

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Marlborough Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> November 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 4 applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding. Officer recommendations:

1. Kennet Valley Hall – Award £954 to purchase modern safety lighting for the exterior of the building.
2. Ramsbury Parochial Church Council – Award £5,000 to replace kitchen and carry out improvements to the building to make it more energy efficient. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place
3. Baydon Cricket Club – Award £2,742 to purchase mower, portable nets and scoreboard. Conditional upon the balance of funds being in place.
4. Superstrings. Wiltshire Folk Project - £4,060 to introduce young people to play stringed instruments leading to a large scale concert type event. Conditional upon the project receiving approval from Pewsey, Bradford on Avon and Devizes Area Boards.

## **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](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**

- Area Board Grant Guidance 2011/12
- Marlborough Community Area Plan

**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 1 further round of funding during 2011/12. This will take place 7<sup>th</sup> February 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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Marlborough Area Board will have a **balance of £36,145**

**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	Kennet Valley Hall	To purchase up to date safety lighting for the exterior of the building	£954

8.1.1. Kennet Valley Hall – Award £954 to purchase safety lighting for the exterior of the building.

8.1.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.

8.1.3. This application demonstrates link to the Marlborough Community Plan “Places for people to meet” and “Aim to increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for residents and visitors to the area”.

8.1.4. Kennet Valley Hall is a not for profit organisation and the committee go to great lengths to keep the building in good order for the benefit of the community.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Ramsbury Parochial Church Council	To replace kitchen and carry out improvements to the building to make it more energy efficient.	£5,000

8.2.1. Ramsbury Parochial Church Council – Award £5,000 to replace kitchen and carry out improvements to the building to make it more energy efficient. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

8.2.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.

8.2.3. This application demonstrates a partial link to the Marlborough Community Plan “Aim to increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for residents and visitors to the area”.

8.2.4. Ramsbury Parochial Church Council is a not for profit organisation and highly regarded in the local community

8.2.5. Officers are of the opinion that this project represents a good investment in local community infrastructure and will serve the community for many years

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Baydon Cricket Club	To purchase mower, portable nets and scoreboard	£2,742

8.3.1. Baydon Cricket Club – Award £2,742 to enable them to purchase new equipment. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place. This should also be conditional upon the club making plans to make them more sustainable in the future.

8.3.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.

8.3.3. This application demonstrates a direct link to the Marlborough Community Plan “Aim to increase support for community events”

8.3.4. This application demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire to create stronger and more inclusive communities “Improve community relations and encourage communities to take part in sporting and cultural activities and events”.

8.3.5. Baydon Cricket Club is a not for profit organisation and is fully supported by the parish council who have awarded 50% of the funding needed.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Superstrings Wiltshire Folk Project	To promote string playing for young people to culminate in a concert style event	£4,060

8.4.1. Superstrings – £4,060 Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and supported by Pewsey, Bradford on Avon and Devizes Area Boards.

8.4.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.

8.4.3. This application demonstrates a direct link to the Marlborough Community Plan “Aim to increase support for community events”

8.4.4. This application demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire to create stronger and more inclusive communities “Improve community relations and encourage communities to take part in sporting and cultural activities and events”.

8.4.5. Superstrings is a not for profit organisation and is fully supported by the Wiltshire Music Centre who have submitted a letter of support for this project.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 grant application – Kennet Valley Hall  
Appendix 2 grant application – Ramsbury parochial Church Council  
Appendix 3 grant application – Baydon Cricket Club  
Appendix 4 grant application - Superstrings

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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