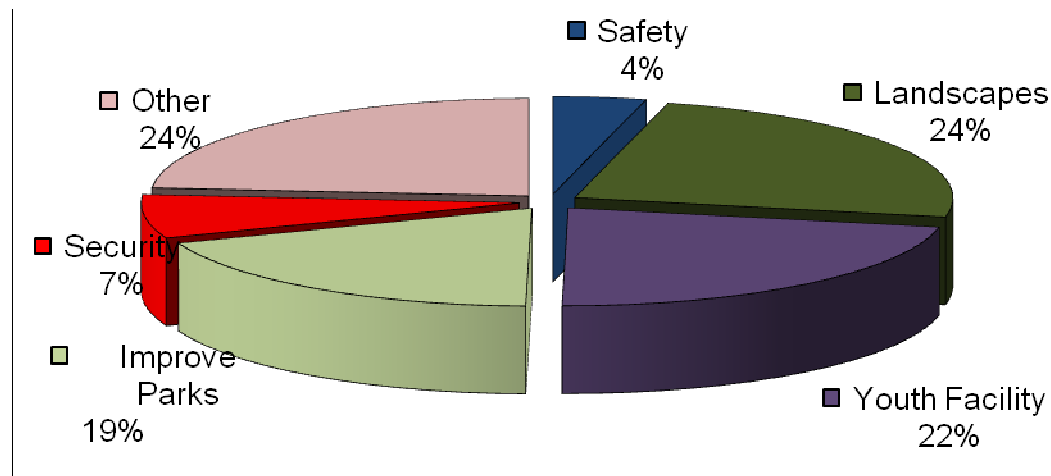
5.0 BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING

The budget detailed below is allocated using the population levels for each area. The spend category indicated below is the actual spend for 2011/2012 (this includes accrual from previous year of £4,368)

Local Area Forum	Forum Funding	
	Budget	Spend
Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale	105517	114013
Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside	88032	88031
Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View	99250	94225
Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey	126943	126942.4
Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill	108549	108549
Beechwood and Halton Lea	49373	49373
Daresbury	22336	23225
Totals	£600,000	£604,368

All Area Forums for 2011/2012 Expenditure								
	Safety	Landscapes	Youth Facility	Pedestrian Access	Improve Parks	Security	Other	Total
AF 1	4522	27601	25180	0	21537	8200	26973	114013
AF 2	5966	16250	0	225	20510	9031	36050	88031
AF 3	1505	0	5000	0	52674	14852	25194	94225
AF 4	2000	1483.32	17154.00	13500	24000	17359.2	51445.9	126942.4
AF 5	2000	21112	17638	11405	7698	7804	40892	108549
AF 6	800	0	16754	925	0	0	30894	49373
AF 7	5165	10330					6840	22335
	21958	76776	81726	26055	126419	57245	213290	603468
	4%	13%	13%	4%	21%	9%	36%	

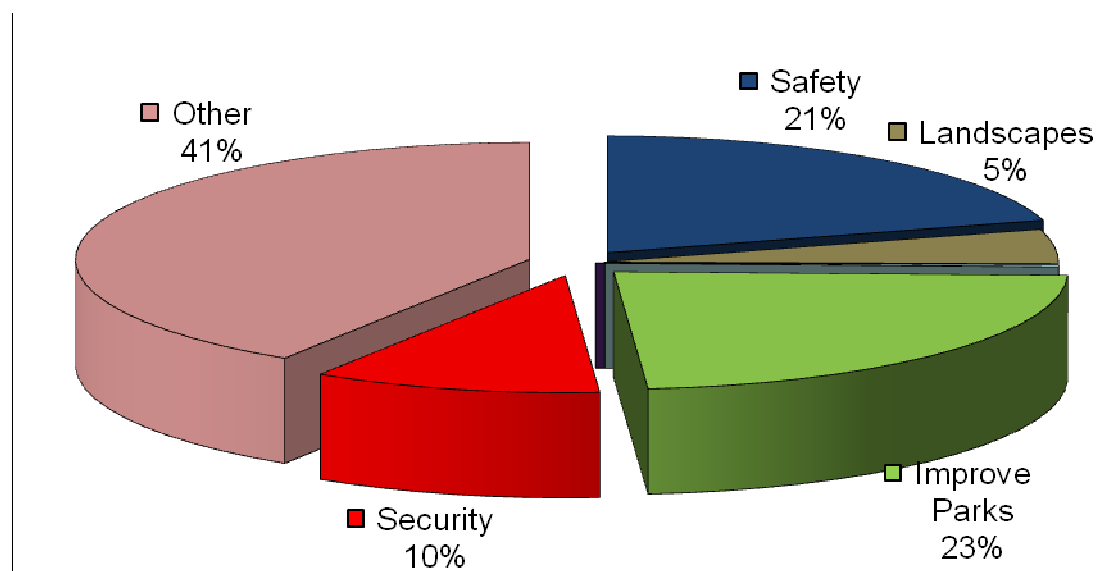
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 1 – (Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale)



5.1 Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale

The highest category is “Other” which includes a contribution to the refurbishment of Hale Village Hall and contribution to the Widnes and District Horticultural Society. The next highest is “Youth Facility” which includes a contribution towards a scheme at Upton play area,

