



Participatory Budgeting

Andrew Green
Parish Conference

What is participatory budgeting?

- Participatory budgeting is a process that allows members of a community to participate in making spending decisions about local things that affect them.
- At its simplest there is a pot of money and participants decide how it should be spent.



What happens in RBWM?

There are several different strands to 'PB' in RBWM:

- Council wide and area schemes
- Neighbourhood Budgets
- Youth PB
- Member budgets



How can parishes participate?

Currently Parishes can:

- nominate local projects under neighbourhood PB
- encourage voting for local projects

But would parishes be interested in running their own versions of PB?



Participatory Budgeting for Parishes

- There are good examples from elsewhere of parishes running their own PB schemes
- Parishes are closer to local communities so can get closer to what people want
- It's very easy to run an online consultation & RBWM officers could advise and support with this
- Or you could organise a local meeting with a chance to discuss different options – a more traditional form of PB.



Why should a parish council be interested?

- A good way to get the community interested and involved in parish council business
- A way of getting to know what is important to local people and what their priorities are
- Encourages people to bring forward ideas for the community
- Helps to create community spirit & promote better understanding of community issues
- Gets people involved in the community and in voluntary activity
- Makes sure that what gets done is what the community wants
- Helps the community understand how parish business affects them & how their money is being spent
- Could encourage new people to come forward as parish councillors

