

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	5 March 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Luckington pre-school - award £2,550 capital towards the installation of a sand and water play area, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Malmesbury Abbey Guild of Change Ringers - award £1,000 capital towards major repairs, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Charlton Village Hall – award £1,500 capital towards the cost of re-surfacing the car park, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
4. Walter Powell Pre-school – award £1,590 capital towards the fitting out of the interior of the new building, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
5. Riverside Angling Club – award £1,000 capital towards river habitat improvements, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
6. Crudwell Village Hall - award £500 capital digital literacy grant towards the installation of an internet hotspot system and two tablets for community use.
7. Bristol Avon River Trust – award £2,213 towards the establishment of a River Fly Monitoring Initiative, conditional on the balance of funding being in place
8. Malmesbury Mind Peer Support – award £519 capital towards the provision of a laptop, software, printer and broadband dongle, £500 from the Digital Literacy Grant plus £19 from area board capital budget.
9. Ashton Keynes Village Hall – award £2,748 capital towards the cost of major roof repairs, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
10. White Walls Way/MVCAP project – award £1,233 capital towards signs and information boards, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
11. Malmesbury Victoria Football Club– award £1,200 capital towards a storage container, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
12. Sustrans on behalf of the Cowbridge Footpath Group – award £5,000 capital towards the cost of installation of a footpath between Cowbridge and Malmesbury, conditional on licence agreements being signed and the balance of funding being in place.

13. Malmesbury Living History project – refuse funding a living history weekend as the request is for revenue funding which is not available for Community Area Awards.
14. To accept the decisions made by local people attending the area board in respect to the distribution of a ring-fenced inter-generational budget of £5,000.
15. Since the autumn discussions have taken place between the area board and the town council to work collaboratively to address the need to undertake works (in conjunction with the Environment Agency) in relation to river/bank maintenance in the vicinity of the Flying monk Ground and the weir. With this in mind officers suggest that any 2013/14 area board balance (**£4,234**) should be allocated to this work flood mitigation project.
16. That a condition of receiving any funding from Malmesbury area board is that the recipient ensures that publicity about the club sessions/events and or facility/hire arrangements is published on the [Malmesbury Our Community Matters website](#) to raise awareness in the community and encourage wider use.

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 (5 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 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. The area board may wish to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work.
- 1.5. In 2013/14 Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of **£53,138** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2013/14 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants.
- 1.6. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy 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.

- 1.7. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.8. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital projects.
- 1.9. 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.
- 1.10. Area boards will not consider 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.
- 1.11. Officers provide recommendations, however the decision to support applications is made by Malmesbury area board councillors.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. Members of the public can view all funding applications on the council's website.
- 1.14. 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 the Malmesbury & Villages Our Community Matters website. Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	<p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Area Board Grants Scheme 2013/14 – information and criteria</p> <p>Digital Literacy Grants 2013/14</p> <p>Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Plan 2009-2013</p>
---	--

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. At the 3 July 2013 area board £8,118 revenue funding was allocated to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership and £5,000 capital awarded to Minety Village hall, leaving a total balance of £40,020 to be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives
- 2.2. At the 3 July 2013 area board £8,118 revenue funding was allocated to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership and £5,000 capital awarded to Minety Village hall, leaving a total balance of £40,020 to be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives
- 2.3. At the 4 September area board £418 capital was awarded to Little Somerford Short Mat Bowls Club and £3,154 revenue was returned to the area board,
- 2.4. At the November area board £5,000 capital was awarded to Sherston Magna Cricket Club, £438 to 1st Malmesbury Scout Groups and £4,000 to undertake two topographical surveys (only £3,750 was required); plus £415 of revenue funding was spent on First Aid training for volunteer supporters of Malmesbury skate board facility. £5,000 from the revenue budget was allocated to inter-generational youth projects. This left a capital budget of £25,510, (excluding a further £1,500 for digital literacy grants) and a revenue balance of £1,098 (excluding £3,000 ring fenced legacy funding).
- 2.5. At the January area board £3,509 of capital funding was allocated leaving a balance **£22,001 capital** (excluding the £1,500 digital literacy grant) and **£1,096 revenue**.
- 2.6. Elsewhere on this agenda the community will have an opportunity to allocate funding to the 3 applicants to the intergenerational budget, for which there is a budget of **£5,000 revenue**.
- 2.7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.8. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2013/2014 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.9. This is the last funding round of 2013/14. The deadline for receipt of funding applications to the May area board is **21 March for consideration on 7 May 2014**. New funding criteria will be in place and applicants are requested to check the website for details.

