

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	19th September 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Colerne Village Hall – Consider awarding £500 towards a total project cost of £500 to purchase a computer to contribute towards the Wiltshire Digital Literacy Programme.
2. Mansion House Playgroup – Consider awarding £439 towards a total project cost of £878 to install computer equipment at the premises.
3. KIK Radio – Consider awarding £4,993 towards a total project cost of £14,936 to set up a radio station for young people in the community area. Conditional upon the balance of funds being in place. Also conditional upon the group achieving not for profit status and the equipment remains the property of Corsham Area Board for a period of three years.

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 Adult Care, Communities and Housing (5th April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014. [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014.](#)
- 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.
- 1.4. Corsham Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £53,418 for community grants, digital literacy projects, area board operational funding, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2013 / 14 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £500 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 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, 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.
- 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. Grants of up to £500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.

- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. New for 2013/14 is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.12. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete an evaluation form as soon as the project has been completed and provide receipts if requested. Groups are encouraged to up-load information and photographs about their project on to their area board [blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<p>Corsham Community Area Plan</p> <p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Corsham Joint Strategic Needs Document</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 3 further rounds of funding during 2013/2014. The remaining will take place on;
- 21st November 2013
 - 23rd January 2014
 - 20th March 2014

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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 Corsham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Corsham Area Board will have a balance of £35,263.

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 will give local community and voluntary groups, town and parish council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.
- 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	Colerne Village Hall	Purchase computer equipment	£500

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Colerne Village Hall £500 to purchase computer equipment to contribute towards the Wiltshire Digital Literacy Programme.
- 8.1.2. This application meets the Digital Literacy grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.1.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.

- 8.1.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan. Contribute towards digital literacy.
- 8.1.5. This group is a not for profit group who want to support this project and have volunteers to assist with short work programmes.
- 8.1.6. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Mansion House Playgroup	Install computer equipment	£439

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Mansion House Playgroup Colerne £439 to install computer equipment at their premises.
- 8.2.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.2.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.
- 8.2.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan.” Activities for young people” It will enable staff to offer children the chance to learn new skills in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage and will offer staff the chance to upgrade their skills in office management.
- 8.2.5. This group is a not for profit group who run the playgroup for the benefit of those who live in Corsham Community Area.
- 8.2.6. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	KIK Radio	Set up a radio station	£4,993

- 8.3.1 Officers recommend that members consider awarding KIK Radio £4993 to set up a radio station in the community area. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place, the group achieving not for profit status and the equipment remains the property of Corsham Area Board for a period of three years.
- 8.3.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.3.3 This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.
- 8.3.4 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan.” Activities for young people” It also demonstrates a direct link to the JSA that identified Not in Eductaion Employment or Training (NEETS) as being a priority for the Corsham Community Area. This project will target people considered NEETS to get involved in the project.It will also be open to all other residents of the community area
- 8.3.5 This group is a not for profit group set up to run this project.
- 8.3.6 This group has already run a pilot project using equipment loaned and attracted over 80 different people to the project during a two week period.
- 8.3.7 This group has the support of The Pound Arts Centre where the project will be initially based and Corsham Primary School who have already identified potential opportunities for their pupils to get involved.
- 8.3.8 If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Colerne Village Hall Appendix 2 Grant application – Mansion House Playgroup Appendix 3 Grant application – KIK Radio
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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