

Wendover Decided



Twelve local projects
and £10,000



*Wendover Local Area
Forum asked residents
to say how they would
allocate £10,000
funding*



Wendover Decides, a project giving local people a say in how they would allocate £10,000 of the Local Area Forum's local priorities money, ran from late November to end December 2011 following approval by Local Area Forum members in October.



Above: The Wendover Local Area Forum's priorities refresh workshop held in October

Before the project started, the local area priorities were decided by people of all ages at a local workshop on 31 October, so it was only right the projects put forward for funding would benefit both old and young by supporting local activities, facilities and services in the Wendover area.

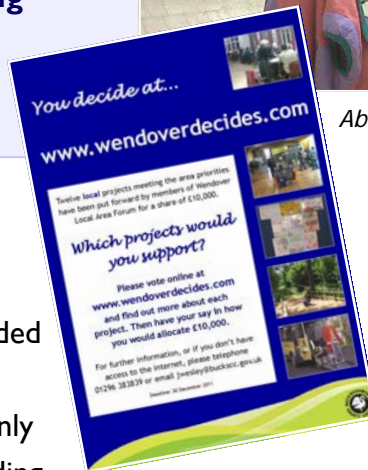
Voting was open to residents living in Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Halton, Wendover and Weston Turville.

It was agreed that Wendover Decides would finish in time for the next Local Area Forum meeting in January 2012 where members would check and agree the results.

This is about local people determining their local priorities and deciding where the funding goes.

We're demonstrating that the Local Area Forum really does act as a voice within the community.

Bill Chapple OBE, County Councillor and Local Area Forum Chairman



Left: Wendover Decides was promoted in shops, noticeboards, gp surgeries, the local police station and libraries

Twelve projects were put forward for potential funding, all of which met the local area priorities:

- Activities and facilities for young people aged 11+
- Reducing social isolation and facilitating community transport
- Speeding and anti-social behaviour

The projects needed different amounts of money, so it was decided that a token system would be used, where each token was worth £100.

Each participating resident was given 100 tokens to allocate and was asked to distribute *all* the tokens between the projects of their choice.

Voting

Each resident could vote once—either online or on paper.



Bill and Marion at Wendover Market, where a voting box was set up and residents could vote. Other voting boxes were available throughout the area including the local police station and library

Website voting

A memorable website address was chosen: www.wendoverdecides.com. This was the first time the new website was used. It was designed to do all the work for the user, with a slider to enable the amount awarded to each project to be easily increased or decreased and a calculation of total funds spent.

In addition to email address and post-code, the website also asked respondents for age information. From this we were able to ascertain that not only was there an even spread of age groups, but that a good number of people aged 66-75 voted, in addition to a further three who identified themselves as being over 76 years of age—excellent when you consider most of us haven't voted in this way online before.

A clearer submit button and emailed response is needed but apart from that I thought the online questionnaire was brilliant, and very easy to follow.

I certainly think you should take every encouragement from this to run consultations this way in future, although run earlier in the financial year and over a longer period.

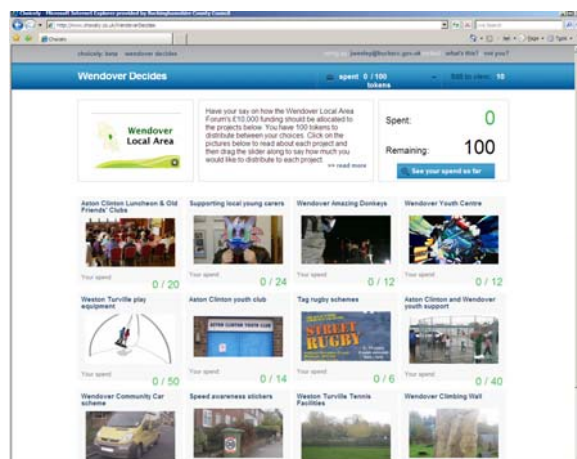
Michael Foote,
Weston Turville Parish Council

Paper voting

Residents who didn't have access to the internet, or chose not to vote online, could make use of the voting boxes placed around the area. AVDC loaned their ballot boxes and these were placed in locations throughout the area:

- Wendover Library
- Wendover Police Station (from after the 8 December market stall)
- Aston Clinton surgery
- Aston Clinton school
- Weston Turville stores (who carried the voting boxes out every day so it was visible to local residents)
- Weston Turville school

The website enabled users to review the projects and vote online. As this was the first time this website was used, feedback was taken from users to enable improvements to be made in future



Thanks to the businesses, schools and partners who gave the voting boxes room. The boxes at Wendover Library and Aston Clinton surgery were particularly well used. A number of responses were also received by post.