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 Malmesbury Area Board.

- 4.2. If funding is awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance of:

- **£1,948 capital**
- **£1,096 revenue**
- £500 ring-fenced digital literacy grant (which will be carried forward).

- 4.3. If the community support all inter-generational projects there will be an additional revenue balance remaining **of £1,190**.

- 4.4. Indications are that no unallocated funding will be carried forward to 2014/15, other than digital literacy funding as this is ring-fenced from central government.

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 will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Luckington pre-school	Installation of a sand and water play area	£ 2,550

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Luckington pre-school is awarded £2,550 capital funding towards the installation of a sand and water play area, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.1.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board, with the remainder coming from the Friends of Luckington School.
- 8.1.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 makes reference to support of early years, toddler groups and pre-schools in villages.
- 8.1.5. The Council's Childcare Officer has been working with the pre-school and is supportive of their application to transform the outside play area. This project will help young children to develop their imaginations as the natural elements of sand and water stimulate and support a wide range of play and exploration and generate learning in a motivational and meaningful way.
- 8.1.6. The children of Luckington Pre-school will be the main beneficiaries of this play area, although we intend to make it available to the Luckington school pupils as well. This provision will be highly valued as it would provide much in terms of enrichment and facilitated learning.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Malmesbury Abbey Guild of Change Ringers	Replacement / support of rotten beams and overhaul of bell fittings	£1,000

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Malmesbury Abbey Guild of Change Ringers is awarded £1,000 capital funding towards the cost of replacement/support of rotten beams and overhaul of bell fittings, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14, other than only one quote has been provided. It is accepted however that this is specialist work and their chosen provider is familiar with the bells/tower.
- 8.2.3. The applicant is seeking a modest proportion of the total project cost of £12,328. The balance is being found from a range of sources including Malmesbury Bell-ringers Tower Fund, Gloucester & Bristol Bell-ringers,

Friends of Malmesbury Abbey and Malmesbury Carnival Committee.

- 8.2.4. No reference is made to the bells in the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 and the immediate community benefit could be considered modest. Councillors however need to consider whether the bells form part of the heritage of the community and something that local people value.
- 8.2.5. The clock chimes the quarters and the hours during the day, while the bells are rung for town events, weddings and on Sunday as well as royal/state occasions.
- 8.2.6. Bell-ringing is a secular activity and is open to any and everyone who wishes to learn (subject to a minimum height restrictions)

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Charlton Village Hall	Re-surfacing the car park	£1,500

- 8.3.1. Officers recommend that Charlton Village Hall is awarded £1,500 capital funding towards the cost of re-surfacing the car park, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.3.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.3.3. The applicant is seeking slightly less than 50% of the total cost of the project. They have received modest contributions from Charlton and Hankerton parish councils and still have £1,475 to find to complete the project.
- 8.3.4. The need to improve village hall facilities is highlighted in the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013.
- 8.3.5. The applicant reports that before laying the Newbury flint surface, they will level the area and dig deep enough to ensure water is soaked into the ground and can flow away; thus avoiding standing water which is currently the case.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Walter Powell pre-school	Fitting out of the interior of the new building	£1,590

- 8.4.1. Officers recommend that Walter Powell pre-school is awarded £1,590 capital funding towards the fitting out of the new building, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 8.4.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.4.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board, with the remainder coming from local fundraising.
- 8.4.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 makes reference to support of early years, toddler groups and pre-schools in villages.
- 8.4.5. The local community have been instrumental in considerable fundraising to obtain a new building to house their pre-school and are now seeking funding to refurbish the inside.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Riverside Angling Club	River habitat improvements	£1,000

