

REPORT TO THE MALMESBURY AREA (1) COMMITTEE				Report No. 7	
Date of Meeting		21st May 2008			
Title of Report		Area 1 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/2009			
Link to Corporate Priorities		Partnership Working			
Public Report		Yes			
Summary of Report					
To ask Members to consider 4 applications with recommendations for funding from the 2008/9 Community Area Award Scheme.					
Officer Recommendations					
<p>1. Members note their 2008/9 budget allocation and funding criteria for the Community Area Awards Scheme; and</p> <p>Agree funding distribution of the Area 1 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2008/2009:</p> <p>2. Charlton Recreational Centre – Award £4,014 from the capital budget towards the refurbishment of a wooden floor and replacement of carpets, tables and chairs, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.</p> <p>3. Malmesbury River Valleys Trust – Award £750 from the revenue budget towards the creation of a dipping platform in Conygre Nature Reserve, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.</p> <p>4. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Award £2,140 from the capital budget towards the restoration of Lock 4 of the Wilts & Berks Canal, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.</p> <p>5. Little Somerford Village Hall Committee – Award £1,690 from the capital budget for the installation of disabled access/egress for the village hall, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.</p>					
Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications	
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	
Contact Officer	Miranda Gilmour, Principal Community Partnership Officer, 01249 706380 mgilmour@northwilts.gov.uk				

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the budget available and funding criteria for the 2008/2009 Community Area Awards Scheme, which were approved by Executive on 7th February 2008.
- 1.2 This report also considers 4 applications for 2008/9 Community Area Award funding and, where appropriate, links them to issues and priorities in the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

2.1 Option 1: Members note their 2008/9 budget allocation and funding criteria for the Community Area Awards Scheme.

- 2.1.1 The budget allocation was approved by Council on 26th February 2008. Malmesbury Area (1) Committee was allocated a capital budget of **£40,000** and a revenue budget of **£12,000** for 2008/09, for distribution in the form of Community Awards.
- 2.1.2 At the last meeting of Malmesbury Area (1) Committee on 23rd January 2008 Members resolved that:

The remainder of the Area 1 Committee capital funding of £14,518 be allocated to a central fund for use by the multi agency working group to address flood defence issues in Area 1.

This was approved by the Executive on 7th February 2008.

- 2.1.3 The rules on revenue remain unchanged, with no unspent revenue being allowed to be carried over.
- 2.1.4 A joint community area working group met on 28th January 2008 to review funding and agree criteria for the year 2008/09. This was approved by Executive on 7th February 2008. If Members should wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter must be referred to the Executive.
- 2.1.5 Training was provided on 10th March 2008 to familiarise Members with the changes in funding for 2008/09. Details are provided in section 3 of this report.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Charlton Recreational Centre Appendix 1	Refurbish wooden floor and replace carpets, tables and chairs.	Capital	£4,014

- 2.2 **Option 2: Charlton Recreational Centre – Award £4,014 from the capital budget towards the refurbishment of the hall’s wooden floor and replacement of carpets, tables and chairs, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.**

- 2.2.1 This application meets the 2008/09 funding criteria and demonstrates a specific link to the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages by contributing to the update of the village hall at Charlton.
- 2.2.2 This application illustrates the on-going efforts that local people have made to maintain and improve the village hall over recent years. It is hoped that improvements to the floor and seating will complete the refurbishment to this hall. Further details of this application are provided at Appendix 1.
- 2.2.3 Failure to fund this scheme is unlikely to prevent the project from proceeding, although its start date may be delayed while fundraising is undertaken.
- 2.2.4 The total cost of this project is £6,690. If Members make an award in line with the Officer Recommendation this will represent a contribution of 60% of the whole project.
- 2.2.5 Village Hall funds are being used to make up the remaining 40% of the project costs and so officers are confident that this project will be completed before March 31st 2009.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Malmesbury River Valleys Trust Appendix 2	The creation of an educational 'dipping platform' in Conygre Nature reserve.	Revenue	£750

- 2.3 Malmesbury River Valleys Trust – Award £750 from the revenue budget towards the creation of a dipping platform, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place, any relevant permissions being granted and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.**
- 2.3.1 This application meets the 2008/9 funding criteria, this group is referred to specifically in the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages and, although it does not directly link to the Plan, this project will assist in addressing the aspiration expressed there; to raise awareness in the role of the Malmesbury River Valleys Trust.
- 2.3.2 Further details of this application are provided in the application at Appendix 2.
- 2.3.3 Failure to fund this scheme is unlikely to prevent the project from proceeding, although its start date may be delayed while fundraising is undertaken.
- 2.3.4 The total cost of this project is £1,010. If Members make an award in line with the Officer Recommendation this will represent a contribution of approximately 75% of the whole project.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Wilts and Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) Appendix 3	Restoration of chamber of Lock 4 - Wilts & Berks Canal	Capital	£2,140

