

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	14 May 2014
Title of Report	Community Area Grants Report

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider two applications seeking 2014/15 Community Area Grant funding:

- i) Winsley Social Club requesting £5,800 towards the refurbishment of the Social Club/Parochial Church Council joint car park**
- ii) Winsley Parish Council requesting £744 towards countryside access improvements**

1. Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 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 as to why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2014/2015 of £ 38,732 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5 It has been decided that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council website and hard copies will be available upon request.
- 1.6 The 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement
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2 Main Considerations

- 2.1 Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014/15 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2 There will be six rounds of funding during 2014/15, this being the first.

3 Environmental & Community Implications

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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If the grants are awarded Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of £26,378 funding remaining in the grants budget for the 2014/15 financial year.

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 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 Comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Winsley Social Club	Refurbishment of the Social Club/Parochial Church Council joint car park	£ 5, 800

8.1.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2014/15, although the normal maximum grant available is £ 5,000.

8.1.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and

Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for improved community facilities and village services.

8.1.3 The project is the total re-furbishment and re-tarmac of a shared community car-park set in the heart of the Winsley Village and serving both a Grade 2 listed building, and the St Nicholas Church and Hall. The approach area has been affected by water/frost damage over a period of time and is now a grave concern for Health and Safety issues. Specific excavation work is required urgently and further drainage problems could be resolved. When all repair work is completed the car-park area (445sm) will be re-laid with a new tarmac surface sufficient to carry traffic movements. The car park will then be re-lined and marked into spaces for visiting vehicles.

8.1.4 Social Club funds are fully committed to maintaining the Former Winsley Primary School (Club premises) a Grade 2 listed building and in constant need of repairs. Limited funds to match the Church contribution are being considered by the Social Club Management Committee. Church Funding has raised by voluntary donations a sum of £2600 from its members to be solely used for the car park project. The Social Club/Church neighbour at 125 Winsley (former Primary School House) is being asked to contribute, but we must accept his funds are only minimum.

8.1.5 Beneficiaries of the project will include:

- all members and users of the St. Nicholas Church and Church Hall facilities. Church hall users include the following groups: two painting groups, pottery group, Morris Men, Scouts, Youth Chess Club, Mother and Toddlers, fundraising events for local charities and as a Polling Station. They will have dedicated parking spaces and thus avoiding some on road parking that causes traffic congestion in the heart of Winsley. Currently there are safety issues, because of the bad state of the tarmac surface and they would be mitigated by the project.
- all members of and visitors to the Winsley Social Club. Likewise they will have dedicated parking spaces and use rather than the roadside which causes traffic congestions in the heart of Winsley. Also the safety issues already identified to all travellers to the Social Club.
- all residents in the vicinity of the car park in Winsley. Residents will not be bothered by on road parking and road traffic through the Village can flow safely.
- the village itself and the general appearance for all visitors to Winsley. Good and clearly marked parking facilities in a traffic congested area. May negate the need to yellow line areas in this part of the village.

8.1.6 Monitoring will include reviewing traffic movements in the area after 6 months; conducting short surveys on a regular basis to ascertain users satisfaction with their visits; arranging dialogue with Winsley Parish Council to ensure all residents are content.

8.1.7 The project is costed out at £ 12,000 with financial contributions to the project of £2,600 from the Social Club, £ 2,600 from St Nicholas Church, £ 500 from Winsley Parish Council and £ 500 from a neighbour to the site.

8.1.8 Under the terms of the Community Grants Scheme the maximum grant award is normally £ 5,000, although this is subject to the discretion of the members of the area board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Winsley Parish Council	Countryside improvements access	£ 744

8.1.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2014/15, although there is a presumption against funding parish councils who have the ability to precept for local projects within the village.

8.1.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through investment in improved recreational facilities and support for Bradford on Avon's status as a 'Walkers are Welcome' town.

8.1.3 A group of residents and councillors have been working on a project to improve the access to local footpaths for walkers. There are a number of routes that are suffering from missing or dilapidated gates and styles which will need renew or repair as appropriate.

8.1.4 Winsley Parish Council has some large liabilities in the form of play areas, football field and a sizeable nature reserve. The amount held in reserve is to ensure that these can be safely run and maintained.

8.1.5 Beneficiaries include the entire community and visitors, walkers and holiday makers on whose visits the village relies. This project will revitalise an area that has been neglected of late but which provides an excellent way for the community to engage with nature and to work with local landowner to make the best use of public rights of way.

8.1.6 There will be a set of planned walks and introductions to the area and the wildlife and environment. There is hope for expansion of the project depending on how this part of the project works. Much will depend on the feedback from the organised walks and workshops.

8.1.7 The costs of the project are approximately £ 1,500 for new gates, fence posts, repairs and labour. The Parish Council is contributing 50% of costs.

8.1.8 Comment from Senior Rights of Way Warden: "These paths are all well used and in a popular part of the County; it would be very good if we could get some improvements done especially as Bradford on Avon has Walkers are Welcome status".

8.1.9 Comment from Bradford on Avon Walkers Are Welcome: "I don't know all these stiles but would simply make the comment that anything that makes access easier for more walkers is to be applauded. Most stiles on the South side of Bradford on Avon have been replaced with kissing gates and this makes life a lot easier for those with reduced mobility.

8.1.10 Officers consider that the relatively modest costs of this project outweigh the usual presumption against the funding of parish councils with precepting powers.

Appendices:	Grant applications from: Winsley Social Club Winsley Parish Council
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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