- 8.5.1. Officers recommend that Riverside Angling Club is awarded £1,000 capital funding towards river habitat improvements, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.5.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.5.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board.
- 8.5.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 makes reference to clean rivers in respect to what local people value about living in the community area. Local people identified improving the river Avon environment as a top priority at the JSA event held in 2012.
- 8.5.5. The project will involve installing approximately 100 metres of stock-proof fencing along a section of the River Avon near Cowbridge Mill which has been heavily poached by the cattle. A dedicated cattle drink will be built and live willow deflectors will be placed into the banks and river bed to create bank stability and increase natural scour of the gravel bed, which will improve fish spawning habitat.
- 8.5.6. The purpose of this project is to reduce river pollution, by bank side planting, restore fish spawning and nursery habitat by creating clean gravel beds and vegetation as well as improving habitat for birds, insects and otters.
- 8.5.7. The Riverside Angling Club is a small fishing club based at Cowbridge Mill, Malmesbury. The club has 61 members, 4 of which are junior members (under 15 years old). The club has a good record of co-operation with other parties and enjoys a good relationship with the local community and the Environment Agency.

8.5.8. The club would also like to encourage junior members (we have made it a club policy to increase the number of young anglers) and school groups by creating a safe, gated access area to the river which can be used for educational visits and also as a monitoring site for BART projects.

8.5.9. A great deal of work has already been carried out by members of Riverside Angling Club and BART, to prepare river cross section drawings to support the Environment Agency consent application, and liaising with landowners and farmers to negotiate the works.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Crudwell Village Hall	Internet hotspot system and two tablets	£500

8.6.1. Officers recommend that Crudwell Village Hall is awarded £500 capital Digital Literacy Grant towards the installation of an internet hotspot system and two tablets for community use.

8.6.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.6.3. The village hall already provides limited Wireless access for a small number of local groups so they can log onto the internet using their own device. This request will enable the service to be extended to all village hall users of the hall by putting in place an internet hotspot system so we can manage the distribution of access codes and monitor usage. The installation of two tablets would be available for individuals or groups to use, especially those no internet access or computer of their own.

8.6.4. Digital literacy grants are intended to help communities to start new or maintain an existing basic computer skills activity. Officers suggest that this award is conditional on the village hall providing evidence of support being given in the Crudwell community to those who are new to computers or have very limited skills and confidence to access this additional service.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7.	Bristol Avon River Trust	River Fly Monitoring initiative	£2,213

8.7.1. Officers recommend that Bristol Avon River Trust (BART) is awarded £2,215 capital funding towards the establishment of monitoring groups, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.7.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

- 8.7.3. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 makes reference to clean rivers in respect to what local people value about living in the community area. Local people identified improving the river Avon environment as a top priority at the JSA event held in 2012.
- 8.7.4. The applicant is requesting that the area board fund the monitoring kits.
- 8.7.5. BART wish to establish and train community groups to monitor fly life in the local rivers and streams. The results of this monitoring will provide important data about the health of the river on an ongoing basis and are important early warning systems in case of pollution. The groups will be trained, sites formally registered and equipment provided.
- 8.7.6. Monitoring will be established on the Sherston and Tetbury branches of the Bristol Avon downstream to Great Somerford. A minimum of 25 volunteers will be trained in River Fly Monitoring techniques and supported to encourage them in their early development.
- 8.7.7. BART aims to improve the health of the Bristol Avon and its tributaries and streams for the benefit of the community and for the wildlife, fish and insects which inhabit them and their banks. This is achieved through engaging with volunteers, community groups and local angling clubs to help them look after their local stretches of river and stream.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.8.	Malmesbury Mind	Peer Support	£519

- 8.8.1. Officers recommend that Malmesbury peer support is awarded £519 capital towards the provision of a laptop, software, printer and broadband dongle, £500 from the Digital Literacy Grant plus £19 from area board capital budget.
- 8.8.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.8.3. The IT equipment will be used weekly for three hours on a Monday at Cotswold House, Gloucester Road, Malmesbury, by about 10 people. The project will help people get started with computers, search the web, shop online, use Skype, email and social media. Support will be provided to people who need to access Universal Credit, Council online services, Government online services and online job vacancies and applications.
- 8.8.4. The Malmesbury Mind facilitator is equipped to train users who may be unfamiliar with using PCs and accessing the internet.
- 8.8.5. Digital literacy grants are intended to help communities to start new or maintain an existing basic computer skills activity.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.9.	Ashton Keynes Village Hall	Roof repairs	£2,748

