

Agenda Item 13

Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications seeking the following funding from 2011/12 Area Board Grants:

1. Westbury Town Council application for £5,000 towards community celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee (Match funded)
2. Dilton Marsh Leisure Development Group application for £5,000 towards the development of a range of community leisure facilities in the village including trim trail.(Match funded)
3. Community Area Transport Group application for £5,000 towards the cost of construction of bus stops for route serving the new primary care centre. Note this is an area board led application.
4. Westbury Town Council application for £5,000 towards the cleaning of the Westbury White Horse in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations (match funded)
5. Dilton Marsh Memorial Hall application for £482 towards the replacement of windows.
6. Bratton Recreation Ground Committee application for £850 towards the cost of resurfacing the entrance road to the facility.
7. Dilton Marsh Flower and Handicraft show application for £392 towards staging of show and purchase of tables.

1. Background

1.1 Area boards have authority to approve grants under powers delegated to the area boards by the leader of Wiltshire Council (13 May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation area boards must operate within the policies set by the leader and/or the council. Wiltshire Council has adopted an Area Grants Policy, with funding criteria, to which the area boards must adhere.

1.2 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.

1.3 In 2011/12 the Westbury Area Board was allocated a budget of £40,447. At the area board meeting of February 3 2011, the decision was taken to roll over unspent totals of £7492 making a total of £47,939. Following the

approval of grant funding at the area board in December, we currently have **£21,724** remaining for this financial year.

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 before 31 March 2012.

2.2 Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting until 31 March 2012.

3. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

3.1 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 Westbury Area Board.

4.2 If the grant applications are approved as per officer recommendations, there will be £32 left in the Westbury area board budget for 2011/12.

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

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Westbury Town Council	The funding of Diamond Jubilee celebrations for the community.	£ 5,000

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

8.1.2 The town council is planning a packed programme of events to celebrate the Jubilee with events for all ages. This application reflects just a small proportion of the overall costings on the celebrations which will include children's party, entertainments, concert, beacon lighting, tea dance and a commemorative booklet. The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities".

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Dilton Marsh Leisure Development Group	Development of leisure facilities for the village community	£5,000

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

8.2.2 Dilton Marsh currently has limited leisure facilities - a very outdated play area for under 12s and a football field, otherwise there are no facilities which support leisure of a physical nature for all age groups and individuals. With the approval (and match funding) of the Parish Council, this long term project aims to establish a hard surface Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), a fitness trail for all ages and an up to date young people's play area. A shelter for youth socialising and for use by the wider community is also planned. The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities".

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Community Area Transport Group	To help fund the construction of bus stops serving the routes to the primary care centre	£5,000

See separate grant form for detail.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Westbury Town Council	Match funding for the cleaning of the Westbury White Horse	£ 5,000

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

8.4.2 Many concerns have been raised by local residents about the current state of the white horse. The hill figure, in the care of English Heritage, was painted only four years ago but its condition has deteriorated dramatically. As custodian, English Heritage is concerned primarily with the physical condition and safety of this listed monument and have no plans to repaint it in the near future due to restricted funding. The horse is a famous local landmark, a tourist attraction, popular and well used by locals and visitors alike. It will also play a part in the Jubilee celebrations when it is planned the hill figure will be illuminated by searchlight and there will be a commemorative beacon lit on top of the hill. The area board and the town council have been working together to try and find a solution to the current state of the hill figure and have proposed to EH that it should be cleaned rather than repainted with funding provided jointly by the area board and the town council.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Dilton Marsh Memorial Hall	Replacement of windows and door to improve thermal efficiency.	£482

8.5.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria but would ask members to note that the Memorial hall received a grant of £650 from the area board in June 2011 for the replacement of the floor staging.

8.5.2 . This funding will help replace the three old wooden single-glazed windows in the rear wall of the hall with modern double-glazed windows, and to replace the old wooden door at the back of the hall with a modern insulated emergency door. This would complete the installation of thermally efficient doors and windows around the hall, to reduce heat loss in the winter months. The hall is well used by the local community and provides a popular venue for a variety of activities. The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities"

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Bratton Recreation Ground Committee	Funding towards improvement of access to the facilities	£850

8.6.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria but would ask members to note that since February 2010 this project has received three lots of area board funding totalling £4,390.

8.6.2 . The funding would be used to improve the access road inside the recreation ground and extend the car parking area. Recent improvements to the ground has attracted more teams to the facility, increasing the number of vehicles and the need for more car parking to avoid damage to the grass at the edge of the playing areas.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Dilton Marsh Flower and Handicraft Show	Funding towards staging of show including judge fees, schedules, hall hire and purchase of tables	£ 392

8.7.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application does not meet 2011/12 grant criteria. The area board funded start up costs of £320 for this project last year and the grant criteria clearly states that it cannot be used for running costs on a year on year basis. However members may like to consider funding part of the application – namely the £360 needed for the one off purchase of tables with a proviso that these would have community use. (ref “Building Resilient Communities”).