

CLERK'S BRIEFING NOTE

UNSUCCESSFUL £50,000 BIG LOTTERY APPLICATION

1. After waiting since the application was submitted in February, the Parish Council received a rejection letter from the Big Lottery on 29 May 2008.

2. The reasons given were as follows:

1. More good applications were received than they could fund. There was a budget of £5.2 million but applications totalling over £21.4 million were received.
2. Other applications more fully met the programme aim of bringing real improvement to communities and to the lives of people most in need.
3. Regional information and geographical spread of projects was considered.

3. It is possible to review the projects funded by the Big Lottery in May under the Reaching Communities section on their website. The following are some of the projects supported (not chosen from a list but simply the first ones listed for 8 May 2008):

- Doncaster - Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
- York & District - befriending service for people suffering mental ill health and emotional distress.
- Leicester – project aimed at reducing domestic violence.
- Liverpool - video projects for young people in deprived constituencies.
- Bristol - music therapy project
- Lincoln - project to improve the life changes of current offenders and prisoners.
- Hackney - one to one support for people with disabilities.
- Lambeth - stronger and more harmonious community.
- Gravesham - awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia in N W Kent.
- Blackburn - mental health needs.
- Havant - mental health.

4. Without reviewing all of the many grants made by Reaching Communities, it is not possible to categorically state that sport did not feature. However, it appears that the projects chosen were not involved with sport but rather projects linked with social services.

Before submitting the application, we were advised by Big Lottery advisers that this was the section of the Lottery where we stood the greatest chance of success for the sort of funding we were looking for. Although, initially, we were rejected in the first round, after making various amendments, the application was accepted. Many hours of work went in to drawing up a robust application and subsequently in liaising with a Big Lottery Fund officer in Newcastle.

5. The Big Lottery will not consider any new application for our project within the next year.

P J Raymond
Clerk/RFO
Sedlescombe Parish Council
2 June 2008