

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Marlborough Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>21 July 2015</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

- 1. The Merchant's House, Marlborough** – Requested £5,000 towards research, Conservation and restoration of a second floor bedchamber using the services of an experienced conservator. Recommendation: meets criteria
- 2. Friends of Aldbourne Band** – Requested £999.99 to purchase a new drum kit, cymbals and carry case for the youth training band. Recommendation: meets criteria
- 3. Friends of Broad Hinton School** – Requested £4,250 towards resurfacing the school's outdoor learning area with a hard wearing rubber safety surface. Recommendation: meets criteria
- 4. Aldbourne Pre-school** – Requested £1,013 towards the costs of renovation of the pre-school's old hardwood floor. Recommendation: meets criteria

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Each area board will receive delegated funding as determined from time to time by the Leader. Area boards will allocate their delegated funds in accordance with any rules and guidance issued by the Leader
- 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 2015/2016 budget of **£50,563** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, 11-19 Youth funding (revenue) and area board/councillor led initiatives. This figure is higher than in the previous year.
- 1.6. This figure is made up of £43,818 of Capital funding, £1,500 of digital literacy grant funding and £5,425 of revenue funds for 11-19 youth activities. Grants awarded during 2015/16 will be allocated to one of these funding streams.
- 1.7. Marlborough Local Youth Network (LYN) has a further £17,933 of revenue funding available to distribute towards activities for 13-19 year olds (Positive Activities for Young People). These funds are to be allocated by the LYN Management group and ratified by Marlborough Area Board, so are not under the direct control of the area board.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs, digital literacy and youth 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.
- 1.9. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2015/16 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.
- 1.10. Applications for projects costing 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.

- 1.11. 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](#).
- 1.12. 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.
- 1.13. 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.
- 1.14. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.15. 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><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</a></p> <p><a href="#">Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17</a></p> <p><a href="#">Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2013</a></p>
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2015/2016 budget of **£50,563** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, 11-19 Youth Grants and 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 2015/2016 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There will be six funding rounds during 2015/16, with five including this one remaining. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:

- **6 July 2015 for consideration on 21 July 2015**
- **14 September 2015 for consideration on 29 September 2015**
- **9 November 2015 for consideration on 24 November 2015**
- **11 January 2016 for consideration on 26 January 2016**
- **7 March 2016 for consideration on 22 March 2016**

### **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 **£11,262.99** in Capital costs. The area board will need to be aware that if all applications are awarded at this meeting, it will have £29,808 of Capital funding remaining for the rest of the financial year. The other funding streams will remain unaffected.

### **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.	<b>The Merchant’s House, Marlborough</b>	Conservation of second floor bedroom	£5,000	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. The Merchant’s House Marlborough is a 400 year old townhouse on Marlborough High Street that is in a remarkable state of preservation. The trust that looks after this listed building has for a number of years been working to restore the entire building back to its 1650’s state.
- 8.1.3. The Merchant’s House is a popular attraction in the town, hosting visitors from the local area and further afield. It is particular popular with group tours. As well as paying visitors, the Trust runs educational visits by schools and is promoted to around 200 schools in the surrounding area. The house is open to the public for free during Heritage Weekend, a national initiative to open attractions such as this. As a well-known destination, the Merchant’s House contributes to the local economy by bringing tourists into the town.
- 8.1.4. As part of a wider conservation / restoration project, the Merchant’s House trust plans to spend some £20,000 of their own funds during the course of this work, with the Area Board’s contribution being part of phase two of the project.
- 8.1.5. This project meets several of the aims set out in the Community Area Plan 2012-17 including: “encouragement and support for tourism businesses” (p. 9) and “lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities” (p. 18). The JSA 2013-2015 reports that “The Museums Association reports that just under half of all museums within the country have experienced significant cuts to their budgets and a similar percentage have increased their use of volunteers to replace lost capacity”. It also quotes a key issue as “The cultural venues have established a network to support the development of the sector though further work is required to make this network an efficient system for drawing investment into the area.” The JSA event with the community of March 2014 gave a priority as “Develop events and cultural programs to enliven the whole community”.
- 8.1.6. Marlborough Area Board has funded the Merchant’s House previously for similar restoration and conservation projects.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	<b>Friends of Aldbourne Band</b>	New drum kit and cymbals for youth training band	£999.99	Meets Criteria

