

# Winsford Town Council

*'Your Money, Your Choice'*

Participatory Budgeting Event, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011

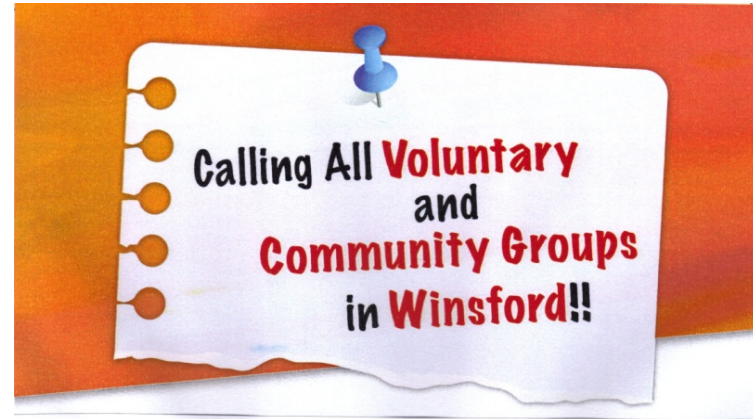
# 'Your Money, Your Choice'



- ▶ Community Engagement Strategy – improving the way we engage with local people
- ▶ 2010/11 budget consultation – ‘How should the Town Council spend your money?’
- ▶ 83% supported the idea of *‘letting the people decide’*
- ▶ Council allocated £5,000 for a Participatory Budgeting event

# Inviting bids

- ▶ Winsford based organisations invited to apply for funding for projects that contribute to Councils Mission Statement of *'improving the Quality of life of the people of Winsford'*
- ▶ Maximum bid £1,000
- ▶ The Winsford Voice; noticeboards; local press; direct mailshots



Winsford Town Council has set aside £5,000 in its budget and is giving local organisations the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £1,000 for projects which will benefit our town.

**But here's the difference...** Short-listed applicants will be invited to make a brief presentation of their project to a specially invited audience of local residents. At the end of the presentations, the audience – and not the Council – will decide which organisations should receive the grants. Cheques will be handed out on the night.

This is called 'Participatory Budgeting' and the *'Your Money your choice'* event will be held at the Winsford Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer in early February.

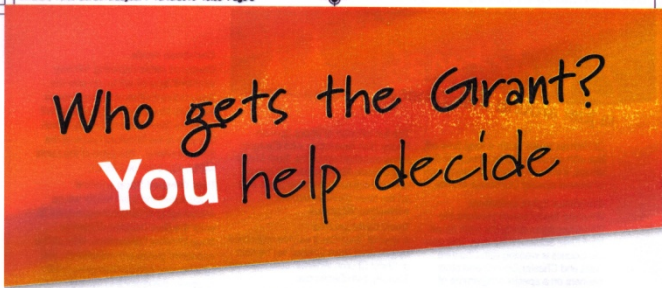
If your group would like to make an application, forms are available from the Town Council Offices at Wyvern House, Winsford. Alternatively the form can be downloaded from the Councils website [www.winsford.gov.uk](http://www.winsford.gov.uk) or it can be e-mailed to you by contacting [info@winsford.gov.uk](mailto:info@winsford.gov.uk)

Completed forms must be returned by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

# Choosing a voting Audience

- ▶ Importance of impartiality
- ▶ Community engagement in Winsford is hard work
- ▶ Over 500 invitations issued to one randomly selected address in every road in Winsford
- ▶ First 50 respondents formed the audience

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**Who gets the Grant?  
You help decide**

**An invitation to Winsford residents.**

Can you spare a couple of hours to decide how money should be spent for the benefit of Winsford? Winsford Town Council invites you to be part of the audience for the special **'Your Money your choice'** evening on a date to be arranged in early February, at:

Winsford Lifestyle Centre  
The Drummer  
Winsford CW7 1AD

The Town Council has set aside £5,000 for a 'participatory budgeting' event. Winsford based organisations are being invited to make bids of up to £1,000 for projects which will help 'improve the quality of life of the people of Winsford'.

Short-listed applicants will be invited to make a brief presentation in support of their project to an audience of local residents, who will then vote for their favoured projects.

Audience numbers will be limited to 50 people. To register your interest, fill in the on-line application form on the Councils website [www.winsford.gov.uk](http://www.winsford.gov.uk) or complete and return the form below.

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**Your Money Your Choice – The Audience Decides**  
Winsford Lifestyle Centre, February 2011

I would like to be part of the residents audience that decides which local groups will receive project funding.

Name .....

Address (you must live in Winsford) .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

E-mail .....

Please return this form to:  
Winsford Town Council, 'Your money your choice', Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford CW7 1AH  
Applications must be received no later than 30th November 2010.

# The bids

- ▶ Original idea was for applications to be shortlisted by Councils Grants Committee
- ▶ 9 applications received
- ▶ All went forward to the event
- ▶ ‘Running order’ at the event selected at random by Winsford Neighbourhood Policing Inspector

# The Event

- ▶ March 7<sup>th</sup>, Winsford Lifestyle Centre
- ▶ Town Mayor hosted the event
- ▶ Over 100 people attended – applicants; voting audience and spectators
- ▶ Voting audience identified by green sticker
- ▶ Summary of bids for voting audience – no prior knowledge of bids
- ▶ Each applicant could have up to 3 presenters
- ▶ Presentations limited to 5 minutes
- ▶ Quality of bid, not presentation

# Our Audience



# The Event

- ▶ After each presentation, voting audience had 2 or 3 minutes to chat with people sitting around them
- ▶ Given voting slip and scored each project between 1 and 5
- ▶ Votes counted during refreshment break and 5 winners announced



# The Winners!



# The Event

- ▶ Cheques presented 'there and then'
- ▶ Winners signed declaration agreeing to feedback in 3,6 and 12 months on how their project has improved the quality of life of the people of Winsford
- ▶ Another audience 'event' in 6 months

Everyone asked to complete a feedback form

# The Messages

- ▶ Feedback excellent
- ▶ Over 80% wanted a repeat
- ▶ 65% wanted bigger budget
- ▶ Most people felt the process was fair
- ▶ Use of technology could be improved
- ▶ Town Council agreed to repeat next year, hopefully with other partners