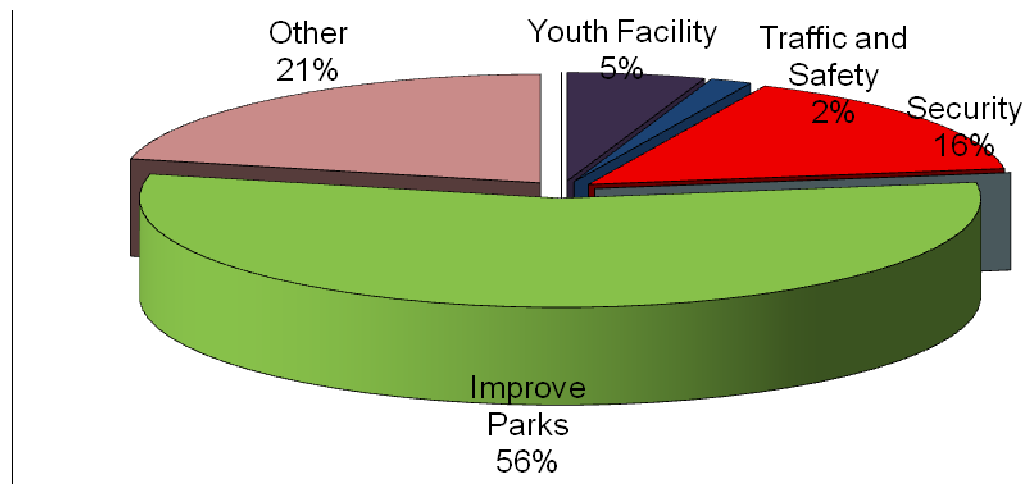
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 2 – (Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside)



5.2 Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside

The highest category is “Other” which includes a contribution to Widnes Baptist Church in support of a bid to WREN and a contribution towards the return and refurbishment of the paintings from St Patricks Church in Widnes. Next highest is “Improve Parks” which is improvements to Victoria Park.

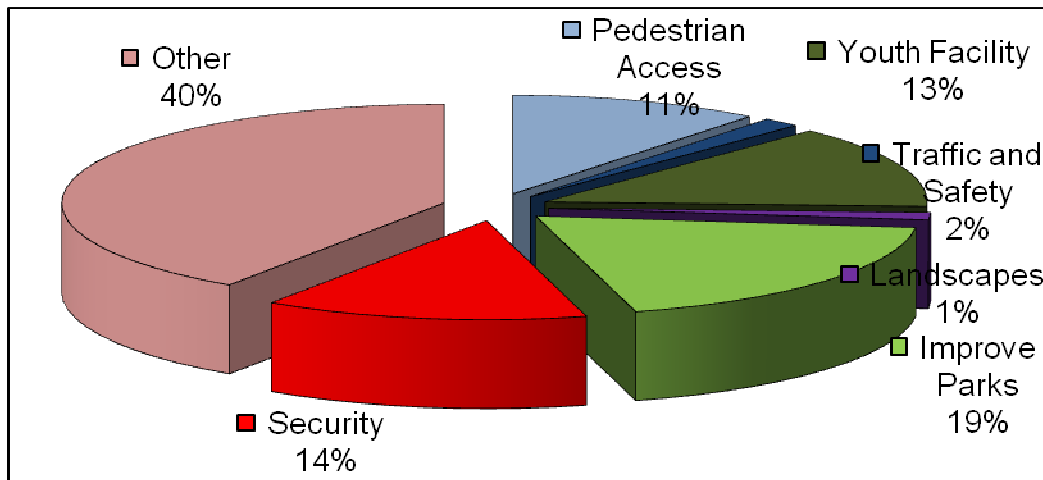
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 3 – (Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View)



5.3 Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton Brook

The highest category is “parks” which includes Fencing at Bishops Way and Crow Wood Park and Weekend Gardeners at the parks. The next highest is “other” which includes Heating for St Luke’s scout and guide group building.

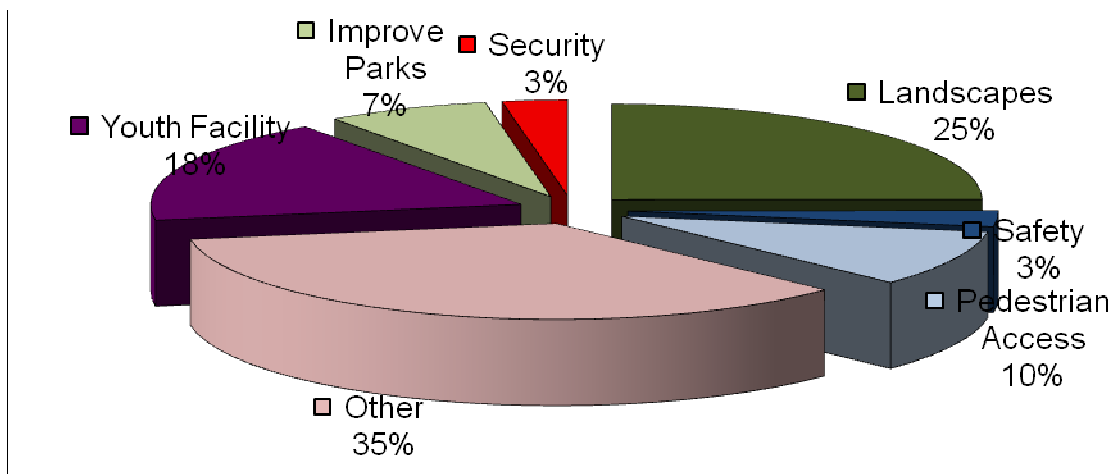
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 4 – (Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey)



5.4 Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey

The highest category is “Other” which refers to many community schemes and one in particular which is St Andrews Church Community Room Refurbishment. The next highest is “Improving Parks” which refers to the weekend gardeners in the parks and benches at Runcorn Town Hall Park.

