

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	25th November 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 6 applications seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **Wiltshire Farmers Market Association** are seeking £1000 to expand within Devizes

Recommended for consideration for approval

2. **Potterne Cricket Club** are seeking £5k to improve their facilities

Recommended for consideration for approval

3. **Trinity School** are seeking £5k towards a trim trail

Recommended for consideration for approval

4. **Urchfont Cricket Club** are seeking £5k to help refurbish their pavilion

Recommended for consideration for approval

5. **Urchfont Village Hall** are seeking £1,430 as a digital literacy grant towards IT facilities within the village hall

Recommended for consideration for approval

6. **Bishops Cannings Cricket Club** are seeking £5k to improve their coaching facilities

Recommended for consideration for approval

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.
- 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. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £83,375 for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 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 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.
- 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. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. 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.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision • Devizes Community Area Plan • Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document
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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 2 further rounds of funding during 2013/2014.
- 27th January 2014
 - 24th 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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will

have a balance of £30,212. There are also two Councillor Led Initiatives being considered at this meeting. If both are agreed there will be £22,712 remaining

- 4.3. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other match funding has been confirmed.

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	Wiltshire Farmers Markets	Refurbishment of 6 stalls	£1k towards a project costing £2k

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £1k towards the cost of refurbishing 6 stalls is considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Devizes Farmers Market is a popular event that supports local businesses and the economy as well as adding vibrancy to the town centre.
- d. It is currently over-subscribed with applicants waiting for a free stall. The request is to refurbish 6 existing but damaged stalls so that they can allow the market to expand.
- e. Councillors should be aware that once the stalls are repaired they can be used across

Wiltshire and not just Devizes. However the demand for expansion is coming mainly from Devizes and partly from Bradford and it is those towns that will benefit the most

- f. The stalls, when not in use, are available for local community groups to use at a small cost.
- g. This grant application links directly to Wiltshire Council's business plan which emphasises the role of the area boards to help boost the local economy especially through the creation and safeguarding of jobs
- h. The group are providing 50% of the funding through their own reserves.
- i. If the grant is not awarded, the market may not be able to expand in Devizes
- j. They are a not for profit community group.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	Potterne Cricket Club	Construction of score box and improvement to storage facilities	£5,000 towards a project costing £10,498

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k towards the cost of the construction of a small score box and improvements to storage facilities should be considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Potterne Cricket Club has over 200 members including many at junior level and is well respected for its level of coaching
- d. Currently there is a small pavilion which is shared by spectators, players and scorers. Often people are asked to vacate the pavilion to allow the scorers to have quiet and space to do their job
- e. The proposal will allow a score box to be constructed for the scorers sole use and improve the pavilion for spectators and players to enjoy.
- f. The proposal will also provide storage space for new junior equipment that the club intends to purchase.
- g. Councillors should be aware that Potterne Cricket Club have on two occasions previously been awarded grants. (£4,900 in 2009/10 and £5k in 2010/11). However, this does not exclude the club from receiving another award this financial year.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	Trinity CofE Primary School	Creation of a trim trail	£5k towards a project costing £17,482

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k towards the cost of the trim trail is considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Trinity School is a new building that replaced St Peters and it inherited a budget deficit. Although plans are in place to balance the budget by 2016/17, there are currently no spare reserves to create the trim trail
- d. The rest of the money is being raised from fund raising and a grant from ASTER. Whilst the area board will not fund mainstream activities that a school should be expected to provide, it can help fund additional projects.
- e. Childhood obesity is a large problem and Devizes has the highest rate in Wiltshire. This project helps address this priority

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	Urchfont Cricket Club	Refurbishment of the cricket pavilion	£5k towards a project costing £13,900

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k towards the cost of refurbishing the cricket pavilion and to provide more facilities.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. The cricket club are wishing to carry out two main tasks. Firstly, to repair the existing pavilion including replacing the windows, roof and exterior cladding. Secondly, to provide additional storage and improved shower and toilet facilities
- d. Part of the reason for needing to undertake this work is that since Urchfont Manor was sold, the cricket ground has also hosted Urchfont Croquet Club.
- e. The Cricket Club have been successful in raising the additional money for the rest of the project and have had contributions from the Parish Council, club reserves, grants and their own fundraising.

- f. Once the work is completed, the pavilion will be available for other community groups to use
- g. The club have set themselves a target of increasing membership by 25% over the next 5 years, particularly amongst young people.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	Urchfont Village Hall	Install ICT facilities within the village hall	£1,430 towards a project costing £2,860

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £1,430 towards the cost of the ICT equipment is considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Additional funding was specifically given to the area board to help fund the installation of ICT equipment and broadband in places such as village halls as part of Wiltshire Council's £16m digital inclusion project. This application is specifically for that purpose
- d. Urchfont village hall are looking to purchase and install projector, screen and broadband so that the hall can be used for meetings, clubs and as a local internet cafe.
- e. Match funding is being provided from the village hall reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
13	Bishops Cannings Cricket Club	Upgrade of coaching facilities	£5k towards a project costing £20k

- f. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k towards the cost of the coaching facilities.
- g. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- h. The club is very successful with a membership in excess of 250 people including many at junior level.
- i. The project is to extend two of the nets to full length which will also include bowling

ends. In addition, it will replace inadequate caging to meet EEC regulations including new netting and safety batting curtains. These improvements will allow the club to coach more young people at the same time and allow the club to grow further.

- j. The club has applied for a Viridor Landfill Tax grant for the remaining money. At the time of writing this report, it had not been confirmed whether their application was successful. It would be a condition of any award that all other funding was first in place.
- k. Members should be aware that Bishops Cannings Cricket Club have received two previous grants from the area board including £5k during 2012/13 towards their new pavilion. However, this does not exclude the club from receiving another award this financial year.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Richard Rogers Devizes Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718626 E-mail Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk
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