

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Warminster Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>19 May 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2011 / 12 Community Area Grant Funding. There is also a request for £570 towards the Warminster Voices project.

1. Chapmanslade Village Hall. A request of £2,500. The application is towards the refurbishment of the village hall.

**Officer recommendation: Refuse** on the grounds that the applicant is already in receipt of Wiltshire Council Funding this year. (See below)

2. Heytesbury Young People's Organisation (HYPO). A request of £4,843. The application is for the provision of play and fitness equipment for all ages at Heytesbury Playing field at Greenlands.

**Officer recommendation: Approve**

3. Warminster Athenaeum Trust. A request of £4,950. The application is for funding to modify the entrance steps into the building to comply with DDA requirements.

**Officer recommendation: Approve.**

4. **Warminster Voices Project.** The project requires a further £570 to cover Board meetings for the financial year 2011/12. This is for 6 Board meetings which includes a meeting in the community; out and about in Warminster and a CD. The cost is £95 for each meeting.

Total, if all applications are allocated in line with officer recommendations, £10, 363.

## 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 (15 April 2011). 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. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. Area boards will not consider applications from town and parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from town/parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the town/parish council.
- 1.5. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, although the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.7. All applicants are 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.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. The 2011/2012 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://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"> <li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12</li> <li>• Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan</li> </ul>
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## 2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

2.2. There will be six rounds of grants in 2011/12:

Board Meeting	Deadline for receipt of grant applications
• 19 May 2011	20 May 2011
• 30 June 2011	22 July 2011
• 1 September 2011	30 September 2011
• 10 November 2011	2 December 2011
• 12 January 2012	27 January 2012
• 8 March 2012	

The deadline for applications is six weeks prior to the date of the meeting.  
The deadline for applications for the next Area Board on 30 June is 20 May.

2.3 The Board has £38,209 for Community Area Grants for the year 2011/12. There is also £3,614 rolled over from 2010/11. This makes a total of £41,823 for 2011/12.

## 3. Environmental & Community Implications

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 Warminster Area Board.

4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Warminster Area Board will have a balance of £31,460.

## 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	Chapmanslade Village Hall	Rejuvenation of Village Hall	£2,500

8.1.1. Officer recommendation – Refuse. The application does not meet the grant criteria 2011/12

8.1.2. The Rejuvenation of the 36 yr old Village Hall is to provide improvements to the condition of and facilities offered in respect of statutory compliance for disabled facilities and hygiene standards, increase energy efficiency, new floor, heating and an additional function room. The funding would be used for the provision of a disabled toilet, improve existing toilet facilities and to provide a hearing loop system; all in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.

8.1.3. The overall cost of the project is £18,250 and the applicant is in receipt of a grant for £7,500 from Wiltshire Council from the Village Hall fund for 2011/12 towards the work.

8.1.4. However, the Community Area Grants criteria state that it is not possible to fund an organisation from Community Area Board grants if they are already in receipt of funding from Wiltshire Council (see “J” under Grants Criteria).

8.1.5. On this basis the recommendation is to refuse the grant as they are in receipt of £7,500 from Wiltshire Council towards the cost of this work.

8.1.6. However, Chapmanslade Village Hall may wish to re-apply in the next financial year 2012/13 for funding towards other specific aspects of the refurbishment of the village hall.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Heytesbury Young Persons Organisation (HYPO)	Provision of play and fitness equipment for all ages	£4,843

8.2.1. Officer recommendation – Approve

8.2.2. The application meets the grant criteria 2011/12

8.2.3. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan. See page 21. There is a need for more facilities for young people in the villages and a wider range of leisure facilities.

8.2.4. The project aims will improve the health and well being of children and adults. There will be more social activities and this will decrease anti-social behaviour.

8.2.5. Consultation has been carried out in the village with pre-school and primary aged children who drew up the new designs for the area.

8.2.6. The funding will specifically fund rubber surfacing which is made from re-cycleable materials with low future maintenance and can be used all year round.

8.2.7. If the Area Board does not fund the project the amount, type and quality of the equipment would be reduced.

8.2.8. Match funding is provided from the Parish Council, HYPO's reserves, the pre-school, the landfill grant and Selwood housing.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	The Warminster Athenaeum Trust	To modify the entrance steps into the Athenaeum to comply with DDA requirements as part of the phases of the restoration work.	£4,950

8.3.1. Officer recommendation – approve

8.3.2. The Trust are seeking the funding to modify the entrance steps to the Athenaeum which will make them DDA compliant. The steps will also become much more welcoming. A steward is usually stationed at the steps to welcome guests safely and there is a great awareness that they need improving to enable all to enter and feel welcomed into the building. The work will include restoration of the canopy, steps and a wheelchair ramp. The entrance is in the heart of the town so very

visible to residents and visitors.

- 8.3.3. The work is part of the phases of the renovation of the building being undertaken by the Trust to provide a community building in Warminster which will help to build a strong and resilient community.
- 8.3.4. Match funding for this part of the project is from the Town Council and the Trust's own fundraising.
- 8.3.5. The project is linked to the Warminster Community Plan on pages 6,10,12,13 & 22. The plan supports the Athenaeum restoration.
- 8.3.6. If the funding is not awarded it will prevent all sections of the community from using the building.

#### **8.4. Warminster Voices**

- 8.4.1 The project requires a further £570 to cover Board meetings for the financial year 2011/12. This is for 6 Board meetings which includes a meeting in the community; out and about in Warminster and a CD. The cost is £95 for each meeting. The funding is for Warminster Community Radio to continue to record the meetings and comments when out and about and to produce the CD.
- 8.4.2 An early review of the project found that the pilot phase has helped to raise awareness of topics and issues that affect local people in Warminster. The project is beginning to have an impact on supporting local people to participate in local decision-making. The Area Board listens to the comments made by local people at each Board meeting. This may have an impact on decision making particularly as the project expands and develops.
- 8.4.3 The Community Area Manager is hoping to extend the project to other locations in addition to the library and to other groups of people in the Warminster area who find it hard to attend meetings. Jacqui will work with Barry Mole from Warminster Community Radio to continue and expand upon the promising groundwork established by the project so far.

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