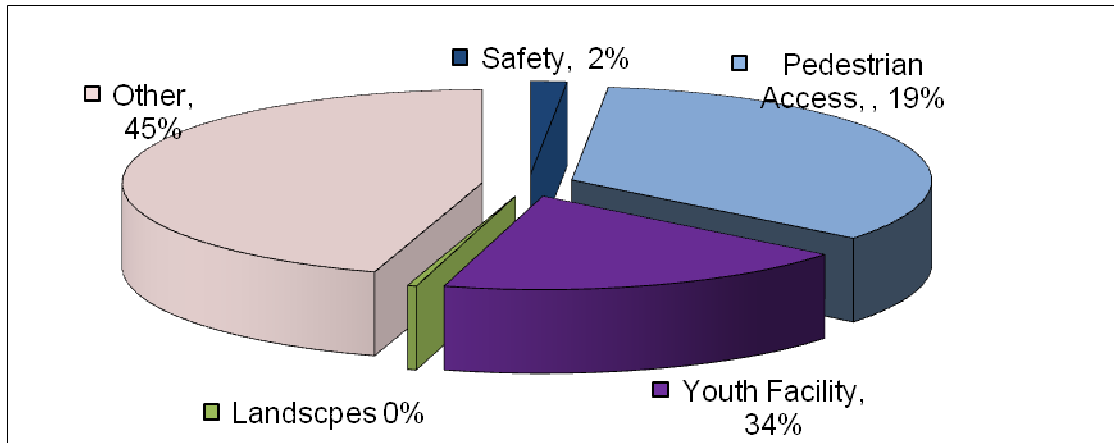
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 5 – (Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill)



5.5 Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill

The highest category is “Other” referring to many community schemes such as a Hanover Community Room. The next highest is “Landscapes” which includes skip schemes for local people.

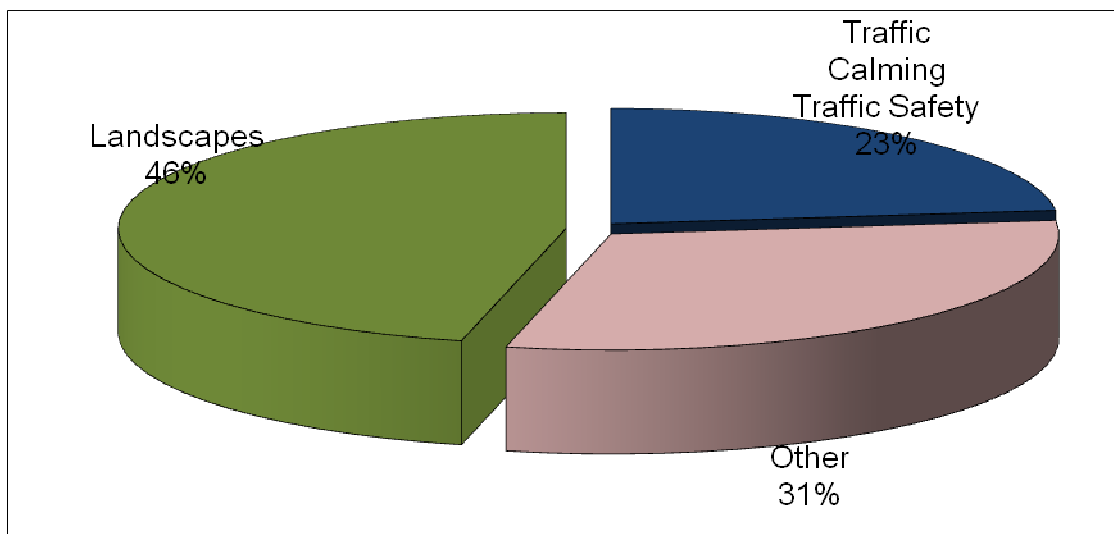
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 6 – (Beechwood and Halton Lea)



5.6 Beechwood and Halton Lea

The highest category is “Other” which includes the refurbishment of the Delemere Room at Halton Hospital in addition to other Community Schemes. Next Highest is “Youth Facilities” which includes to the Glen Play Area and other youth schemes.

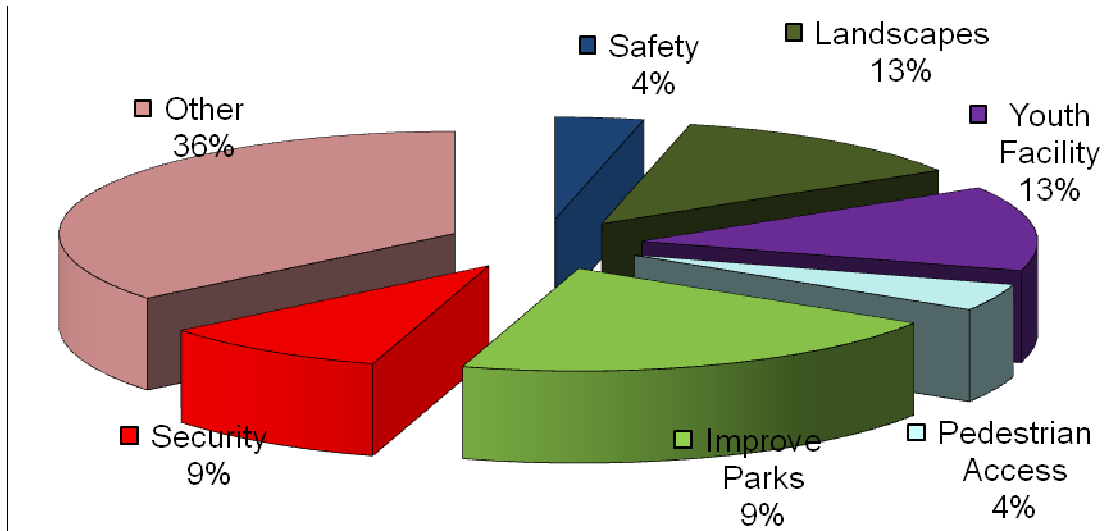
Breakdown for Local Area Forum 7 – (Daresbury)



5.7 Daresbury

The schemes for the Daresbury forum are divided amongst the four parishes and they decide along with the parish council how this is to be spent for the coming year. The majority of the funding is spent on items identified in the local parish plans.

