

Report to	Marlborough Area Board	Item No. 10
Date of Meeting	31 August 2010	
Title of Report	Community Area Grants	

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider three applications seeking 20010/11 Community Area Grant Funding:

- i. Aldbourne Parish Council, Upgrading a footpath to improve access for all to the play area and village green, £773 requested.
- ii. Marlborough Apple Day, Festival to raise awareness of local apple varieties and orchard habitats and to launch a Community Orchard, £709 requested.
- iii. Ramsbury Allotment Association, Installation of a water pipe to the allotments, £832 requested.

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 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 recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 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. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £45,472 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £7,409 This leaves a total budget of £52,881 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 1.6. A decision has been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.7. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Area Boards Northern Team Leader.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Marlborough Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 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 2010/11. The third is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;
 - 19 October 2010
 - 23 November 2010
 - 8 February 2011

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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If the grant requests detailed in this report are awarded, Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of £39,556

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

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Aldbourn Parish Council	Upgrading footpath to Goddard's Lane play area to improve access	£773

- 8.1.1. It is recommended that councillors consider this application for £773 towards the costs of upgrading the footpath.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates direct links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under sections 5.3 'Improved local route networks for cyclists and pedestrians' and sections 8.6-8.8 which focus on improving recreational and leisure opportunities for disabled people and young people.
- 8.1.4. The applicant is a parish council that owns the footpath and is seeking 50% of the overall cost of resurfacing the footpath. The parish council obtained competitive quotes for the work and has accepted the lowest price for the job by a local contractor.
- 8.1.5. The parish council wishes to upgrade the path, which is currently in a poor state or repair, being uneven, pitted and prone to getting muddy. Resurfacing will enable access for wheelchair users and parents with children in buggies to the newly refurbished play area, which has play equipment and facilities for those of all abilities. The play area is adjacent to the village green and upgrading the path will also enable an easier, off road route to people who wish to access the village green and Post Office store.
- 8.1.6. The parish council initially made enquiries about Wiltshire Council's Path Improvement Grant Scheme but found that their proposal didn't meet the criteria. The Council's Countryside Access development Officer has conformed that upgrading this footpath isn't eligible for the PIGS scheme since it isn't a right of way but that he considered it a worthy project since it enabled pedestrian access to the play area and village centre for all residents.
- 8.1.7. Should the Area Board make a decision not to fund the project, the project would be delayed while the applicant sought an alternative source of funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Marlborough Apple Day	To run a festival to raise awareness of local apple varieties and orchard habitats and to launch a Community Orchard	£709

- 8.2.1. It is recommended that councillors consider this application for £709 towards the costs of running Marlborough Apple Day
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.2.3. This application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to maintain and enhance the distinctive nature of the local country side (sections 4.2, 4.3) and the need to conserve landscape around towns and villages (section 7.6). It also relates to Wiltshire Council's objective of encouraging volunteering.
- 8.2.4. The applicant is a new community group that has formed this year to run the first of what it plans to be an annual Marlborough Apple Day festival, linked to nationwide Apple Day events. The purpose is to link nature with cultural activities and to halt the loss of old orchards and the wildlife habitats they provide, encouraging new planting to enhance biodiversity and raising awareness of local food production and healthy eating. In addition to the annual event, the group aims to launch the Marlborough Community Orchard project.
- 8.2.5. The Apple Day Festival will take place on October 17th and will include: a wide range of educational activities aimed at schoolchildren and all sections of the community, the launch of the Community Orchard with the planting of the first tree in Priory Gardens, a display and tasting of over 60 varieties of apple, including local rarities, a range of foods and drinks made from apple, stalls with beekeepers and environmental groups providing information, expert speakers talking about the history of apples, how to look after apple trees and what to do with a glut of produce. The project aims to encourage local people to volunteer to join in creating and maintaining the Community Orchard in the long term.
- 8.2.6. The committee has produced a budget for the first year which has been revised in line with queries by officers. The amount requested represents 49% of the total budget. The rest of the funding will come from the committees own fundraising activities, stall holder's fees and local sponsorship. The Town Council were approached for a reduced rate or free booking of the town hall and have confirmed that their policy is not to offer reduced rates on weekends and that the allocation of three free dates per annum have already been allocated.
- 8.2.7. Should the Area Board make a decision not to fund the project, it will have to reconsider and scale back some of its planned activities.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Ramsbury Allotment Association	To install a mains water supply to the allotments	£832

- 8.3.1. It is recommended that councillors consider this application for £832 for installation of a water supply to enable the allotment holders to grow their produce.
- 8.3.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.3.3. This application demonstrates direct and links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan in so much as it encourages people of all ages to engage in positive and healthy lifestyle activities and creates a sense of wellbeing and pride in the local community. It also contributes to the Council's Climate Change agenda with the reduction of traffic on the road, local food production and encouraging recycling, composting and sustainable use of land.
- 8.3.4. The applicant is a new allotment association that was formed earlier this year, following a number of requests to the parish council to provide allotments. The parish took on the leasehold of some locally owned land and drew up a lease to sub-let it to the applicant, at a cost of some £800+ in legal fees, as well as 20+hours work on the part of their Chairman. The parish council would like councillors to consider this as their contribution towards the project.
- 8.3.5. The project aims to provide a much needed source of water to the allotments, since in the very dry conditions this year, allotment holders have had to use their vehicles to cart water from their homes in suitable containers, on an almost daily basis. The installation of a water tap at the allotment will both reduce the amount of traffic on the village roads and contribute towards healthier lifestyles, through regular walking.
- 8.3.6. There are currently 27 allotment holders, some of whom work their allotments together with family members of all ages. Surplus produce has been provided free of charge to the residents of local almshouses and a sale of produce has both provided locally grown food to other parishioners, as well as raising funds for the association so that they will be able to pay water rates and pipe the water from the mains supply to their individual allotments. In addition to the existing 27 plot holding families, there is a waiting list for allotments.
- 8.3.7. Should the Area Board make a decision not to fund the project, the association will not be able to go ahead with installing a water pipe until they can raise funds from elsewhere. Meanwhile, they will have no choice but to continue to use their vehicles to water their allotments, increasing traffic through the village and undermining the allotment holders' intentions of developing healthier lifestyles.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Aldbourne Parish Council Appendix 2 Grant application – Marlborough Apple Day Appendix 3 Grant application- Ramsbury Allotment Association
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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