Proposal for pump-priming for the Adventure Zone scheme.
Katy Frost is the linked board member for this proposal

The Adventure Zone scheme is for 10-13 year olds and gives young people an accreditation called the Adventure Service Challenge. This is very similar to the Duke of Edinburgh award but for a younger age group. For more information about the Adventure Service Challenge please look at their website http://www.asc-scheme.org.uk/index.htm

The scheme is an effective way of engaging young people in a series of activities that they enjoy, that keep them busy and help them to get involved in the community. For Highworth this would target young people just as they are becoming at risk of going off the rails and draw them into purposeful activities. It is a non-uniform group so attracts those who would prefer not to be identified by a uniform.

The activities covered are:
First Aid, Cookery, Service (Volunteering), Interest (Skill), Camp Craft, Rambling, Road Craft and Shield (Community Code).

The Youth Service can deliver the full scheme in Highworth for £4,000 a year. This would cover 2 paid staff at every session and include all premises cost. The Youth Service is not funded to work with young people under 13 years old so cannot do it as part of their regular work but sees its value in the longer term so are willing to manage the project if funding can be covered elsewhere.

Haydon Wick and Stratton parish councils have been able to fund the full project in their areas this financial year and Wroughton Parish Council are part funding a full-time youth worker.

The Town Council was approached in March to fund the project but they had no funding available for it in this year's budget. Their response indicated they would be willing to consider an application to fund it in 2008/9 but could currently offer only £1,000.

The Youth Service and Extended Services, Warneford Cluster are working in partnership to deliver this project. Extended Services have now been able to supply premises for this project as the cost has been reduced to £2,000. If HCPG could match the Town Council's £1,000 the project could start and be able to demonstrate its value.

Leaving starting the initiative for a full year means another year group of pre-teens –early teens missing out on becoming involved and less likely to pick up the Duke of Edinburgh award as they don't have the background to start it. Southfields School has offered its premises free from the summer term to support the initiative. Starting in the summer term would get people involved before the long summer holidays
We feel that this project is in-line with the ethos of the HCPG as it is providing for the needs of children and young people which should in turn ease some of

the anti-social problems that Highworth sometimes suffers from. It will also aid the community and HCPG as one of the modules that must be covered is volunteering. Those who are working towards their Adventure Service Challenge could form a group to help improve their community eg. Litter picking or helping at community events.

Please can the HCPG consider this request for one year funding, 2007/8. We would value a decision at the April meeting of the HCPG if possible to allow it to be advertised and started in May should funding be granted.