The paper voting did well with 117 responses. However, several people did not provide details—name or postcode—so their votes could not be counted.

Publicity

The project was well publicised in Wendover News—which continued to promote this project throughout the whole of the period on the Wendover News Facebook page—in press releases sent out by the County Council and in its social media, on noticeboards in the area, on the Wendover Library screen and on the County Council’s website (including

I'm really pleased to see so much support for projects that help reduce social isolation. These transport schemes are a lifeline for young and old alike.

Marion Clayton,
County Councillor

the front page).

Mix 96 and Three Counties Radio also picked up the story and interviewed the LAF Chairman, Bill Chapple, about the background to the LAF project.

Marion Clayton and Bill also joined Locality Services and the Police at a windswept market stall in Wendover on 8 December, to publicise this project. The market project was filmed by the County Council, as part of a film on this project.

Award amounts

It was agreed that at the end of the Wendover Decides project, the funding would be allocated proportionally, rather than ‘winner takes all’.

While this meant the final funding allocations would be based on the votes of the 201 eligible responses, it also meant that some projects may not receive enough monies to be sustainable.

The LAF agreed that the funding awarded for Tag rugby and Speed awareness stickers would be combined and given to the Police, as project lead, to decide which would be more likely to go ahead given the funding amounts. It was also agreed that the project lead for Weston Turville play equipment could



Far left: Local residents making use of the Wendover Community Carto get to Wendover market

Left: Aston Clinton Old Friends and Luncheon clubs need transport to activities

	Amount requested	Allocation	Strength of feeling
Supporting young carers in the Wendover area	£2,400	£1506.97	63%
Wendover Youth centre	£1,200	£702.99	59%
Aston Clinton and Wendover youth support	£4,000	£2000.50	50%
Aston Clinton Luncheon and Old Friends' clubs	£2,000	£891.04	45%
Wendover Community Car scheme	£4,000	£1676.12	41%
Aston Clinton Youth Club	£1,400	£529.35	38%
Amazing Donkeys	£1,200	£429.85	36%
Tag rugby	£600	£197.01	33%
Speed awareness stickers	£600	£165.17	28%
Wendover climbing wall	£5,000	£988.56	20%
Weston Turville tennis facilities	£3,000	£400.00	13%
Play equipment for Weston Turville young people	£5,000	£512.44	10%

The table above shows the amount requested, against the overall amount awarded by residents who took part in the voting. As the amounts originally requested differed, the percentage figure shown in 'strength of feeling' details the percentage of the original request awarded.

purchase reduced value equipment for young people, to enable this project to go ahead.

Eleven of the twelve projects were able to proceed and all those supported were delighted to receive funding towards activities, equipment or support for local people, much of which would not take place without this funding.

Importantly, many of the projects acknowledged that while the funding was fantastic—enabling both young and old community members to undertake activities, reduce social isolation and purchase much-needed equipment—getting the word out there about the needs of local people and the good work being undertaken within the community was just as important.



This is a fantastic boost for our young carers, whose family circumstances don't always allow them the freedom to join in activities with their friends.

I am also gratified to see that we came top in the 'strength of feeling' element as not only have we benefitted financially but we have been given a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of young carers in the community.

Sally Mansi, Service Manager,
Young Carers Bucks

Future considerations

At the 5 January 2012 meeting, the LAF members agreed it would be good to undertake this project again, with changes made to the following:

- In future, LAF members will be asked to review the submitted projects and recommend approx 6-8 to go forward, based on the strength of the projects against the local priorities, need and area
- The large difference in amounts being requested caused difficulty for some voters. This will be considered and a simpler system will be applied for future voting.
- There was little time for this project to run—given the timescale after the priorities refresh. More time should be allocated to future projects—both in terms of promotion and enabling the funding to be allocated and spent.

Further information

Two short films were made on this project—
one during the project and the other at the close.

These can be viewed at:

- <http://tinyurl.com/6ugg4q2>
- <http://tinyurl.com/7xxju93>

Acknowledgements

The following have supported the LAF members and the County Council in the Wendover Decides project:

- Aston Clinton surgery—placement of voting box
- Aston Clinton school—placement of voting box
- Aylesbury Vale District Council—supply of voting boxes
- Mix 96—publicising the project on air
- Three Counties Radio—publicising the project on air
- Wendover Library—placement of voting box
- Wendover Neighbourhood Police team—placement of voting box and attendance at Market Stall event
- Wendover News—helpful and constant publicity, particularly on its Facebook page
- Weston Turville stores—placement of voting box (carrying out each day to ensure residents can access the box)
- Weston Turville school—placement of voting box.