

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 6 applications seeking 2014/15 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **Urchfont Village Hall** are seeking £5,000 towards improving the doctor's surgery facilities at Urchfont Village Hall
2. **Bishops Cannings Cricket Club** are seeking £5,000 towards a safe shed for equipment and machinery
3. **West Lavington Village Hall** are seeking £2,468 towards the redesign and refurbishment of their BMX track
4. **Devizes Bowls Club** are seeking £5,000 towards the refurbishment of their veranda
5. **Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts** are seeking £1,928.40 towards equipment
6. **Devizes Sports Club** are seeking £5,000 towards new washrooms

All these applications meet the grants criteria and are presented to the Area Board for consideration

The full details of grant applications are available on the following link:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/communityyouthactivitiesgrants.htm>

## 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<sup>th</sup> April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance.
- 1.2. In 2014/15 the officer is required to only ensure that the request meets the funding criteria but not to make any recommendations.
- 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. The allocation for Devizes Area Board in 2014/2015 is a capital only grants system
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1001 - £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 not required to provide recommendations in their funding reports. 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 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme.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><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Area Board Grant Guidance as presented for delegated decision</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Devizes Community Area Plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document</a></li> </ul>
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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. Councillors will need to decide whether the community benefit will warrant the request.
- 2.3. This is the fifth round of funding during 2014/2015. There will be one more on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other match funding has been confirmed.

4.3. If the award is granted, there will remain £22,042 capital money.

## 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 Comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8	<b>Urchfont Village Hall</b>	Improved doctor's surgery facilities at Urchfont Village Hall	£5,000 towards a project costing £21,700

- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. Recent changes in the regulations laid down by the Care Quality Commission mean that more secure and private reception facilities are required for the Branch Surgery held in Urchfont Village Hall. The only way these can be provided without affecting the existing hall functions is to build a small extension.
- III. The additional funding for the project is being provided by the Parish Council, an NHS grant, reserves and the Urchfont Scarecrow Festival
- IV. Without these new facilities, the Parish would lose its local Surgery leading to inconvenience particularly for the very young and elderly residents

## 9. Officer Comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
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9	<b>Bishops Cannings Cricket Club</b>	To provide a secure shed for storing the club's equipment and machinery	£5,000 towards a project costing £27,339
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- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. The current shed has an earth floor resulting in a damp atmosphere resulting in rust to machinery. In addition rats, mice, voles and other mammals ingress and chew.
- III. The shed is not secure and there have been two occasions when it has been broken into and equipment stolen.
- IV. The proposal is for a solid cement base and a secure shed which is larger than the current one. This will allow all of the machinery and equipment to be stored.
- V. Bishops Cannings Cricket Club is a thriving club with a large membership including many young people.
- VI. The majority of funding will be via a Virador grant

## 10. Officer comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	<b>West Lavington Village Hall</b>	Redesign and refurbishment of BMX track	£2,486 towards a project costing £4,972

- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. The current BMX track is situated on West Lavington playing field. It was built 5 years ago as a result of the youth club seeking and obtaining funding for it to be constructed.
- III. The track has proved very popular and after 5 years of intensive and continuous use, it now requires a major refurbishment. This will be accompanied by a redesign and upgrade resulting in an improved offer
- IV. Match funding is being provided by the Parish Council. The young people who use the facility are involved and are keen to see the track brought back to a useable state.
- V. Providing positive activities for young people is a priority for Devizes Area Board

and the provision of BMX tracks is a proven way of delivering something that is wanted and will be used.

## 11. Officer comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	<b>Devizes Bowls Club</b>	Refurbishment of veranda	£5,000 towards a project costing £14,244

- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. The veranda at the bowls club was damaged during bad weather and is in need of replacement. It is also in need of refurbishment and upgrading as it's design is causing damage to the club house.
- III. The club is providing funding from its reserves and the remainder is coming from Bowls England
- IV. The veranda will provide a sheltered access and viewing area which is essential for the club.

## 12. Officer comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	<b>Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA)</b>	Equipment for Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts activities and events	£1,928.40 towards a project costing £3856.80

- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. DOCA require new equipment, including flag poles, lantern making kits for schools & community groups and catering tools for fundraising activities.
- III. The purchase of this will support and enhance the hugely popular and inclusive programme of outdoor arts events and participatory activities, which include the Devizes International Street Festival & Carnival and the Christmas Lantern Parade. The equipment will enable DOCA to offer new activities (silk flag making, to be then used at all our events); make more sustainable and efficient the lantern making for schools, and improve fundraising activities. DOCA have to match their annual Arts

Council grant (approx. @£80,000 per year) with funds they raise ourselves.

IV. Match funding will come from the Arts Council grant

V. The community benefits of DOCA activities and events include:

- ✓ Over 18,000 attendances each year with the numbers continuing to increase.
- ✓ Working with @17 schools as well as a number of community groups and families in the run-up to the lantern parade
- ✓ Targeted work to groups such as young carers and those at risk of exclusion
- ✓ Economic benefits from visitors
- ✓ Increasing volunteering

### 13. Officer comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
13	<b>Devizes Sports Club</b>	Provide new washrooms	£5,000 towards a project costing £17,284.44

- I. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- II. They are looking to rebuild the washrooms to make the Sports Club a more attractive venue for function letting in order to generate additional income and make the club more sustainable.
- III. The current washrooms are very much rugby club toilets and do not promote a positive image when hiring the venue for weddings and parties.
- IV. Wiltshire Council Sports Officer has given his support to the project commenting that the pressing need is to improve the sports club and then market it better
- V. The additional funding will be provided by Viridor and from the constituent clubs that have responsibility for the sports club. (Rugby, Tennis and Cricket)
- VI. The three clubs have over 1100 members from the local area with numbers increasing. Income generated from the lettings will be used to invest in the clubs to develop coaching, increase membership and improve facilities.

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

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