- 2.4 Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Award £2,140 from the capital budget towards the restoration of Lock 4 of the Wilts & Berks Canal, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.**
- 2.4.1 This application has been referred to the Area 1 Committee for decision by the Area 2 Committee which met on 13th February 2008 for the reason that the site in question is in the Brinkworth Ward.
- 2.4.2 This application largely meets the 2008/9 funding criteria. These require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget be allocated to applications demonstrating links to the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages. The remaining 25% will be available for those schemes that fall outside of the Plan but remain important for local communities. The project does not link directly to the Plan but does reflect the overall Brinkworth parish vision around developing and sustaining the attractiveness of the village that is consistent with its rural history.
- 2.4.3 In the short term, the project is to transform the existing lock from what has been a hazard to walkers using the towpath into a good sound structure. The lock will form part of the restored Wilts & Berks Canal which connects into the national waterway network and will offer benefits to local communities and wildlife. There is much community support for this project with local volunteers working on a weekly basis on construction and planning.
- 2.4.4 Further details of this application are provided in the application at Appendix 3.
- 2.4.5 Members are reminded that NWDC awarded capital funding of £27,000 to the WBCT as part of the Partnership Restoration Strategy in 2004/5 and in 2005/6 for work on various lock projects throughout the district. No grants have been made by NWDC to these projects since then.
- 2.4.6 A decision not to fund this would hold up work while the applicant identifies other funding sources. It would also go against the District Council's commitment to supporting the work of the Trust.
- 2.4.7 The total cost of this project is £43,800. If Members make an award in line with Officer recommendation this will represent a contribution of approximately 4% of the whole project.

Applicant	Proposal	Award Type	Funding Requested
Little Somerford Village Hall Committee Appendix 4	Installation of disabled access/egress for the village hall.	Capital	£1,690

2.5 Little Somerford Village Hall Committee – Award £1,690 from the capital budget for the installation of disabled access/egress for the village hall, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March

- 2.5.1 This application meets 2008/09 funding criteria and the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages identifies Little Somerford Village Hall as a highly valued amenity and by the local community and highlights the desire to maintain and enhance existing local amenities.
- 2.5.2 The hall is utilised by a range of different community groups and the improved access would ensure no group or individual is excluded from using the facility.
- 2.5.3 The completion of this project will mean that the hall will meet the obligation to improve accessibility and use of a community building under the DDA.
- 2.5.4 Further details of this application are provided in the application at Appendix 4.
- 2.5.5 Failure to fund this scheme is unlikely to prevent the project from proceeding, although its start date may be delayed while fundraising is undertaken.
- 2.5.6 The total cost of this project is £1,690. If Members make an award in line with the Officer Recommendation this will represent a contribution of 100% of the whole project cost.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 A copy of the 2008/9 Community Area Awards Funding Pack can be found at Appendix 5. This contains information relating to funding criteria, sources of advice and funding available other than from the District Council, an application form and a chart outlining the process by which their application will be dealt with.
- 3.1.1 Applications can be made electronically via the Council's website, www.northwilts.gov.uk or via a paper version. All enquires should be made to community@northwilts.gov.uk or 01249 706448.

3.2 Funding Criteria

- 3.2.1 Key elements and changes to the funding criteria are:
- The matched funding threshold has changed. During 2008/09 funding awards of up to £2,500 may not require match funding and may be made for the total project cost.
 - For awards over £2,500, Area Committees will not normally award more than 60% of the total project cost.
 - Applications received after **19th December 2009** will not be considered for funding

as there will be insufficient time to process them before the January Area Committee Meetings, when final awards will be agreed.

- Members will need to be satisfied that awards granted in the 2008/09 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed before March 31 2009. All funding must be drawn down by **31st March 2009**.

3.3 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that funding applications will be submitted for consideration at each of the Area 1 Committee meetings up to and including **21st January 2009** providing five funding opportunities. These future meetings will take place as follows:

16th July 2008 deadline for receipt of applications – 26th June 2008

17th September 2008 deadline for receipt of applications - 28th August 2008

19th November 2008 deadline for receipt of applications - 24th October 2008

21st January 2009 deadline for receipt of applications -31st December 2008

3.4 Budget

Appendix 6 provides details of the Area 1 capital and revenue balance for 2008/9. Appendix 7 details the 2007/8 distribution of awards across Area 1, in an attempt to assist Members when distributing funding across the whole of the Community Area.

4. Legal Implications

Members of the Area Committee will not be able to make an award to an applicant that exceeds the sum requested on the formal application form. Should Members wish to award a greater sum, the item would need to be deferred until the next funding round and the applicant requested to submit a revised application.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 1 Committee as set out in Section 2 of this report.

5.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, there will be a capital balance of **£32,156** and a revenue balance of **£11,250**

6. Community and Environmental Implications

6.1 The majority of the awards can be directly linked to priorities identified in the Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages.

6.2 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and/or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being in the Community Area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

7. Equality & Diversity Implications

7.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards has been undertaken and copies are available on the Council's website.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1 Failure to make awards would have a moderate impact on applicants and their associated community projects. Since this is considered to be unlikely, the overall risk is considered low.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 Application - Charlton Recreational Centre • Appendix 2 Application – Malmesbury River Valleys Trust • Appendix 3 Application – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust • Appendix 4 Application – Little Somerfield Village Hall Committee • Appendix 5 - Community Area Awards Funding Pack • Appendix 6 - 2008/9 Community Area Award Budget • Appendix 7 - 2007/8 Geographical Distribution of Community Area Awards.
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	Community Area Award Funding Criteria 2008/9 Community Plan for Malmesbury and the Villages 2005 – 2015

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Community Area Awards Criteria	Executive 7 th February 2008	E182
2008/9 Budgets	Council 26 th February 2008	C83
Minutes of Area 1 meeting	Malmesbury Area (1) Committee on 23 rd January 2008	M41
Minutes of Area 2 meeting	Area 2 Committee 13 th February 2008	CR44