

Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	24th March 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants
Purpose of Report	
<p>To ask Councillors to consider 8 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding:</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Melksham and District French Twinning Association have applied for a grant of £970 towards the cost of promotional material to advertise events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning link with Avon, France. This application has been postponed from the 16th December area board meeting. As this application does not demonstrate a link to either the community plan or Wiltshire Council priorities the recommendation is that this should not be a priority for community area grant funding.Beanacre Cricket Club have applied for a grant of £2554 towards the purchase of Portable Nets, All Weather Playing Surface and Cricket Bowling Machine. The recommendation is to award £1554 as this is amount of match funding put forward by the club.Great Hinton Parish Council have applied for £370 towards the refurbishment of a historic telephone box. The recommendation is to award the funding.St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton have applied for £870 for the purchase of two commercial 3m x 6m gazebos. The recommendation is to award the funding.Seend Playgroup have applied for £4528 for play equipment. The recommendation is to award the funding.Queensway TARA have applied for £980 to run a community event in Apr/May to interest local people in our community garden project and prepare a community herb garden. Recommendation is to award the funding.Keevil Neighbourhood Watch have applied for £1000 towards the purchase of 160 packs of 'smart water' style property marking equipment. The recommendation is to award the funding.Melksham Community Radio have applied for £1000 for studio equipment hire. The recommendation is award the funding.	
<p>Hard copies of the applications will be available for public viewing at the area board meeting.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 A single and simple application process was accepted by the Implementation Executive on 13th May 2009 for use during 2009/10. Appendix 1 contains the Community Area Grants Pack, which has been developed and includes details of the grants process and criteria.
- 1.2 Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to the Area Boards by the Leader of the Council (13th May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation Area Boards must operate within the policies set by the Leader and /or the Council. The Council has adopted an Area Grants policy, with funding criteria, to which the Area Boards must adhere.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that was contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10• Melksham Area Community Strategy (2004-2012)
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2009/10 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed before 31st March 2010.

There will be 1 further round of funding during 2009/10 which is contained in this report

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being 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 Melksham Area Board. The current funding available to the board is: **£9466**. The grants requests in this report total: **£12,231**.
- 4.2. It must be noted that Melksham Area Board does **NOT** have sufficient funding to award all the applications. Councillors will be required to prioritise projects for funding.

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 recommendation”.

8. **Officer recommendations**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Melksham and District French Twinning Association	Towards the cost of promotional material to advertise the events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning of the association.	£970

8.1.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. As this application does not demonstrate a link to either the community plan or Wiltshire Council priorities the recommendation is that this should not be a priority for community area grant funding.

8.1.2 Application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.1.3 Application does not demonstrate a link to Wiltshire Council priorities.

8.1.4 The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.

8.1.5 The overall project is using the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between Melksham and Avon (France) as an opportunity for the Twinning Association and Melksham Town Council to raise the profile of the town. In doing so, we hope that it will bring together people from different cultural backgrounds to exchange experiences, opinions and values. The group will be

working with all the schools within the Area Board's boundary to develop publicity material that will encourage businesses, local statutory and voluntary organisations and civic society in general to promote and foster friendship between the two towns.

8.1.6 No equality and inclusion issues will be addressed by the project.

8.1.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be significantly smaller and affect fewer residents.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Beanacre Cricket Club	Purchase of Portable Nets, All Weather Playing Surface and Cricket Bowling Machine	£2,554

8.2.1 The grant criteria 2009/10 state that applicants should provide 50% match funding for grants over £1000. As £1554 in match funding has been provided by the club, the recommendation is that the board award £1554 towards this project.

8.2.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure events and facilities for young people, in particular teenagers.

8.2.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities including increasing adult participation in sport and improving young people's participation in positive activities.

8.2.4 The applicant is a non profit sports club.

8.2.5 Currently Melksham's young cricketers have to travel to practice nets at Warminster Cricket Club, a distance of over 14 miles. The facilities provided by Beanacre Cricket Club will be available for hire by other, smaller cricket clubs in the district when not being used. Benefits for young people include teamwork, fresh air, enjoyment in participation, an element of fitness and mental alertness, self respect, self esteem, learning.

8.2.6 No Equality and Inclusion issues will be addressed by the project

8.2.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project the club would have to seek funding from alternative sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Great Hinton Parish Council	Refurbishment of historic telephone box	£370

8.3.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.3.2 There is no direct link the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.3.3 There are potential links to Wiltshire Council priorities to encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of them and their family.

8.3.4 The applicant is a parish council.

8.3.5 The historic Telephone Box is sited at the heart of the Village and even though it no longer houses any BT equipment it remains one of the primary focal points in the village. Along side the box is the post box, village notice board and village map case. The box is such an important landmark it was purchased from BT in order that it was retained. The current project proposes a complete refurbishment of the Box, returning it to close to original condition in order to ensure that it is not only a key landmark, but one the whole community can take pride in. On completion it house the "Definitive Map" of the village footpaths and byways, thereby making access to the countryside that surrounds our village easier and available to all. The project will benefit all residents, irrespective of age or gender, and help Great Hinton retain its most prominent landmark.

8.3.6 No Equality and Inclusion issues will be addressed by the project

8.3.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton	The purchase of two commercial 3m x 6m gazebos.	£829

8.4.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is to award the

funding.

8.4.2 Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.4.3 Application may meet Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of increasing the number of people involved in regular volunteering.

