

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	25 November 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. **Kennet Valley Hall** – requested £822 towards a new industrial dishwasher for use by hall hirers. Recommendation: Meets criteria.

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 want 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. Links to these electronic documents can be found below.
- 1.5. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£41,691.57** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. This figure is lower than in previous years.
- 1.6. This figure is made up of £35,437.57 of Capital funding and £6,254 of Revenue funding. Grants awarded during 2014/15 will be allocated either Capital or Revenue funding.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2014/15 the Marlborough Area Board invites applications that encourage young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports, outdoor activities, recreation, arts and volunteering.
- 1.9. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,001 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000. Grants of up to £500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.
- 1.10. There will still be 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](#).

- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. 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. This recommendation will be to confirm if the application meets the criteria of the grant scheme or not.
- 1.13. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 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 their area board [blogsite](#). Recipients of grants are also asked to come back to future area board meetings to provide a verbal update on their project to spread good practice and encourage other applicants. 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>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17</p> <p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2013</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£41,691.57** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, Area Board / Councillor Led Initiatives.
- 2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2014/2015 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being

made.

- 2.4. There three funding rounds remaining during 2014/15, including this meeting. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:

- **10 November 2014 for consideration on 25 November 2014**
- **12 January 2015 for consideration on 27 January 2015**
- **9 March 2015 for consideration on 24 March 2015**

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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. For this meeting, Marlborough Area Board has received applications for projects totalling **£822** in Capital costs and **no** Revenue costs. The area board will need to be aware that if all applications are awarded at this meeting, it will have £18,766.08 of Capital funding and £4,606.49 of Revenue funding remaining for the rest of the 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 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	Recommendation
8.1.	Kennet Valley Hall	To purchase new dishwasher for use by hirers	£822	Meets Criteria

- 8.1.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.2. Kennet Valley Hall management committee have recognised that hirers now want a quick and easy way of cleaning cutlery and crockery after their event. This idea had been rejected in the past but advances mean the idea is now feasible for the hall's kitchen. KVH's management committee has been running a long programme of improvements to the hall over several years and this new project is one of these improvements.
- 8.1.3. This project to improve the facilities for hirers and users at the hall meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including 'recreation facilities and amenities for young people' and 'provision of safe social facilities for young people' (p. 11) and 'lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities' (p. 18).
- 8.1.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include "develop events and cultural programs to enliven the *whole* community, particularly cinema and other highly inclusive activities".
- 8.1.5. Marlborough Area Board has previously funded Kennet Valley Hall in both previous financial years and in this one. Applicants may make up to two applications per year as long as the projects to be funded are unrelated. That is the case with this new project. The applicant has requested 50% of the costs of this project, which is within the criteria of this scheme.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Kennet Valley Hall
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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