

Report to	Calne Community Area Board
Date of Meeting	18th October 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants
Purpose of Report	
<p>To ask Councillors to consider 1 application seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding</p>	
<p>1. Castlefields Canal and River Park - requesting £2821 towards the restoration of the canal lock.</p>	
<p>Officers recommend that a grant of £2821 is awarded, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.</p>	

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. 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 other application was received in this round of funding, this did not meet the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria and was rejected. The group concerned has been advised of alternative funding streams that might be of assistance to their project.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12 • Calne Community Area Plan – 2004-14 (incl. 2006/2010 update) • CARP website – www.calne-castlefieldspark.co.uk
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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. The funding contained within this report forms the 4th round of funding during 2011/12.
- 2.3. Future rounds will be considered as follows:
 - 6th December 2011 (deadline for applications – 4th November)
 - 14th February 2012 (deadline for applications – 3rd January 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 Area Boards budget allocated to the Calne Community Area Board.
- 4.2. Following awards made to Community projects at the Calne Area Board meeting held on the June 28th 2011 the balance of funding remaining was £36,776.83
- 4.3. Following the decision taken at the last Calne Area Board meeting on the 23rd August 2011 to via £5,000 to the Calne Area Board Highways Working Group, to contribute towards the implementation of a community priority scheme the balance of funding remaining was 31,776.83
- 4.4. The total budget available to the Area Board for this round of community area grants is therefore £31,776.83
- 4.5. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Calne Community Area Board will have a balance of £28,955.83

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	Castlefields Canal and River Park	The restoration and enhancement of the Lock area of Castlefields Park.	£2821

8.1.1. **It is recommended that Castlefields Canal and River Park is awarded a grant of £2821 towards the restoration and enhancement of the Lock area of Castlefields Park, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.**

8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets grant criteria for 2011/12.

8.1.3. The project addresses issues in the Calne Community Area Plan by enabling people to live in an area where the landscape and natural features are actively protected and conserved in addition it can be seen to be encouraging a sense of community cohesion, pride and well being.

8.1.4. This is widely recognised as a well organised and valuable community group that attracts local volunteers to work together with a common aim of restoring, improving and maintaining Castlefields Park as an amenity for the community.

8.1.5. CARP (Castlefields Canal and River Park assoc.) operates to a well considered plan that has been developed to implement a series of projects that move towards the achievement of the group’s aims and objectives.

- 8.1.6. This project will undertake to restore the existing redundant lock to give the appearance of a working lock with gates, boat feature and interpretation boards. It will also provide seating/picnic areas to encourage local people/visitors and educational/interest groups to stop and learn more about the environment and history of the area.
- 8.1.7. The project will provide a focal point of the park and will highlight and celebrate the environmental value of the park and the towns cultural and industrial heritage.
- 8.1.8. This represents a major project for CARP and the group has already achieved significant offers of financial support from a variety of funding streams. If the area board chooses to support this application an award would represent approximately 4% of the total project costs and can be seen to assist in the leverage of an additional £73,404 to the community area.
- 8.1.9. If the area board chooses not to make an award, the project will be delayed while additional alternative funding streams are sought.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Castlefields Canal & River Park
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Jane Vaughan, Community Area Manager Tel: 01249 706447 E-mail jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk
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