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| <b>Report to</b>       | <b>Southern Area Board</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | <b>26 March 2015</b>       |
| <b>Title of Report</b> | <b>Area Board Funding</b>  |

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider the following grant requests:

1. Winterslow Cricket Club – £995 for a new mobile cricket cage.
2. Pitton & Farley Parish Council – £1,690 for two new village noticeboards and two new map lecterns to guide visitors to footpaths and other local features.
3. Landford Parish Council - £4,724.22 for new teenage play equipment at the recreation ground.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance.
- 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, Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work.
- 1.5. The community area grants budget has been approved for 2014/2015 for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 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 £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do 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.
- 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. There 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 advice on how the application meets with the scheme's criteria, but the decision to support applications is made by Amesbury area board councillors.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. 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 Southern Wiltshire 'Our Community Matters' [blog-site](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.2. 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.

## **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 Southern Wiltshire Area Board. Capital Budget allocated in 2014/15 is £37,335.35, Revenue Budget is £6,588.59
- 4.2. Following approval of grants at the 29 January 2015 meeting, there is £0 capital funds remaining and £3368.59 revenue funds remaining in 2014/15 Community Area Grants Budget. If the three grants put to the board's 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 meeting are all approved, this will mean a deduction of £4,909.23 from the 2015/16 Community Area Grants capital budget (confirmed as £44,057), and a deduction from the 2014/15 Youth Budget of £2,500 (leaving a remaining balance of £2,330).

#### **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 and Small 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 of the funding report.

#### **8. Grant Requests**

| Ref  | Applicant               | Project proposal        | Funding requested |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.1. | Winterslow Cricket Club | New Mobile Cricket Cage | £995              |

- 8.1.1. The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria. The funding requested is to make a capital purchase of a new mobile cricket cage for batting and bowling practice during the outdoor season.
- 8.1.2. The club already has one cricket cage, but it is a growing and successful club and needs a second cage especially to facilitate a safe environment for the practice and development of the young people's cricket skills not just for those attending from Winterslow but also from the surrounding villages.
- 8.1.3. The club is unable to fund this from its reserves due to other demands upon its resources, including ongoing operational costs and repairs programme.

8.1.4 The Local Youth Network Management Group gave consideration to this application on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, mindful of the use this piece of equipment will be put to developing the younger members' cricketing skills. Whilst firmly in support of this bid, the LYNMG has recommended that the Community Area Grants budget fund this application on this occasion. However, it would like to encourage the club to come forward for Youth Funding support in the future in regard to its ongoing training plans and programme for young people.

| Ref  | Applicant                      | Project proposal  | Funding requested |
|------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.2. | Pitton & Farley Parish Council | New Village Noticeboards and Visitor Information Lecterns | £1,690            |

8.2.1. The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria. The funding requested is to contribute towards the costs of replacing two existing public noticeboards in Farley which are in a dilapidated state and which were originally erected as a memorial to those Farley residents who had given their lives in the two World Wars. It is also to provide two maps and display lecterns, one in each village, to direct visitors and walkers to the footpaths and other attractions of the parish.

8.2.2. The Parish Council is contributing £1,856, £750 of which has been raised by its annual precept. It is unable to fund this completely from its reserves, due to the need to retain an element for possible future highway schemes.

| Ref  | Applicant               | Project proposal           | Funding requested |
|------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.3. | Landford Parish Council | New Teenage Play Equipment | £4,724.23         |

8.3.1. The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria. The Parish Council is keen to invest in some new equipment for the younger people in the community to play on. This particular application is to assist with the cost of a new Zip Wire and set of Monkey Bars for the teenagers. Associated works will see the installation of new equipment for toddlers and juniors within a fenced area, and further equipment for teenagers outside of this area.

8.3.2. The Parish Council is unable to fully fund this from its reserves due to other projects it is funding, i.e. the pavilion and other improvements to the recreation ground, which could amount to £80,000. The teenage play equipment is to be given top priority because, at the moment, there is nothing specifically for that age group.

8.3.3. The Parish Council's plans for the recreation ground, including for this equipment are based on local consultation and research of other similar facilities.

8.3.4. The Local Youth Network Management Group (LYNMG) considered this application on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, bearing in mind the positive activities to be facilitated by the introduction of these new pieces of equipment. It resolved to recommend support for this application to the area board. As the grant is to assist with the cost of two pieces of capital equipment, the board is asked to fund this from the Community Area Grants budget. However, the LYNMG recognise that it is for the benefit of young people and would therefore like to recommend that a donation of £2,500 is made from the youth budget.

8.3.5. The young people on the LYNMG in particular were keen to ensure that the need for the monkey bars had been consulted on, Zip Wires seeming to have universal support from teenagers, but not generally so the case for monkey bars. The Parish Council has since confirmed that the consultation did seek comments on the introduction of monkey bars, and that those comments substantiated support for this new piece of recreational equipment.

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| <b>Appendices</b> | <p>Appendix 1 – Winterslow Cricket Club<br/> Appendix 2 – Pitton &amp; Farley Parish Council<br/> Appendix 3 – Landford Parish Council</p> |
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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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