

Report to	Bradford on Avon
Date of Meeting	15/07/2015
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking funding from the Bradford on Avon Area Board.

Application	Grant Amount	
Applicant: Wiltshire Music Centre Project Title: Wiltshire Music Centre - equipment upgrade	£4,973	
Applicant: Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Project Title: Reopening of Culver Close Toilet	£950	
Applicant: Westwood PCC Project Title: Westwood Parish Room Transformation	£5,000	
Total grant amount requested at this meeting	£10,923	
Total amount allocated before today	£6,594	

2. Main Considerations

The capital budget for 2015/16 is £40, 675 and this is the second of six rounds of grant awards. £6,594 has been allocated in this financial year to date and if these applications are also approved the available balance will stand at £ 23,158.

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2015/16 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Cabinet member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2015/2016.

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.

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.

3. The applications

<p>Applicant: Wiltshire Music Centre Project Title: Wiltshire Music Centre - equipment upgrade</p>	<p>Amount Requested from Area Board: £4,973</p>	
<p>This application meets grant criteria 2015/16.</p> <p>Project Summary: We wish to purchase a new PA system for our bar/foyer area and a modular, moveable staging system in order to create additional and flexible performance space in the foyer. This will be used for pre-concert performances by local young bands, for informal foyer concerts often featuring local performers, for stages in different rooms in the Centre for our Festivals such as Bradford Roots and the St Laurence Summer Festival and for other events for young people such as our annual My Science Fair. The flexible staging will add to our platform stage area when the county Youth Orchestra is performing.</p> <p>Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community: Our project will directly benefit young people in Bradford on Avon and surrounding areas who want to get more involved in music performance opportunities and have a more diverse live music concert offering. We will be able to put up a flexible stage area in the foyer aimed at featuring performances by young people before our professional concerts. This staging will also be used for different types of informal concerts in the bar area aimed at attracting younger audiences. Our Young Curators scheme of young people getting involved in putting on concerts with us, may also be involved in organising such events. This will increase the opportunities for performance by having the additional flexible foyer space in the Music Centre will mean that there are more activities available for 14-19 year olds to engage with either as performers or audiences. The additional space will also enable us to increase the general cultural offering we provide by expanding the type of concerts into more informal offerings. The flexible staging will also be used in the auditorium to provide additional stage flexibility for the county Youth Orchestra and for the many local choirs who perform at the Centre. This is critical in providing a high quality performance environment for local people and professional performers. Having a top quality venue in the town brings economic and profile benefits to the town in terms of income derived and invested locally and helping to attract additional visitor numbers.</p> <p>Project Funding: Approximately two thirds of the funding for this project is coming from the applicants reserves.</p> <p>Comments of Arts Development Officer: I am supportive of the application made by the Wiltshire Music Centre to purchase PA and staging</p>		

equipment for flexible use in their foyer area and at other locations in the building. The centre aims to encourage a more diverse audience and this will be particularly helpful in building young audiences and providing a platform (which can be set up in informal spaces as well as the formal auditorium – this is dependent on the type and confidence of the groups involved) for young local musicians. The centre has also recently taken on the running of the Youth Orchestra following the demise of Wiltshire Music Service, which is another indication that they are keen to support young musicians and audiences. Current concert audiences tends to be more mature in age, but the education and outreach work of the centre reaches out to new audiences to engage with music and music making. I am pleased and encouraged that they have allocated a significant level of funding through their reserves. The arts service does contribute to the core funding of the centre but this only amounts to 5% of their annual income. The centre has to fundraise for new projects and initiatives – with this being one of them. The centre is a professional in its approach, is well-managed and promotes high quality work in all its initiatives.

Applicant: Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust

Project Title: Reopening of Culver Close Toilet

Amount Requested from Area Board: £950

This application meets grant criteria 2015/16.

Project Summary: The Preservation Trust is seeking to reopen the Public Toilet at the back of Culver Close Pavilion so as to provide a much needed facility for the increasing number of visitors to the Tithe Barn, Barton Farm Farmyard, the Country Park and the Tithe Barn Workshops. The toilet facility was closed by Wiltshire Council due to budget cuts but there are very few options in this vicinity. We have been encouraged by Wiltshire Councillors and Town Councillors, alike, to find a local solution. The toilets will be open, closed and cleaned daily by the Preservation Trust. New signage will be erected to direct the public to the facility.

Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community: Visitors to Tithe Barn, Barton Farm Farmyard and Granary store, the Tithe Barn Workshops, the Country Park and its playground, and the Canal area generally.

Project Funding: This grant application is for half the project costs, the balance coming from the applicant and the Town Council.

Comments of Community Engagement Manager: In the near future the Town Council is likely to request an asset transfer of the Culver Close sports field and pavilion from Wiltshire Council so that the asset can be managed locally. This should provide a more sustainable way forward for managing the toilet facility in the medium and longer term.

Applicant: Westwood PCC Project Title: Westwood Parish Room Transformation	Amount Requested from Area Board: £5,000	
<p>This application meets grant criteria 2015/16.</p> <p>Project Summary: To upgrade Westwood Parish Room to modern standards to include a kitchen and accessible toilets, as well as providing disabled access.</p> <p>Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community: Westwood Parish Room is the only community church hall for the three parishes in the benefice of Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon, Westwood and Wingfield. It is already used by organisations such as children's groups, the Womens Institute and Westwood Parish Council, and with improvements and disabled access will be much more attractive to a wider range of organisations. The National Trust has offered funding of £25,000 on condition that new toilets and kitchen are made available to visitors to Westwood Manor.</p> <p>Project Funding: This grant is a contribution towards total project costs of £150,000. Other contributions include National Trust £ 25,000, Holy Trinity Church £ 15,000 and local fundraising £10,000, with more still to be raised to meet the target.</p> <p>Comments of Village Halls Adviser: The nature of the work is to upgrade the facilities in this old stone built hall, then to extend to include a new kitchen and disabled facilities. There are no other facilities for use of the visitors to Westwood Manor, so the National Trust has donated a lump sum to assist in the renovation. The current access is via the rectory land and as the PCC are now selling the rectory, the hall needs to have their own access (on land recently donated by the PCC on the other side of the hall). This work needs to be carried out to allow the community to make better use of this vital facility and bring the services up to date for health and safety reasons as well as the increased comfort of the users. Looking at the application and speaking to the Chair, the costs seem realistic. I have explained that they need to prioritise the work in order to get the relevant monies in to complete the work. I have also explained about match funding and how to record the help received by professionals. This is a community resource used by Westwood and its environs. They already seem to be an inclusive hall, encouraging and supporting various groups which help deliver Wiltshire Council's goal of building stronger and more resilient communities. I would recommend the award of this grant is a high priority for the first phase of this work and I would say that the committee is capable of delivering this project.</p>		
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