- 8.9.1. Officers recommend that Ashton Keynes Village Hall is awarded £2,748 capital funding towards roof repairs, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.9.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.9.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board and the balance from the village hall reserves and the parish council.
- 8.9.4. The need to improve village hall facilities is highlighted in the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013.
- 8.9.5. The main hall roof is letting in rain, resulting in internal damage and stopping the hall from being used during and after heavy rain, so urgent investigative and repair work is needed. Repairs to the internal water damage and re-decoration will be completed at a later date (to which the parish council have also agreed to contribute).

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.10.	White Walls Way/MVCAP	Signs and information boards	£1,233

- 8.10.1. Officers recommend that White Walls/MVCAP is awarded £1,233 capital funding towards signs and information boards, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.10.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.10.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board.
- 8.10.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 highlights the things that local people value including 'open views of the countryside, with hedges full of wildlife' as well as the need to address preservation and management of countryside and wildlife.
- 8.10.5. The White Walls project involves developing a 20 mile round walking route between Malmesbury, Foxley, Norton, Easton Grey, Sherston, Luckington and Alderton. In addition there will be shorter circular walks to appeal to local people as well as visitors to the area. The funding is sought to help pay for 12 interpretation boards to inform walkers of points of interest along

the route. They will be made of green oak with a printed hard wearing display panel on each. Each major settlement along the route will have its own board.

8.10.6. Walking is proven to have a positive impact on the mental and physical health of those people participating.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.11.	Malmesbury Victoria Football Club	Storage container	£1,200

8.11.1. Officers recommend that Malmesbury Victoria Football Club is awarded £1,200 capital funding towards a storage container, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.11.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.11.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board, with the remainder coming from club fundraising.

8.11.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 makes reference to affordable activities for young adults and families.

8.11.5. The football club is seeking to buy a secure metal container for the safe and secure storage of club machinery particularly that used for pitch preparation and maintenance. The current 10ft container is inadequate in size, rusty and insecure. The club is seeking to purchase a larger unit which will be raised above the likely level of any future flood water.

8.11.6. The Club provides community football to the 7th level of the FA pyramid through a 1st team. It also has a reserve and youth development team. Over 80 players are registered and the Club has in the last two seasons provided free football coaching for women with a view to providing a Women's team in a local league in the 2014/15 season. Players and local people who attend matches will benefit from improved facilities for the storage of essential machinery for pitch preparation.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.12.	Sustrans on behalf of the Cowbridge Footpath Group	Installation of a footpath between Cowbridge and Malmesbury	£17,286

8.12.1. Officers recommend that Sustrans, on behalf of the Cowbridge Footpath Group is awarded £5,000 capital towards the cost of installation of a footpath between Cowbridge and Malmesbury, conditional on licence

agreements being signed and the balance of funding being in place.

8.12.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.12.3. The applicant is seeking considerably more than the area board would normally give. Area board criteria state that they will not normally award more than £5,000 towards a project. The group recognises the need to look at other funding in order to fulfil the project.

8.12.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 highlights the things that local people value including 'open views of the countryside, with hedges full of wildlife'. In addition many residents of the Cowbridge area are keen to have improved access to Malmesbury away from the main road.

8.12.5. The aim is to construct a walking and cycling route between Cowbridge and Malmesbury. The link will use the disused railway line and Cowbridge Weir bridge. The application is for capital funding for the construction and associated costs.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.13.	Malmesbury Living History project	Living history weekend	£5,000

8.13.1. Officers recommend that the Malmesbury Living History project is refused funding towards a living history weekend as it fails to meet the funding criteria for a Community Area Grant which in 2013/14.

8.13.2. The request is for revenue funding, but the area board can only award capital funding to Community Area Grants.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

Report Author	Miranda Gilmour Community Area Manager Tel: 01672 515742 Mobile: 07990 505882 Email: miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk
---------------	---