

Borough Benefits from New Community Chest



COMMUNITY groups are set to monopolise a near £1M windfall thanks to the green efforts of the borough's residents.

The scheme will see the groups given a share of the money the council saves through its recycling efforts.

Community Panels will be charged with awarding funds to local groups from a Community Chest which will hand out £200,000 in the first year and £380,000 each year for the next two years.

Each panel will be made up of a local councillor and community groups, including sporting groups, churches and the scouts and guides.

Applications to become a panel member will begin in October when the 'Have Your Say' advertising campaign will be encouraging people to have their own say. Local community groups will be encouraged to apply for grants, which could be for anything related to their local communities such as a new roof for a scout hut or a CCTV camera. Panels will be appointed in November to begin deliberating on applications with projects getting underway in January and February.

Each panel will then decide on applications to recommend to the main Selection Panel, made up of the Chair of the Tameside Strategic Partnership (TSP)

Cllr Roy Oldham; Executive Member for District Assemblies, Cllr Jim Fitzpatrick; and an opposition member who will decide which applications have been successful.

Cllr Roy Oldham said: "This is a win, win situation for everyone as far as I am concerned. We are consistently telling our residents how well they are doing when it comes to recycling their household waste and here's the proof.

"Handing the money back to community groups should not only encourage more residents to recycle, but it will also mean less waste going to landfill which benefits everyone.

