

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Melksham Area Board</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.13</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>14 December 2011</b>	
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>	

## Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 4 application seeking 2011/2012 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust** have applied for **£497** for replacement of signs along former route of Wilts & Berks canal in Melksham. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **Beanacre Cricket Club** have applied for **£1500** towards the purchase of a roller to prepare the wicket at their new grounds in Beanacre. The recommendation is to award the funding subject to the match funding being in place from provisional sources.
3. **Keevil Parochial Church Council** have applied for **£5000** toward the renovation of 27 listed table tombs. The recommendation is to award the funding.

# 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 (27 February 2010). 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 recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. EXAMPLE Two applicants withdrew their applications and hope to reapply at a future date. One application did not meet the funding criteria and was referred to Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. 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 both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every other Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Melksham Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of £49,762 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £3687. This leaves a total budget of £53,449 for the 2011/2012 budget.
- 1.7. A decision has been made in 2010/2011 that 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.
- 1.8. The 2010/2011 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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11</li><li>• Melksham Community Strategy</li><li>• Grant applications</li></ul>
--	---

## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. This will be the final round of funding during 2010/11.

## 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 Melksham Area Board.
- 4.2. If these community grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Melksham Area Board will have a balance of **£24,844**.

## 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	<b>Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust</b>	<b>Replacement of signs along former route of Wilts &amp; Berks canal in Melksham</b>	<b>£497</b>

- 8.1.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan in terms of encouraging tourism.
- 8.1.4. No locally agreed priorities.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.1.6. About 15 years ago, the Trust prepared a leaflet for public information, 'The Lost Waterway of Melksham,' showing where walkers could see evidence of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal that ran through Melksham. We also set up directional signs, with Council permission, at various points along the route to enable walkers to follow the route more easily. These signs have faded badly over the years and some are missing. The project is to replace these signs with new signs. The aim is to improve the experience of those who may wish to follow the route or identify where the canal ran.
- 8.1.7. Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- 8.1.8. If the area board does not grant funding the members would have to fund-raise , seek alternative funding sources or fund from their reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	<b>Beanacre Cricket Club</b>	<b>Purchase of a roller to prepare the wicket at their new grounds in Beanacre.</b>	<b>£1500</b>

- 8.1.9. The recommendation is to award the funding subject to the match funding being in place from provisional sources.
- 8.1.10. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.11. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan by benefiting local people's health and well-being.
- 8.1.12. No locally agreed priority.
- 8.1.13. The applicant is a non for profit organisation.
- 8.1.14. The project is to purchase a roller to prepare the wicket at the clubs new groups in Beanacre. The increasing amount of cricket being coached and played has led to BCC seeking a second ground to play on, particularly for the Youth sides.

During 2011 a ground-share with Cherhill CC was arranged, however this involves a round-trip of over 10 miles. BCC has recently been lucky enough to secure a new ground at a peppercorn rent in the village of Beanacre. Turning the field into a playing surface has however been a long and expensive operation, until now funded entirely by the club's own fund-raising activities. We are now at the stage where we need to buy a roller to prepare the wicket.

8.1.15. Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.

8.1.16. If the area board does not grant funding the group would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Keevil Parochial Church Council</b>	<b>Renovation of 27 listed table tombs</b>	<b>£5000</b>

8.1.17. The recommendation is to award the funding subject to the match funding being in place from provisional sources.

8.1.18. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.

8.1.19. This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.

8.1.20. No locally agreed priority.

8.1.21. The applicant is a parochial church council.

8.1.22. The project is to renovate 27 listed table tombs in the churchyard of St Leonard's Church, Keevil which mostly date from the Georgian or Victorian periods. These tombs are in a varying state of preservation, some require only minor works, whilst others are in need of extensive repair and conservation. Several are in a dangerous state.

8.1.23. Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.

8.1.24. If the area board does not grant funding the group would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 Grant application – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Appendix 2 Grant application – Beanacre Cricket Club Appendix 3 Grant application – Keevil Parochial Church Council
--------------------	--

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

<b>Report Author</b>	Abbi Gutierrez, Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718443 E-mail: <a href="mailto:abbi.gutierrez@wiltshire.gov.uk">abbi.gutierrez@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
----------------------	---