- 8.2.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.2.2. Friends of Aldbourne Band initiated and fund a Training Band to promote the 150 year tradition of brass bands in the village and give young people the opportunity to develop their musical experience. Currently, the drums used are on loan, in poor condition and need to be replaced with a permanent set. Almost all of the Training Band members come from Aldbourne itself, with the remainder coming from nearby villages, so this grant will benefit the local area. So far, one Training Band member has successfully moved up to join the full Band. The Training Band now takes the lead in providing music at the Church Fete with support from senior players showing the development of this group.
- 8.2.3. Over the next few years, the Friends of Aldbourne Band plans an ambitious programme of purchasing new, high quality instruments for both the main band and the training band totalling ~£10,000 as well as providing the termly expenses of the training band.
- 8.2.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the Community Area Plan 2012-17, including “Recreation facilities and amenities for young people”, “Provision of safe social facilities for young people” (p.11), “Lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities”. The JSA 2013-2015 quotes “Culture and the arts support the wellbeing of both individuals and the whole community. Participating in cultural activities is important for both physical and mental wellbeing. Culture provides vital opportunities for communities to come together and share unique experiences that build community identity”. The JSA event with the community of March 2014 gave a priority as “Develop events and cultural programs to enliven the whole community”.
- 8.2.5. Friends of Aldbourne Band have not received funding from Marlborough Area Board before.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.3.	<b>Friends of Broad Hinton School</b>	Resurfacing the school’s outdoor learning area	£4,250.00	Meets Criteria

- 8.3.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

- 8.3.2. This application was been deferred from the May area board meeting in order to gather further information. This has now been received.
- 8.3.3. The Friends of Broad Hinton Primary School are planning to upgrade and refresh their Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) outdoor learning area by replacing the existing loose bark chippings with a bonded rubber mulch surface. The area is jointly used by Broad Hinton Primary School and the Beehive Pre-school, giving access to outdoor space for children 2-6yrs old and is also available to children attending the before- and after-school clubs. Activities are based around playing, learning and investigation, and take place all year-round.
- 8.3.4. The improvements to the outdoor learning area will enable the children to make full use of this space all year-round for development of personal, social and physical elements through active play. The village does not have a public play area, and so it is especially important local children have access to these facilities at school and pre-school.
- 8.3.5. This application meets priorities that were raised by the Community Area Plan 2012-17, including “Recreation facilities and amenities for young people”, “Provision of safe social facilities for young people” and “Provision of and access to after-school activities”(p.11). The JSA 2013-2015 quotes “For pupil achievement at Key Stage 2 (KS2) (pupils aged 4-11) the average results for Marlborough Community Area are well above national, local authority and statistical neighbor comparators, with an average of 85% of pupils achieving Level 4 or above for reading, writing and mathematics”. Having high quality provision of resources within a primary school setting such as this will help contribute to that higher than average level. The JSA event with the community of March 2014 gave a priority as “Improved local recreational facilities in parish areas for families”.
- 8.3.6. Friends of Broad Hinton School have not received grant funding from the area board before now.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.4.	<b>Aldbourn Pre-school</b>	Renovation of the pre-school’s old hardwood floor	£1,013.00	Meets criteria

- 8.4.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.4.2. The hardwood teak floor of the pre-school room requires sanding and lacquering to provide a safe and hygienic floor surface for our pre-school children and after-school club children to play on. The present condition of the floor can cause splinters and is not risk free for children who at the ages of 2 to 5 years and need to be able to play on the floor. The floor was laid in 1964 and is the original floor which is extremely durable and hard wearing. Once this work is carried out it will last for many years to come.

- 8.4.3. The pre-school is within Aldbourne’s primary school and has a 25 year lease on the space they use, making their tenure within this setting secure for years to come. Under this lease, they are responsible for the upkeep of all parts of the building they use.
- 8.4.4. Having a safe floor surface to use and play on will allow the children who attend the facility to make the most use out of it and allow them the play and learn. Most of the children who attend the pre-school come from Aldbourne, with the rest coming from near-by villages. There are also two children with Special Educational Needs and they are looked after by fully qualified staff. The Pre-school has provided outstanding (Ofsted judgement 2007, 2011 & 2015) care and early years education and been in operation for over 50 years.
- 8.4.5. This application meets priorities that were raised by the Community Area Plan 2012-17, including “Provision of safe social facilities for young people” and “Provision of and access to after-school activities”(p.11). The JSA 2013-2015 quotes “For pupil achievement at Key Stage 2 (KS2) (pupils aged 4-11) the average results for Marlborough Community Area are well above national, local authority and statistical neighbor comparators, with an average of 85% of pupils achieving Level 4 or above for reading, writing and mathematics”. Having high quality provision of resources within a primary school setting such as this will help contribute to that higher than average level.
- 8.4.6. Aldbourne Pre- School has not received grant funding from the area board before now.

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 Grant Application – The Merchant’s House, Marlborough Appendix 2 Grant Application – Friends of Aldbourne Band Appendix 3 Grant Application – Friends of Broad Hinton School Appendix 4 Grant Application – Aldbourne Pre-School
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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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