

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	26th March 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider three applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

- 1. Devizes and District Association for the Disabled** – Funding to purchase new chairs in their centre. They are seeking £597

Recommended for consideration for approval

- 2. First Stages** – Funding towards the purchase of technical equipment for performances. They are seeking £985

Recommended for consideration for approval

- 3. All Saints Church, All Cannings** – Funding towards the repair of All Saints Church clock. They are seeking £5,000.

This application does meet the criteria to go forward for consideration for funding. However the officer's recommendation is that the Board considers carefully the issues outlined later in this report before deciding whether they wish to make this award and in particular consider whether the community benefit justifies a grant of £5k.

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) 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%

- Should the Board approve the applications before it at this meeting, a balance of £12,110 will remain. This figure takes into account that £6,000 has also been ring fenced to support Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12• Devizes Community Area Plan
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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. This is the last round.

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 £12,110 will remain 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	Devizes and District Association for the Disabled	Funding to purchase 24 new chairs in their centre	£597

- 8..1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval as it meets the grants criteria and demonstrates enough community benefit to warrant the award being sought
- 8..2. ‘Devizes and District Association for the Disabled’ is a not for profit organisation that provides a safe environment for disabled and elderly groups to meet for educational and recreational purchases.
- 8..3. The chairs that are currently being used have deteriorated over time and become dangerous with several accidents. The purchase of new chairs has now become a necessity
- 8..4. No other match funding is required. The organisations reserves are only £8,598 which is about the level they should be, particularly as they are responsible for all repairs to the building
- 8..5. Approximately 250 people use the organisation.
- 8..6. The organisation contributes strongly to the recent DCAP community plan

9. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	First Stages	Funding towards the purchase of technical equipment for performances	They are seeking £985

- 9..1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval as it meets the grants criteria and demonstrates enough community benefit to warrant the award being sought
- 9..2. First Stages provides professional training and experience for local young people in all aspects of musical theatre
- 9..3. Currently they hire technical equipment when performing but this is expensive. They therefore wish to purchase a haze machine (£50), 2 RODE mics (£294), camcorder (£114), stage monitor (£175), Speaker stands (£35), Mixer (£245) and LED floodlight (£72).
- 9..4. There are 35 members aged from 8 years old. The performances obviously benefit many hundreds more.
- 9..5. The project links to the Devizes Community Area Plan by offering more leisure and arts activities. It also encourages volunteering and greater community involvement
- 9..6. Grants under £1k do not need match funding. Reserves currently stand at £1,500

10. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	All Saints Church, All Cannings	Funding towards the repair of All Saints Church clock	They are seeking £5k towards a project costing £13,385

- 10..1. The applicant previously spoke to the Area Board regarding a grant towards the repair of the Church clock. However it was not taken forward for consideration due to the following reasons:
 - I. There was no financial support from the Parish Council
 - II. There was very little guaranteed funding
 - III. There were questions regarding whether the community benefit would warrant the award of the grant
- 10..2. The applicant has now addressed some of these concerns and also discussed the matter with Cllr Grundy, their local Councillor. As a result it has been agreed to bring the application to the Board meeting for consideration. The application does meet the grant criteria. However the Board should also consider the following two concerns when coming to a decision.
 - I. **Funding** – The total cost of the project is £13,385. The applicant is seeking £5k and therefore needs to provide £5k match funding and demonstrate that there is a strong likelihood that the rest of the money will also be found. At the time of writing this report, only £3k can be guaranteed. This does include

£500 from the Parish Council which has now agreed to make a contribution. In addition the Historic Churches are making a recommendation to their panel for an award of between £1k and £2k. This still leaves a shortfall which is being sought from other grant funders.

- II. **Community benefit** – The key criteria for awarding a grant is the community benefit. The amount being sought is approximately 12% of the Area Board’s grants budget. Does this project warrant such a high award given the other demands on the Board’s finances?

10..3. The officer is satisfied that this application is not for religious purposes.

10..4. Members when considering this award have the following options:

- I. Award the full amount being asked for – A condition of the award would have to be that the rest of the funding would need to be in place within 1 year of this decision for the award to be made
- II. Award a reduced amount with the same condition as above.
- III. Decide to not award the grant

Report Author	Richard Rogers, Devizes Community Area Manager E-mail Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk
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