

News from WRG and WREN

November 2007

Little Eaton secures village hall funds through WRG Communities Challenge

Residents in Little Eaton, Derbyshire, will see their dream of gaining a much needed village hall realised after a funding application put together by the parish council was named a winner at the WRG Communities Challenge.

Little Eaton's project was one of eight finalists chosen by waste operator WRG and environmental body WREN in a competition which saw the prize fund rise from £1 million to £1.6 million due to the calibre of the entrants.

The winners were announced at the House of Commons on 29th November, when all eight shortlisted applicants learned that they would be getting the full amount they requested in their funding applications.

Simon Downing, Chairman of Little Eaton Parish Council which was awarded £250,000, said: "This money will breathe new life into the village, helping realise the potential of all the village clubs that have been hampered in their development by a lack of suitable facilities.

"We were delighted to be shortlisted, and then very happy to learn that the prize fund was being increased and that we were going to be awarded the full amount we applied for. This means that construction of the new hall can now begin early in the New Year."

The Communities Challenge is open to all charity and not for profit organisations within 10 miles of a WRG landfill site organising capital projects that will improve the quality of life in the local community. Winning projects in previous years have ranged from village halls, to skate facilities, to community parks.

Unlike the grant funding WREN provides as an environmental distributive body, recipients of the Communities Challenge awards do not have to find match funding and can apply for 100 per cent of their project cost, up to a total of £250,000.

Little Eaton's application was for funds to build a village hall as an extension on the existing sports pavilion.

Peter Cox, Managing Director of WREN, said: “We’ve had some outstanding entries this year, and felt compelled to increase the prize fund so that all eight shortlisted applicants could receive the full amount they applied for.

“Little Eaton’s village hall project stood out for the judges as the applicants put together a compelling case for funding highlighting a real need within the community and demonstrating how the project would benefit local people’s lives.”

WREN is now accepting entries for next year’s WRG Communities Challenge. For further information visit www.wren.org.uk, or call 01953 717165.

THE WINNERS:

- Little Eaton Parish Council, Derbyshire – £250,000 awarded for a planned village hall
- Kirkintilloch Skatepark Initiative, Glasgow - £230,000 awarded
- North East Lincolnshire District Council in partnership with The Friends of The Freshney – £137,000 awarded for a planned redevelopment of the Duke of York Gardens
- Chapel St Leonards Action Group, Lincolnshire – £200,000 awarded for the creation of a new park and play area
- The Friends of St Ives, West Yorkshire – £250,000 awarded for improvement of parkland
- Manton Community Alliance, Nottinghamshire – £150,000 awarded for the creation of a play park
- Friends of Locke Park, South Yorkshire – £194, 000 awarded for the creation of a new play area
- The MEB, Birmingham – £250,000 awarded for the regeneration of an inner city playing field

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For media enquiries, please contact Angela Chadwick on 023 9232 4528 or email angela.chadwick@hare-carding.com.