

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider two applications seeking 20011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

- 1. Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club (ECCC)** – Funding towards the purchase of the 'Walled Garden' site from the MOD. They are seeking £3,500.

Recommended for consideration for approval

A condition would need to be added that if an award was agreed, it would only be paid once there was proof that the Cricket club had secured all the additional funding it requires to make the purchase.

- 2. Devizes Lions Club** – Funding towards a sports coaching weekend on the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. They are seeking £2,000

The application fails to meet all the grants criteria as the coaching weekend is an annual event and can therefore be seen as running costs,

However it is recommended that Councillors still consider awarding the grant on the grounds that the community benefit would be substantial from such a project

## 1. Background

- Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (15 April 2011). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 and 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.
- Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting
- 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.
- 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 are available upon request
- The 2011/12 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
- Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2011/12 budget of £58,192 (plus £114 carried forward from 2010/2011) making a total of £58,306 to use for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. Up to 20% of the budget can be applied for by Devizes Community Area Partnership for

running costs. 50% of this was agreed at the July 2011 meeting (£5,819)

- Should the Board approve the applications before it at this meeting, a balance of £24,511 will remain or £18,699 assuming DCAP are awarded their full running costs. This figure takes into account that £6,000 has also been ring fenced to support Silver Jubilee Celebrations

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12</li><li>• Devizes Community Area Plan</li></ul>
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## **2. Main Considerations**

- 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.
- Councillors will need to assure themselves that there is sufficient community benefit to support the award of a grant
- There are six rounds of funding during 2011/12. One more will take place after this one.

## **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**

- Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Devizes Area Board.
- Should the Board approve the applications before it at this meeting, a balance of £24,511 will remain or £18,699 assuming DCAP are awarded their full running costs. This figure takes into account that £6,000 has also been ring fenced to support Silver Jubilee Celebrations

## **5. Legal Implications**

- There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

## **6. HR Implications**

- There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

## 7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 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.
- Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

## 8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club (ECCC)	Funding to purchase the ‘Walled Garden’ cricket ground from the MOD	£3,500 towards a project costing £50,000

- 8..1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval as it meets the grants criteria. A condition would need to be added that if an award was agreed, it would only be paid once there was proof that the Cricket club had secured all the additional funding it requires to make the purchase
- 8..2. Currently the MOD own the cricket ground but they wish to sell it. The Cricket club has been offered first refusal regarding purchasing the land. They have until the end of March 2012 to raise the asking price of £50,000 or the ground will be put up for sale.
- 8..3. The club is well used and currently has a large membership including 30-40 junior members aged 9 to 14 years old.
- 8..4. The recent DCAP survey suggests that community and leisure facilities in the villages should be protected and retained.
- 8..5. The retention of the site for the village would enable it to be developed to offer a range of activities benefitting the whole community
- 8..6. The purchase of the site has the backing of all club members, the Parish Council, the England Cricket Board and the Wiltshire Cricket Board
- 8..7. Whilst it is recognised that the timescale for raising the funds and completing the purchase is relatively short, the only other funding that has been secured is the club’s own reserves. The main contributions are being requested from Sport England (£20k grant) and the ECB (£15k loan). These will need to be agreed and secured before the Area Board can make any payment. An approach to the Charities Information Bureau and to the Parish Council should also be considered.

## 9. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	<b>1. Devizes Lions Club</b>	Funding towards a sports coaching weekend on the 31 <sup>st</sup> March to the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012	£2,000

9..1. This application is for an annual event, towards which the Area Board awarded a grant during 2010/11. The request could therefore be considered as running costs and therefore does not meet all of the grants criteria. It is though recommended that Councillors still consider making an award for the following reasons:

- The Lions Club have tried to find alternative funding making applications to several organizations but without success
- The community benefit of the coaching weekend is substantial with over 400 young people participating.

9..2. The taster sessions cover 17 sports and are open to all children in year groups 4 to 8 in the Devizes Community Area

9..3. The event has been going for 24 years benefitting thousands of young people. It has the support of many partners including teachers and sports instructors

9..4. The project links to the Devizes Community Area Plan by offering more leisure and sports activities leading to a healthier lifestyle

<b>Report Author</b>	Richard Rogers, Devizes Community Area Manager E-mail <a href="mailto:Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk">Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
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