

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	16 March 2011
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2010/11 Area Board Grants and the following officer recommendations:

1. Minety Village Hall – award £1,504 towards the refurbishment of toilets, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Glovers Court Amenity Group – award £178 towards the purchase of blackout blinds, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Malmesbury River Valleys Trust – award £120 towards the cost of providing educational materials.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. During 2010/2011 all applicants are being encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who is working on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.6. A decision has been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.7. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• How you view where you live - Malmesbury & the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £40,593 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget was £682, resulting in a balance of £41,275.
- 2.2. At the 12 May area board, funding totalling £4,230 was distributed, leaving a balance of £37,045.
- 2.3. At the 7 July area board community area grants totalling £4,420 was approved, leaving a balance of £32,625.
- 2.4. The Area Board on 12 May 2010 agreed to fund £3,000 to the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Plan.
- 2.5. The Area Board agreed on 7 July 2010 to match fund the transport and young people project funding allocated by Cabinet by £4,000.
- 2.6. At the 15 September area board community area grants totalling £2,453 was approved, leaving a balance of £23,172.
- 2.7. At the 10 November area board community area grants totalling £4,665 were approved, leaving a balance of £18,109.
- 2.8. Funding for a speed detection device associated with the work of the Malmesbury Community Area Transport Group was found from another budget, resulting in £353 being retained by the area board, resulting in £18,462 being available for distribution.
- 2.9. At the January area board community area grants totalling £10,138 were approved, leaving a balance of **£8,324**
- 2.10. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.11. There have been 6 funding rounds during 2010/11, this one being the last.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Malmesbury Area Board will have a balance of **£6,522**.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 7.1. Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Minety Village Hall	Refurbishment of toilets	£1,508

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Minety Village Hall is awarded £1,504 towards the refurbishment of toilets, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria.
- 8.1.3. There is specific reference in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 in respect to desire for village hall facilities to be improved.
- 8.1.4. The hall is regularly used by about 180 people each week, with a further 60 using it on a monthly basis and is an important community facility within Minety.
- 8.1.5. The village hall management group are embarking on a programme of refurbishments to the hall, with the ladies, gents and disabled toilets being the most urgent.

- 8.1.6. Contact has been made with Charities Information Bureau who will assist the applicant to make funding applications to address other phases of the refurbishment.
- 8.1.7. The application requests that the area board contribute more than 50% of the total cost of this project, hence the minor financial adjustment in the officer recommendation.
- 8.1.8. Members may wish to incorporate a condition into this award recommending that the applicant seek support from Charities Information Bureau and Community First's Village Hall Officer in relation to their finances and ambitions for the hall.
- 8.1.9. A decision not to fund this application is unlikely to cause delay in proceeding with this project as the applicant would find the funding from their reserves; however this would diminish their modest reserves which could act as leverage for other phases of the work.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Glovers Court Amenity Group	Blackout blinds for the lounge	£178

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Glovers Court Amenity Group is awarded £178 towards the purchase of lounge blackout blinds, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria. While Glovers Court is a residential facility in the town, the lounge, where the blinds are needed, is regularly used by other groups in the town.
- 8.2.3. The application demonstrates links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013, in that it provides a comfortable meeting place for older and less able people and provides opportunities for them to participate in life-long learning and cultural opportunities.
- 8.2.4. The room where the blackout will be installed is regularly used to show illustrated talks and films, which is currently not possible during the day time and lighter evenings.
- 8.2.5. The amenity group are active fund-raisers, having raised over 75% of the costs of this project, which includes an increase in the contribution Westlea Housing Association originally offered.
- 8.2.6. A decision not to fully fund this application will delay the purchase of the blinds while further funding is sought.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Malmesbury River Valleys Trust	Educational materials.	£120

- 8.3.1. Officers recommend that Malmesbury River Valleys Trust is awarded £120 towards the cost of educational materials.
- 8.3.2. The initial application did not meet the 2010/11 grant criteria as it included a request for travel for school children, when this activity forms part of the school curriculum and takes place during the school day. An amendment has since been made requesting the educational materials only.
- 8.3.3. The application demonstrates links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013, in that it reflects the values of both adults and young people who valued the rural nature of the area they lived in, as well as providing activities for young people.
- 8.3.4. The replica ceramic birds' eggs will be a useful resource for children during the River Valleys Trust school week (which this year is looking at birds and their eggs) and at a range of future events.
- 8.3.5. There is some concern that the applicant does hold a considerable level of financial reserves; however these are set aside for purchase of further land and maintenance of the current nature reserve.
- 8.3.6. A decision not to help fund this application is unlikely to delay the project as funding is likely to be taken from reserves.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant application – Minety Village Hall Appendix 2 Grant application – Glovers Court Amenity Group Appendix 3 Grant application – Malmesbury River Valleys Trust
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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