8.4.4 The applicant is a church.

8.4.5 The village has a very busy social calendar involving many people and the church, while not directly involved, plays an important part in this social life. It encourages the church building to be used for events such as art exhibitions, flower festivals and concerts and over the years it has accumulated a whole range of equipment, which is available on loan, without charge, to anyone arranging and event. The church gazebos, tables and chairs are particularly useful but the gazebos are of the ordinary garden type, they are difficult to erect and dismantle and have proved not strong enough to cope with bad weather. The church wish to replace two of these gazebos with commercial shelters for this reason. These social events are supported very widely in the area, raise a great deal of money for charity and contribute greatly to the wonderful community spirit.

8.4.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

1.4.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Seend Play Group	Play equipment	£4528

8.5.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. This application was postponed from the area board meeting on 3rd February so the applicant could liaise with the Council's play development officer. This has now taken place, and the application has been modified. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.5.2 Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.7.3 Application will impact on Wiltshire Council priorities including encouraging people to make healthy lifestyle choices.

8.5.4 The applicant is a non profit community group

8.5.5 The playfield is used by the village and the parish's pre-school and school children. It is the Pre-school children who will benefit most from this refit. As rural play areas are vital to the community the group feel this refit could benefit the parish as a whole, encouraging integration as it draws families together and knits the community in a very beneficial way to both children and potentially isolated parents who have no common ground to make new contacts. Currently a lot of parents travel outside the parish (by car) to other well equipped playgrounds which is causing excess car use and taking the chance to meet other villagers away.

8.5.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.5.7 If the area board does not grant funding the group will have to seek funding from alternative sources in order to proceed with the project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Queensway Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)	To run a community event in Apr/May to interest local people in our community garden project and prepare a community herb garden.	£980

8.6.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.6.2 Application demonstrates a direct link to the current Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) in terms of Markets, Fairs & Festivals, Lifelong Learning and involving young people.

8.6.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of engaging local people to find out their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions and encouraging people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of them and their family.

8.6.4 The applicant is a non-profit community group.

8.6.5 The TARA want to make their green spaces more attractive and use them effectively. A simple idea that helps this aim is to use them to grow local produce (fruit trees/bushes and herbs, rather than a high maintenance allotment - initially at least). The plan is to involve local people in choosing sites, designing the gardens and then digging, planting and maintaining. The group aim to launch this project through an event focusing on herbs, which is what this grant is for. At the

event they will put up a gazebo on a green where the group will: a) get feedback on possible sites for gardens; b) ask people to create their own basic designs (through a competition); c) paint flowerpots; and d) plant herb seeds and pot up seedlings in the flowerpots. Other agencies may also organise activities. After the event the TARA will sell the herbs and pots at their stall at the Food & Drink Festival, which will raise money for the project and give them another chance to gain volunteers and get feedback on sites/designs.

The TARA will also use the grant to create an initial herb garden, based on designs submitted at the event. Anyone living in the area will be welcome to attend the event and subsequent activities (and enjoy the herb garden) but they are very keen to encourage older and younger residents to mix. The focus on local produce, and possible links to demonstrations at the Festival, will promote healthy eating (from low cost sources), while community involvement will hopefully create attractive spaces that are valued by local people.

8.6.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.6.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Keevil Neighbourhood Watch.	The purchase of 160 packs of 'smart water' style property marking equipment.	£1000

8.6.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.6.2 Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the current Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.6.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of increasing the number of people who feel safe in their community.

8.6.4 The applicant is a non-profit community group.

8.6.5 The aim of the project is to mark the property contained in all of the homes in Keevil. This would be by way of using either a Smartwater or SelectaDNA product. Essentially this means that each home would have its own unique solution, either with or without microdot technology (depending on supplier) and the householder then marks their property as well as then registering this with the respective company. Signs are placed on property, homes and within the village to warn would be burglars and thieves that all property is marked and therefore act as a

deterrent. In addition, if a home were burgled or property was stolen, the item(s) can be identified through the use of ultraviolet light and returned to the owner and potentially the person in possession subject of police prosecution. It is known that in areas where this type of technology is used that the incidence of burglary is reduced by 85%. The purpose of this application is to obtain funds from the board to subsidise the scheme. It is known that each pack, containing sufficient solutions and signs for one household, will cost £10 + VAT (albeit the VAT is being discounted for the purpose of this application) There are 160 properties in Keevil and therefore an overall cost of £1600 + VAT. The grant of £1000 from the board would reduce the overall cost to each household to less than £4. It is felt that the lower cost to each household will result in a far greater uptake and the aim is to achieve 100% coverage.

8.6.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.6.8 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Melksham Community Radio	For the purchase of broadcasting and IT equipment.	£1000

8.6.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.6.2 Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the current Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.6.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of engaging with local people to find out their priorities and working with them to deliver solutions.

8.6.4 The applicant is a non-profit community group.

8.6.5 Melksham Community Radio will be a voice to the town and surrounding villages - focusing on key social events taking place that can be discussed with great detail. Everyone has a say in how this station is run. Local businesses will get regular advertisement spots on air, in order to enhance their reputations within the town. Children from local schools will gain a vast knowledge of media training from our studio technicians that have volunteered. The station will liaise with the local Police Constabulary in order to show that the community is being protected and monitored.

8.6.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.6.9 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Appendices :	Appendix 1 Community Area Grant Criteria Appendix 2 Grant application – Melksham & District French Twinning Association Appendix 3: Grant application – Seend Playgroup Appendix 4: Grant application – Keevil Neighbourhood Watch Appendix 5: Grant application – Queensway TARA Appendix 6: Grant application – St Mary’s Church, Steeple Ashton Appendix 7: Grant application – Great Hinton Parish Council Appendix 8: Grant application – Beanacre Cricket Club Appendix 9: Grant application - Melksham Community Radio
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