

Report to	Chippenham Area Board
Date of Meeting	4th July 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding. Officer recommendations:

1. Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership - Award £990 to launch the "Chippenham Alive" project.

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 15th 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) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.10. One application to this round has been withdrawn in order to gather additional information and will reapply to the next funding round. The applicants have also been referred to the Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek alternative sources of funding. CIB work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes from other local and national funding sources.

- 1.11. Following the awards made on 9th May, and the purchase of trophies and certificates for the Chippenham Area Board Community Awards, Chippenham Area Board has a budget of **£65,361** for community area grants, community partnership core funding and Area Board projects.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report

- Area Board Grant Guidance 2011/12 ACCL-001-11
- Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12
- Chippenham Community Area Plan
- Local Agreement for Wiltshire

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 6 rounds of funding during 2011/12. The first took place on 9th May, the second is contained in this report and the remaining rounds take place as follows:
- The third on 12th September
 - The fourth on 14th November
 - The fifth on 9th January 2012
 - The final round on 5th March 2012

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 budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Chippenham Area Board will have a **balance of £64,371**.

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	Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership	To launch the “Chippenham Alive” project	£990

- 8.1.1. Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership - Award £990 to launch the “Chippenham Alive” project.
- 8.1.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.
- 8.1.3. This project demonstrates link to the Chippenham & Villages Community Plan Review “Reduce leakage of shoppers to Bath & Swindon”.
- 8.1.4. This project demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire – “Help local communities develop their own priorities and improvements”, “We help communities to help themselves” and “We need to realise the potential of our main towns and villages so they can have a vibrant and thriving local economy.”
- 8.1.5. This project demonstrates a link to one of Chippenham Vision Boards key objectives to “Develop the town centre, making it more attractive to visitors and improving the retail offer”
- 8.1.6. Officers understand that the applicant is working in collaboration with the Night Time Economy (NTE) Group (NTE members include representatives from the Police, Chippenham Town Council, Wiltshire Council, Street Pastors) to deliver this project.
- 8.1.7. Other partners who have expressed their support for this project are Chippenham Chamber of Commerce, Emery Gate and Borough Parade Shopping centres.

- 8.1.8. Officers understand that the Chippenham Alive events will include late night shopping, special offers and discounts at local restaurants and cafes and taster sessions available from local clubs and organisations to provide local people with the opportunity to try a variety of activities e.g. dancing, singing with a choir
- 8.1.9. In order to launch the Chippenham Alive project and attract people into the town entertainment will be provided in the High Street beginning with a salsa band in September.
- 8.1.10. Officers are of the opinion that the Chippenham Alive project will provide a valuable opportunity to boost the local economy, encourage wider use of the town centre in the evening and encourage civic pride.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 grant application – Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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