All Forums 2011/2012

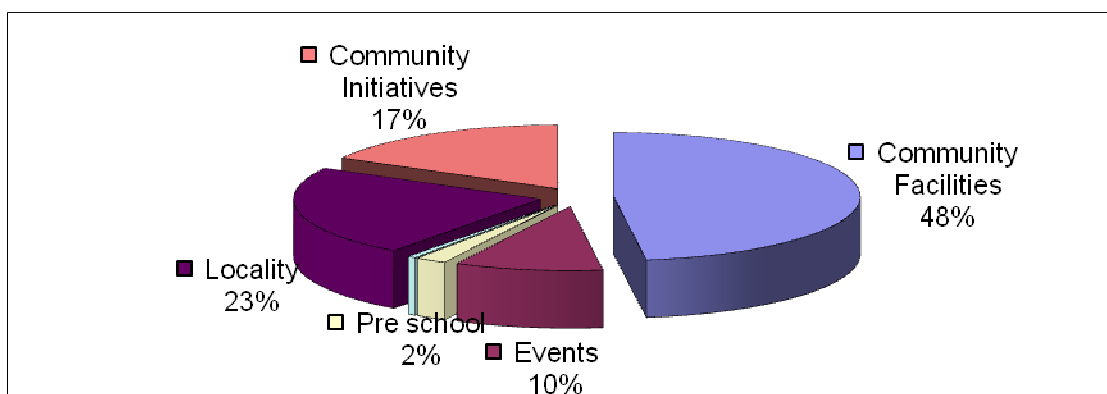


5.8 Breakdown of All Local Area Forums 2011/2012

The graph illustrated shows the breakdown of funding across the categories for 2011/12. The largest proportion of funding across the borough was expended on the category “other” and a breakdown of that spend is listed below

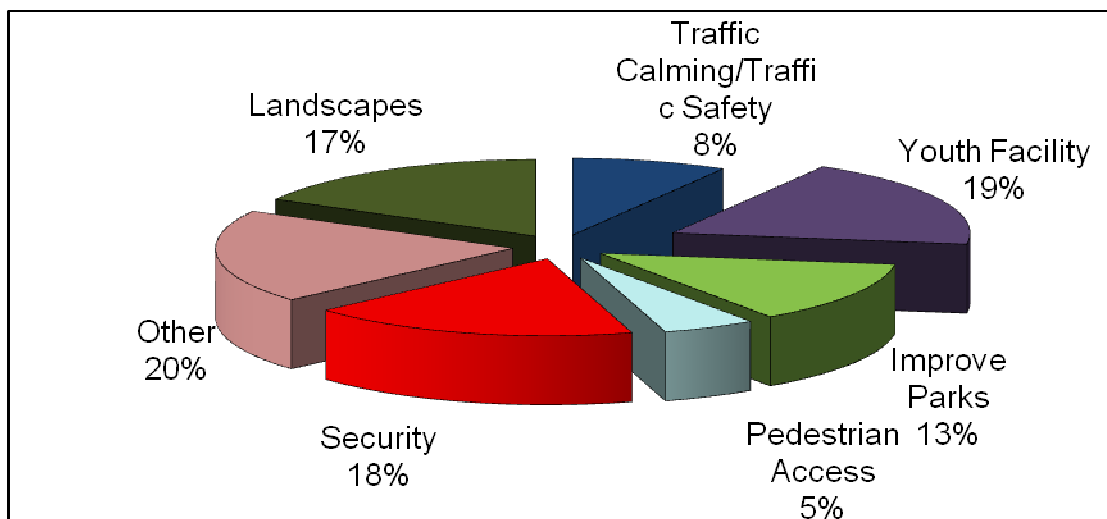
Breakdown of the Category “Other” for 2011/2012

Community Facilities	Events	Pre School	Sports	Locality	Community Initiatives
48%	10%	2%	1%	23%	17%



This category represents 35% of the total expenditure for 2011/2012, Identified as “Other”.

All Forums from 2003 to 2012



5.9 All Forums from 2003 to 2012

The graph illustrated show the breakdown of funding across the categories from 2003 to 2012. The largest proportion of funding across the borough was expended on the category “Other”. Other refers to community groups or schemes.

Area Forum from 2003 to 2012

YEAR	Traffic Calming/Traffic Safety	Youth Facility	Improve Parks	Pedestrian Access	Security	Other	Landscapes
2003/2004	12%	23%	15%	7%	20%	11%	11%
2004/2005	10%	26%	7%	5%	25%	12%	14%
2005/2006	7%	17%	11%	12%	25%	8%	19%
2006/2007	13%	21%	11%	5%	13%	14%	23%
2007/2008	9%	16%	13%	4%	22%	18%	18%
2008/2009	7%	20%	18%	4%	11%	16%	24%
2009/2010	6%	19%	11%	1%	17%	27%	19%
2010/2011	8%	13%	9%	5%	19%	35%	10%
2011/2012	4%	14%	21%	2%	8%	36%	14%
Average over 2003/2012	8%	19%	13%	5%	18%	20%	17%

5.10 Supporting Funding

The forum budget has been supported with other grants and through joint working has levered in money from agencies such as Biffa, Wren, Housing Associations, Awards for all, and the Lottery, Community groups contributions and the PCT. Listed below is the supporting funding analysis for 2011 to 2012. This table does not represent all of the funding but gives an indication of the additional support to the Projects.

