

WESTBURY AREA BOARD
7th February 2013

Community Area Grants and Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications seeking the following funding from 2012/13 Area Board Grants:

1. Publicity campaign to raise awareness of Westbury Weaver bus service - cost £235
2. Purchase and installation of three information display boards at the White Horse viewing area on the B3098 – cost £2,500
3. Westbury Area Wellbeing Group for £350 to fund the set up of Tai Chi classes for the elderly - this is an application under the Small Grant Scheme.
4. Extended Services (Schools) to fund a Pupils Voice conference and for the purchase of six camcorders for use in ongoing consultation and awareness project with local schools.
5. BA13+ Community Area Partnership - £3,500 to fund ongoing running costs of partnership and activities.
6. 1st Westbury Guides for £210 to fund the purchase of sweatshirts for international conference - this is an application under the Small Grant Scheme.
7. Horse stiles and kissing gates - £991 to fund the purchase and installation on rights of way.

1. Background

Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 1.2. 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.

- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as unconstituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.5. Small Grants, new for this year, will fund up to £350 where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) 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/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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.8. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every ordinary Area Board meeting.
- 1.10. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB 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.

- 1.11. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.14. In 2012/13 the Westbury Area Board has been allocated a budget of £40,447. Following successful grant applications there is £9905 remaining in this year's budget. If the latest grant applications are approved in full, there will be £211 left in this year's budget. This meeting (7 February) is the final meeting of the area board in the 2012/13 financial year.

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1 Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed before 31 March 2013.
- 2.2 Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting until 31 March 2013.

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.

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
Area board led project	To fund a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the Westbury Weaver bus service, routes and timetable.	£ 235

8.1.1 This is an area board led grant. See separate grant report and Westbury Weaver background report accompanying agenda Item 11.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Area board led project	Purchase and installation of information display boards at the White Horse viewing area on the B3098 and at the Mead	£3,758

8.2.1 This is an area board led grant linking to the issues raised at Westbury Forward and in the Westbury Community Area Plan. See separate report.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Westbury Area Wellbeing Group	Fund the set up of Tai Chi classes for the elderly	£350

8.3.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2012/13 grant criteria, though would ask the area board to note that this funding is one off and can only be granted as set up and cannot be repeated in future years.

8.3.2 This activity will be held at the newly opened Leigh Park Community Centre and will provide friendship, support and activity to older people in the community.

8.3.3 This project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities and to the Westbury Community Area plan in its Arts Culture and Leisure priorities.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Extended Services (Schools)	To fund a Pupils Voice conference and for the purchase of six camcorders or use in ongoing consultation/awareness project.	£650

8.4.1 This is an area board led grant linking to the issues raised at Westbury Forward and in the Westbury Community Area Plan. See separate report.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
BA13+ Community Area Partnership	To fund running costs and activities of the Partnership – see accompanying work plan.	£3,500

8.5.1 See separate detailed application and accompanying work plan.

8.5.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2012/13 grant criteria and demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities.

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
1st Westbury Guides	To fund Westbury named sweatshirts for trip abroad.	£210

8.6.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2012/13 grant criteria.

8.6.2 Guides from Westbury are taking part in an international conference – the marked sweatshirts will help identify them and will raise the awareness of Wiltshire/Westbury guiding.

8.6.3 This project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition Building Resilient Communities and to the Westbury Community Area plan in its Children and Young People priorities (celebrate young peoples' achievements.)

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Area board led project	Purchase and installation of kissing gates and horse stiles on rights of way	£991

8.7.1 This is an area board led grant linking to the issues raised at the area board Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and in the Westbury Community Area Plan. See separate report.