

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	29 June 2011
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to 2 Community Area Grant applications and 1 Area Board/councillor led initiative:

1. Malmesbury Kite Festival Group – award £500 towards the 2011 kite festival, to include a kite making competition, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Crudwell Pre-School – award £1,890 towards the provision of an outdoor sensory play area, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Fosse Way at Whitewalls, Easton Grey – award £4,386 towards the installation of gates and purchase and installation of barriers and fencing to prevent further destruction of the Roman settlement.

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 (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) 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. In addition to CAGs councillors can submit an Area Board/councillor led project, which differs from a CAG in that they do not require matched funding. They should, however, not be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria.
- 1.6. Area Board/councillor led project applications are designed to enable councillors to tackle 'sticky' community issues or projects identified in the Community Plan. An application form is used and estimates for project work have to be completed in a similar manner to the Community Area Grant scheme.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.9. 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.

- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. The 2011/2012 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.
- 1.12. All recipients of community area awards are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of £40,593 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives.
- 2.2. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £9,717, resulting in a balance of £50,310 for distribution during 2011/2012.
- 2.3. At the 4 May 2011 area board, councillors approved 2011/12 core funding of £8,118 to Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership, resulting in a balance of **£42,192**.
- 2.4. In addition at the 4 May 2011 area board £5,303 was distributed to young people (in a participative budgeting event) from a separate ring fenced youth/transport budget, leaving a balance of **£2,756** for youth projects.
- 2.5. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2011/2012 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.6. There are 6 funding rounds during 2011/12. The remaining deadlines for receipt of applications and dates when they will be considered are as follows:
 - **22 July 2011 for consideration on 7 September 2011**
 - 26 September 2011 for consideration on 9 November 2011
 - 28 November 2011 for consideration on 18 January 2012
 - 23 January 2012 for consideration on 7 March 2012

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 accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance of **£35,416**.

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 "Officer Recommendations".

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Malmesbury Kite Festival Group	To hold a kite festival on 23 & 24 July 2011	£500

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Malmesbury Kite Festival Group is awarded £500 towards the 2011 Malmesbury Kite Festival, to include a kite making competition, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria.
- 8.1.3. There are specific references in the Malmesbury & Villages Community

Plan 2009-2013 in respect to providing more local things for young people to do, more affordable activities for young adults and families and engaging young people in community activities.

- 8.1.4. This event builds on the kite festival held last year as part of the Eilmer celebrations. The ambition is to run an annual event which brings kite flyers from some distance to provide displays, as well as encouraging local innovation from young people through a kite making competition and encouraging young people to also take up kite flying as a hobby.
- 8.1.5. At present funding has been obtained for the Jack Lane Trust (but at a lower level than hoped) and confirmation of funding from Malmesbury Town Council and Westlea is awaited.
- 8.1.6. This event is being offered free of charge and is therefore especially reliant of funders in its first year. If this is to become an annual event, the group will need to consider how best to make it a sustainable event.
- 8.1.7. The application requests that the area board contribute approximately 14% of the total cost of this project.
- 8.1.8. Because this is a new voluntary group taking on the festival and the event is to take place shortly, a decision not to fund this application is likely to lead to some difficulties.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Crudwell Pre-School	Outdoor sensory play area	£1,890

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Crudwell Pre-School is awarded £1,890 towards the provision of an outdoor sensory play area, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. In January 2011 Crudwell Pre-School were awarded £3,215 by the area board towards replacing the surface of their external play area. However following their success in obtaining a grant from Awards for All, they did not take up the area board funding.
- 8.2.3. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria. This final part of the renovation and development of the outdoor play area seeks to satisfy guidelines set by the Early Years Foundation in that it provides more outdoor play area with the addition of sensory elements with equipment (such as hanging musical instruments) and planting to encourage natural play areas, while at the same time developing opportunities to encourage wildlife.
- 8.2.4. The application demonstrates strong links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013, in that it meets the local need to 'support early

years, toddler groups and pre-schools in villages’.

- 8.2.5. The Council’s Child Care Development Officer is of the opinion that Crudwell Pre-school offers high quality provision with good attendance figures of 25-30 children per term. The Council’s Play Development Officer is working with the group and acting as an adviser.
- 8.2.6. The application is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project.
- 8.2.7. A decision not to help fund this application will delay the project proceeding while alternative sources of funding are sought.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Area board/councillor led initiative	Installation of gates and purchase and installation of barriers and fencing to prevent further destruction of the Roman settlement.	£4,386

- 8.3.1. Funding is sought to cover the installation of heavy-duty gates, purchase and installation of barriers and fencing to secure the site against continued misuse by motor-vehicles, thereby protecting the Roman settlement on the Fosse Way at Whitewalls, Easton Grey from further damage by motor-vehicles using the byway.
- 8.3.2. The project will restore the damage that has been caused to this nationally important heritage site by use by off-road motor-vehicles as a driving course, so that it can be properly enjoyed by local people and visitors for specific visits and as part of walks and rides through the area.
- 8.3.3. Interpretation panels will be installed to explain the history of the site and its conservation value for flora and fauna. The site, once restored, has the potential to become an important educational resource for schools, locally and regionally, and other groups and individuals interested in the study of history, archaeology and nature.
- 8.3.4. The application demonstrates links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 in that local people stressed the need to retain and protect their rural environment.
- 8.3.5. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with English Heritage, Wiltshire Council, Easton Grey Parish Meeting and other parish councils, with consultation with landowners, cyclists, riders and walkers.
- 8.3.6. A decision not to fund this initiative could lead to delays in protecting the site, resulting in further damage to this important heritage site.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant application – Malmesbury Kite Festival Group Appendix 2 Grant application – Crudwell Pre-School Appendix 3 Area Board Initiative application – Fosse Way at Whitewalls
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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