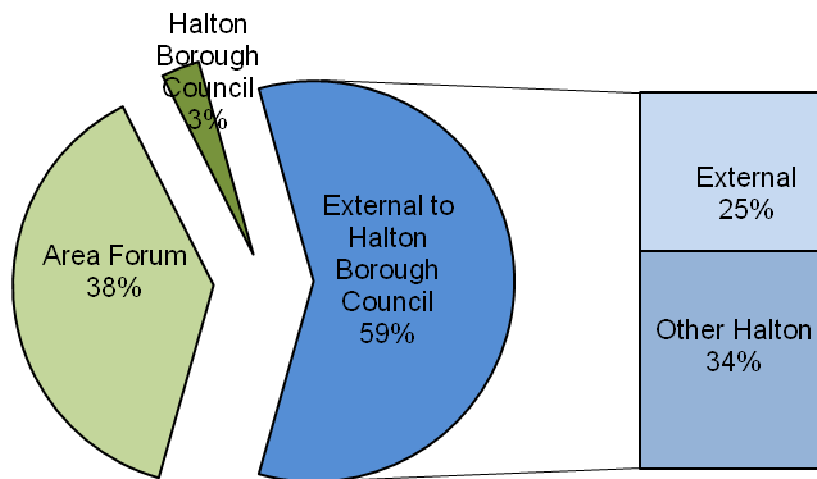
Key: HBC refers to other funding provided by Halton Borough Council such as highways and Landscapes.

Other Halton refers to funding provided by other agencies such as the PCT, Housing Trusts within Halton.

External refers to funding coming from outside Halton Borough from WREN, Biffa and Lottery.

FOR EVERY £1 OF AREA FORUM FUNDING A FURTHER £1.54 OF EXTERNAL FUNDING WAS LEVERED IN TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS FROM OUTSIDE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Area Forums and Supporting Funding



Area Forums is funding allocated to the forums from Halton Borough Council
HBC is funding from Halton Borough Council mainstream Budgets,
Other: is both External and Other Halton.

External is funding from outside of Halton Borough

Other Halton is funding from Halton that is not Halton Borough Council

Note: This includes supporting funding from 2011/12 schemes

FOR EVERY £1 OF AREA FORUM FUNDING A FURTHER £1.54 OF EXTERNAL FUNDING WAS LEVERED IN TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS FROM OUTSIDE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Area Forum	HBC	External	Other Halton	TOTAL
£600,000	48416	£390,586	£535,378	1574379
38%	3%	25%	34%	
TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING				£925,963.55
AREA FORUM				£600,000.00
FOR every £1 from the forum. This amount is brought into the borough				£1.54

This table refers to Supporting Funding and does not include the £600,000 provided by the Area Forum.

Area Forum	Forum Funding		Supporting funding				Grand Total
	Budget	Spend	HBC	Other Halton	External	Total	
Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale	105517	114013	39816	48465	140334	228614	342640
Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside	88032	88031	0	26355	88196	1145511	202582
Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View	99250	99225	2800	221164	21104	245068	344293
Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey	126943	126942	3400	125643	83452	212495	339438
Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill	108549	108606	1600	92678	50500	144778	253327
Beechwood and Halton Lea	49373	49123	800	21073	7000	28873	78246
Daresbury	22336	23225	0	0	0	0	23226
Totals	600000	603276	48416	535378	390586	974379	1583752

Number of schemes still awaiting decision
3
2
4
6
3
1
0
19

The total external budget brought into Halton is £340,586 and the table above is the total is details of some of the funding which totals £924,379 and includes WREN and the Lottery. The remaining has been provided by other agencies such as Housing Associations, the Fire Service and the PCT etc.

There are 19 schemes still waiting for a decision from one of the external funding organisations from 2011/2012. These figures are NOT included in this report.

In developing Area Forum Projects negotiations with partner agencies with either a service delivery or geographical interest are embedded into the approach. This aims to maximise funding opportunities and to realise the positive impacts of the projects.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Local Area Forums are a key tool in engaging with local residents and the budget provides a means of funding minor schemes in response

to local needs and aspirations. In addition, area forum grants often provide much needed 3rd party or match funding to support larger schemes, helping to lever in much larger pots of external funding from outside the borough. This mechanism provides a platform for community engagement at a neighbourhood level which can be utilised to inform strategic objectives and policy development.

6.2 The projects support safer neighbourhoods generating an increased satisfaction for local residents with their area and a willingness to participate in community life. Area Forums contribute to building cohesion in Halton's communities through projects and initiatives that encourage community connectedness.

6.3 The projects funded are all required to demonstrate a contribution to the Council's five priorities.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 These are contained within the report.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 The local Area Forums and grant support are open and accessible to all Members of Halton's community.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The expenditure profiles for each of the LAF's demonstrates a significant proportion of funding is allocated to supporting pre-school, youth activities and sports. Since 2003 19% of the total expenditure through area forums has been on youth facilities.

10.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The expenditure that supports community initiatives includes accessing learning & skills opportunities through locally delivered courses. Many of the community initiatives have volunteer opportunities either with the Management Committees or as part of delivering activities i.e community cafés.

10.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Many of the community initiatives have a well-being impact supporting the ethos of a whole area approach to healthy living.

10.4 **A Safer Halton**

A sense of community and community connectedness reduces residents fear of crime where they live, they are likely to feel a stronger sense of belonging and safety in an environment where the communities know each other, are active and there are established links to other stakeholders like police, housing, community wardens, etc. 9% of expenditure in 2011/12 directly on security initiatives.

10.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Area forums provide a mechanism for local people to be involved in the decision making impacting on place shaping for their local area. Local people can influence expenditure to improve their local environment and work jointly with the Council towards the communities aspirations.

10.6 The eligibility criteria for Local Area Forum Funding requires the projects should support one or more of the Council's priorities.

