

Sheerwater and Maybury International Day

Travel SMART held their International Day on Saturday 10 November to decide how £115,000 of local funding was to be spent in the area. This funding was to either improve access to travel in Sheerwater and Maybury, or bring services into the area reducing the need to travel.

The day started with students from a local school putting on entertaining performances ranging from singing groups to gumboot dancers. Each group applying for funding then made a three minute presentation explaining why they wanted the money. Anyone 10 years or older, and from Sheerwater or Maybury, was able to vote on these projects.

There was also delicious international food available and chances to speak to the groups beforehand. A free shuttle bus was run around Sheerwater and Maybury to enable local residents to attend who otherwise wouldn't be able to.

The whole event was hugely well attended with over 150 voting to say how they thought the money should be spent. Voting was mainly conducted on electronic handsets enabling us to also collect some demographic data from the day, which will be analysed in due course. The following projects won funding (in order of popularity):

1. Woking Neighbourhood Advice Centre £30,000
2. The Maybury Centre – drop-in area for community advice and services £15,000
3. Bishop David Brown School - cycle shelter £20,491
4. Woking Football in the Community – Maybury based football club £13,500
5. Sheerwater Health centre – screen and computer for waiting room £1,000
6. Reflex Woking – life skills course for disadvantaged young people £16,640
7. Woking Asian Business Forum – skills training for local taxi drivers £14,995

Following the funding £3,374 is left unspent. The community panel of local representatives will decide what happens to this amount. One option is to add it to the £12,500 we have available for the Small Community Grants which groups can apply for now up until 21 January 2013.

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