11.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Minutes of Local Area Forums	3 rd Floor, Municipal Bldg Kingsway	Janice Weston

APPENDIX A

AREA FORUMS GRANT FUNDING - WE ARE SEEKING YOUR GOOD IDEAS

Halton Borough Council has set aside a small account from Council Funds to respond to requests for assistance for deserving local projects. The money must be used on things that will improve life in the area and should meet the following criteria:-

- It must not result in a long-term financial commitment.
- It should contribute to one or more of the Council priorities of A Safer Halton, A Healthy Halton, Renewing Halton, Children & Young People in Halton, Skills, Lifelong Learning, Employment in Halton
- It must have community support
- It must benefit the community or community group
- *It must not support activity which either challenges Council decisions or goes against Council Policy.*

If you have any ideas you would like considered, whether it is environmental improvement, safety issues, *Community schemes for old or young* or opportunities for young people or anything else, please complete the other side of this leaflet and return it to the address below, to a Council Office, Halton Direct Link or to a Housing Association Office who will forward it on.

Although we will endeavour to satisfy request for funding the Council cannot guarantee that even the most deserving schemes will be successful or that funds will be available at the time a request is made.

If your application is for equipment please note that should your group disband in the future any equipment should be returned to the Council.



Miss Janice M Weston
Area Forums Projects
Coordinator
Runcorn Town Hall -2nd
Floor
Heath Road
Runcorn WA7 5TN
Contact Phone Number
0151 511 8906

Proposal:

You can submit extra information on blank forms if required.

Approximate Cost (if known)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF SUCCESSFUL YOU WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THREE QUOTATIONS FOR ANY WORKS – for clarification speak to the Janice Weston the Projects Coordinator 0151 906 4879

Supporting funding:

Please show details of any other supporting funding either a contribution from your group, Housing Association or a submission to an external funder.

(Please show the status of the funding for example: Submitted to WREN on June 1st 2011)

Does this proposal have community support (please give brief details)

Please say how this will improve the area

Please give your name and address so that we can keep you informed or seek clarification:

Name.

Address:

Phone:

Date Received on

Position within your Group and Organisation details:

Please confirm if your group is constituted:

APPENDIX B

AMENDMENTS TO FUNDING LETTER

Ref:

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Area Forum has agreed to contribute in support of the above scheme, please find a cheque to the value of £..... (.....pounds) subject to a number of conditions: -

- The money may only be spent on the items detailed in the funding request as agreed.
- That you must supply copy invoices confirming the contractor has been paid and have the originals available for inspection should this be deemed appropriate.
- That you must supply copies your statements to prove that the money has left your account should this be required. Again, original documents must be available for inspection.
- That any monies not spent must be returned to the Council.
- Any details of supporting funding for this scheme be notified to the forum.

Please inform your members of the contribution by the Area Forum.

Failure to comply with any/all of the above may, at the sole discretion of the area Forum, require the repayment of all or part of the award.

May I take this opportunity to wish you well in your venture and express the thanks of the Area Forum for the work you are doing in the community. Can you take a photograph and send this to me for my records.

You should be aware that if your group receives funding for equipment and after purchase your group disbands then that equipment should be returned to the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Janice M Weston
Area Panels Projects co-ordinator
Halton Borough Council, Adult and Community, Community Department,
Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, WA7 5TD

APPENDIX C

Hough Green	<p>Football sessions at Upton Community Centre February March 2012 to prevent ASB</p> <p>Total cost from the forum £180.00 added to a total paid so far £87.00 by Community Safety</p> <p>This is a partnership scheme with the police and Affinity Sutton housing along with funding from the Area Forum.</p> <p>The idea is to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour taking place in the area. The local PCSO is running football sessions and the Area Forum in partnership with the Affinity Sutton housing and Safer Communities. They are paying for the cost of the hire of the hall for a few months, after which it is planned that the young people will use the outdoor Multi Use Games Facility.</p> <p>After the Police booked the hall for six weeks this approach appears to be working which is benefitting local people, the centre, the police and the young people themselves. The Council's Community Development Officer is now approaching Halton Housing Trust to get some further funding support to buy equipment. The youth offending team officers have approached local businesses with a view to getting the youth offenders to remove graffiti in the area.</p>
Kingsway	<p>New Shoots Tables 2011 to 2012</p> <p>Total funding provided by the forum £275.50 for tables for the fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>New Shoots Community Food Clubs CIC is an organisation that delivers fresh, local, affordable produce into the community, through community projects, based in community venues such as Pathways in Churchill Hall and children's centres.</p> <p>The Area Forum has supported the project since its inception in 2010, in a number of ways, from packing through to the point of delivery. The Area Forum has played a part in the growth of New Shoots Community Food Clubs to its current organisational set up as a Community Interest Company, which in time will contribute some of its profits to community groups and projects that support healthy eating and living.</p> <p>Thank you for your faith and support over the last two years.</p> <p>Isabel Hoxworth Co-ordinator New Shoots Community Food Clubs CIC 07547 745947</p>

Riverside	<p>West bank Swans, Gym Project 2011 to 2012 Funding provided by the Area Forum £7000 Jim Brady – Just like to thank the Area Forum for their backing for our gym project along with HHT and Cheshire Oak Bacon Products and our clubs contribution... The Area Forum having given the most and without them the project would never have started. There is a lack of facilities within Widnes for Rugby especially in West Bank..this Gym will provide a place for the youth of West Bank to go keeping them off the streets and we hope it will provide an area of discipline and gamesmanship. We also hope other interested parties will use the gym BB, football team, and any other interested organisations from our area. we hope to be up and running Aug/Set .</p> <p>Thanks Again for all your help</p> <p>Jim 0151 420 7991 Or email: jimbrady66@fsmail.net</p>
Farnworth	<p>St Lukes Heating 2011 to 2012 £3000 from the form and 8072 from WREN Can I take this opportunity to thank the Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View Area Forum for their support in our application for funding for a new heating system and new flooring in the Scout and Guide Headquarters, Moon Meadow.</p> <p>Without the support of Area Forum funding, the group would not have been able to apply for match, and third party funding from some of the larger funding providers such as WREN.</p> <p>Moon Meadow is used by 2 different packs of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers which are all run by volunteers from the local community. In addition there are other groups such as Zumba classes, children's street dance classes and birthday parties. Having the new heating system fitted has enabled a more comfortable atmosphere for the children to carry out their activities in and also is more cost effective in terms of running costs and is now using less energy reducing the carbon footprint.</p> <p>Having the new flooring provides a better surface for carrying out crafts, cooking and playing games.</p> <p>Again can you please pass on our thanks to Members of the Area Forum.</p> <p>Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>M Simpson (On behalf of Moon Meadow)</p>

All	<p>Various Events at the Community Centres</p> <p>“The area forum money we have been awarded over the years has enabled us to hold valuable community centre based events that have attracted large sections of the community. The events promote community cohesion and provide a platform for local consultation on local issues”. (outdoor space at Murdishaw) (intergenerational issues) (community Safety)</p> <p>“Several centre user groups have benefitted from Area Forum funding without it they may well have been unsustainable” (Pensioners group, Grangeway)</p> <p>“Some of our groups provide localised access to arts and cultural experiences, area forum funding has enriched the process” (HEARTS theatre application)</p> <p>Ian Atherton Community Centre's Manager</p>
Halton Brook	<p>Supporting funding for local Mencap for trip to Pantomime 2012</p> <p>Funding provided by the forum £800</p> <p>I would like to thank you and the Area Forum for the donation of £800 which our committee received towards the annual pantomime trip we organised which took place on 8th January. Your help and the generosity of the forum are very greatly appreciated by myself and all who attend. Mencap BICC Works Services Charity Committee.</p> <p>The remaining required funding for the tickets and coach was £370 raised by the group fund raising all year.</p> <p>Mr Arthur Bellfield</p>
Grange	<p>Lockable Wheelie Bin introduced in Halton lea and Beechwood, further scheme for Grange and Mersey identified as hot spots by the Police and Fire Service. £2000</p> <p>A phase of lockable bins was introduced in the Halton Lea and Beechwood area by the forum.</p> <p>There has been 52% reduction in lost/stolen bins plus 81% reduction in burnt out bins for the first quarter. Saving funding for the Council.</p> <p>There is a benefit to Local people because their bins are not being taken causing them disruption, there are fewer fires in the bins, there is also a benefit to the council and all Council rate payers.</p>
Heath	<p>Runcorn Rowing Club 2012</p> <p>Funding provided £665</p> <p>As a member of Runcorn Rowing Club Ladies Competition Squad we needed some 'ladies rowing shoes' for our 8 seater boat. This would enable us to row in competitions representing Runcorn. Regionally and Nationally! This would be the only 8 boat rigged for women in Runcorn.</p> <p>The Area Forum Fund process was easy to follow and we heard surprisingly quickly that we had secured our fund. This has enabled us to prepare for the coming season and hopefully secure victory for Runcorn Rowing Club ladies.</p> <p>Julie Jones (Runcorn Rowing Club)</p>

Riverside

Mini Bus for Boys Brigade – ring after lunch Boys Brigade Mini Bus – David Millington –

phone – 0151 510 1046 or email: david.millington7@ntlworld.com

In the summer of 2010 we identified a need to replace the minibus we had at that time and embarked upon a project to achieve the dream of buying a new one; not a second hand vehicle.

To accomplish this we received funding from the following sources;
Halton Housing Trust,
West Bank Area Forum,
Church & Community Chest &
The Big Lottery.

In addition we held a sponsored walk up Snowdon and our members raised almost £1000 in doing so, received a gift from one of our parents and made up the shortfall from our existing BB funds.

The total cost of the minibus was almost £25000, which was heavily discounted by a sympathetic garage.

The fact that we intended to offer the use of the minibus to the wider West Bank community enabled us to be looked upon favourably by the majority of the aforementioned funders. It was recognised that the vehicle would be the property of the Boys' Brigade on West Bank and they would be responsible for all related costs in running. All drivers are to be registered by our project manager before hire to satisfy us of their credentials.

Since we took delivery in July 2011 the following groups have hired the minibus;

West Bank Pensioners' Group,
West Bank Rainbows, Brownies & Girl Guides,
West Bank Junior School,
West Bank Drama Group,
West Bank Mums & Tots Group,
Valiant Disabled Sports Group,
West Bank St Mary's Church &
West Bank Boys' Brigade.

The minibus has proved to be a valuable asset to the people of our area and we are grateful for all the support we received.

Farnworth

Halton Hornets Kitchen Project – Peter Giblin

Funding provided £5999.44

Area Forum grant fund award for the HFH Club kitchen project.

It is without absolute doubt that Area Forum created the financial environment, to allow the HFH Club to go forth and apply for a WREN grant of over £21.000. This combined funding permitted the necessary refurbishment works for the expansion/modernisation fit out of the Clubs ailing kitchen facilities.

Area Forum exists to listen to the views, comments and concerns of all local issues. In the case of the HFH Club, this was to sustain and provide growth for a none profit making, volunteer lead amateur sporting facility in the local community.

It was vital the Area Forum not only listened to what was being expressed by the HFH Club but indeed actively supported the Club in making a real difference for the community. In this instance, the Area Forums awarding of Match Funding and Third Party Funding were essential in activating the HFH Clubs community project of works.

It is to the credit of the Area Forum that the HFH Club stands indebted, and it demonstrates that the operations of the Area Forum are there to function for the benefit of all in the local community.

From the HFH Clubs observations and conclusions, the Area Forum works towards three main goals in achieving its objective.

1. To listen to all local community issues, views and concerns.
2. To assess and consider the components of such issues, views and concerns by virtue of their impact on the local community.
3. To prioritise the projected benefits accruing from developing these local community issues, views and concerns, in order to maximise the benefit of the funding sought.

On behalf of the HFH Club, a huge 'Thank You' Area Forum for listening.

You have indeed made a huge difference to this community Club. It now allows the HFH Club to develop even further, its objectives of involving more disciplines in the local community in addition to that of sport.

On behalf of the HFH Club Executive Team.

Peter Giblin

Farnworth	<p>Farnworth Arts & Crafts Group Farnworth Arts Julie Stretch 0151 423 5201</p> <p>'Where I live' was the original project for Farnworth Arts and Crafts Group funded by HBC Arts Development in Sept 2009. The aims of the group were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Promote creative and personal development ü Provide a non-prescriptive creative experience ü Provide a locally based group (Farnworth) ü Actively involve members of our community <p>These aims were achieved through working with local groups, schools and churches. An 'Open Door' event was held at St Luke's Church where pupils from Farnworth, Cronton and Chesnut Lodge schools came and took part in numerous craft events. Some of our members went into St Bede's school to help making self-portrait banners and some were involved with cub scouts from all over Widnes as they held a 'Healthy' Jamboree Day. Members attended St Luke's Mother's Union meeting and looked at creating Christmas decorations without damage to the environment, and the Methodist Women's Fellowship to talk about what our group does. One member went to the local Alzheimer's group following a request from one of the helpers.</p> <p>Over the past two years the group has gone from strength to strength. We have been very fortunate in receiving funds from Halton Housing Trust, Halton Intergenerational Fund and Farnworth Area Forum too. The funding has enabled the group to purchase three sewing machines which members who do not have machines are able to take home. The funding has also meant that the group has been able to experiment with all sorts of different mediums and over the past three years we have held workshops for: Exploration of Colour, Silk Painting, Batik, Tie Dyeing, Jewellery Making, Card Making, Christmas Decorations, Embellishments of Fabric and Paper and Flower Arranging. Our members have been knitting Easter chicks and at the moment are knitting squares to make a blanket for retired Ghurkhas. We have held an exhibition at Moon Meadow during a Farnworth Area Forum meeting, have taken part in 'All the Worlds a Stage and exhibited at the Brindley in Nov 2011 as part of Cultivate.</p> <p>We are very grateful for all the funding we have received which certainly encouraged our members to get involved with our local community.</p> <p>We have grown to 29 members and although our aims are now only two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü To improve the quality of life through arts and crafts activities for group members ü To promote creative and personal development <p>Our motto remains; we are a diverse, friendly group of people who meet to learn, share and develop skills. We range from absolute beginners to skilled practitioners 'Everyone is Welcome'. Julie Stretch – Chair Farnworth Arts and Crafts Group April 2012</p>
Hale	<p>HALE VILLAGE HALL Naomi Hadden</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the Management Committee of Hale Village Hall to express our thanks to you and the Area Panel for your continued support. We sincerely appreciate the advice together with the funding you have made available to us as we endeavour the task of refurbishing the Hall. I can assure you the Area Panel support had made a huge difference to our Community, it has been such an advantage to be able to rely on your assistance when required. Yours sincerely, Naomi Hadden Hon Sec.</p>

Hale	<p>HALE CARNIVAL Cerri Gallagher Chairperson</p> <p>Many thanks for the continued support the area forum has. given to the Hale village carnival.</p> <p>As a relatively new member to the carnival committee (this is my 3'd year) I have involved myself in all aspect's and requirements that make the day run smoothly, one of my main suggestions which is now a regular part of the carnival is professional security. We have used the same company for the last 3 years running and this is just one luxury we could not afford if we relied solely on the revenue from the camival. The gate / entrance fee is the biggest amount taken and this of course fluctuates according to the weather ! The average cost of the carnival is £4000.00 and what we can make this year secures next years carnival, any money left over goes towards equipment and small local donations.</p> <p>This year is of course our Jubilee Carnival and to celebrate we have involved the local schools</p> <p>in our usual poster and programme cover competition and Hale school choir will open the carnival with " God Save The Queen!". Our Rose queen will for this celebratory year be joined by a King and 8 attendants. We have also planned for the first 500 children at the carnival to be given a free goody bag of food, and children in Hale can apply to myself for a commemorative mug. The Hale village carnival is an amateur production made possible by people who give their time and as each year goes by I feel it glows in strength. One of our biggest priorities is the educational value for children visiting the carnival - this year we have a medieval re-enactment group who will take time to answer questions - just another thing we could not even think about without your support. If we have a good year this year then next year's carnival is secure and this tradition that has carried on for over 60yrs will be staged again. Cerri Gallagher Chairperson to the Hale Village Carnival</p>
Appleton	<p>St Bede's Jubilee Club in Appleton, Widnes, purchase new cups, saucers and side plates for their members. The group meet every Wednesday at St Bede's Social Club and have been together since forming in the year 2000. They offer time for a variety of activities – Social, Communal, Educational and Spiritual and encourage people to use their gifts for the good of the community. The group phoned to pass on their thanks to the Area Forum in November 2011.</p>
Halton Castle	<p>I would like to thank for Forum members and staff for my award, I speak for all volunteers that without the help of the grants we would not be able to do a lot of things on our estates, once again thank you – Jack Hatchard.</p>