

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	20/03/2019
Title of Report	Community Area Grant funding

Purpose of the report:

To consider the applications for funding listed below

Applicant	Amount requested
Applicant: Chilmark Horticultural Society Project Title: Chilmark 400th Anniversary Fayre View full application	£1000.00
Applicant: Wilton Town Council Project Title: Wilton ecoTown Project - solar scheme Castle Meadow View full application	£3000.00

1. Background

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](#)

[The funding criteria and application forms](#) are available on the council's website.

2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded in the 2018/2019 year is made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of it being awarded.

2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.

2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that the applications meet the Community Area Board grants criteria.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Grant Funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

Financial provision had been made to cover this expenditure.

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

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.

8. Safeguarding Implications

The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

9. Applications for consideration

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3185	Chilmark Horticultural Society	Chilmark 400th Anniversary Fayre	£1000.00
Project Description: The Chilmark Horticultural Society affiliated to the RHS is putting on a special Fayre to mark the 400th anniversary of a recorded village show 1619 on the Fairmead field central Chilmark. As the event is bigger in size and importance embracing the whole village community the funding need is much larger than the Society can solely fund. With a historical focus on rural life and rural crafts and a significant participation from the children in the village through competitions races and games plus increased publicity we expect a much wider audience to participate on the day.			
Input from Community Engagement Manager: This grant is requesting a revenue contribution for a special community event to benefit all ages. It is permissible to use the Health and Wellbeing budget and the Youth budget for this grant. The area board's revenue funds existing to facilitate positive activities for 11-18s and the over 55s, to combat disengagement of the young, and issues of loneliness and isolation in the elderly.			
Proposal That the Area Board determines the application.			

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3229	Wilton Town Council	Wilton ecoTown Project - solar scheme Castle Meadow	£3000.00
Project Description: The Town Council is proposing to install solar panels at its Castle Meadow pavilion. The installation will reduce the Councils carbon footprint introduce the			

Towns first civic green energy scheme reduce running costs for the pavilion and users benefit from the Governments renewable energy feed-in tariff.

Input from Community Engagement Manager: the following additional information has been supplied by the applicant. Confirmation of the figures in red below will follow in time for the board meeting. The board has £2378.24 capital funds remaining in its Community Area Grant budget and is asked to consider agreeing a contribution to this grant request:

- a) Wilton Town Council is supporting an ecoTown initiative and has included budget provision in 2019/20 for a range of low carbon and sustainability projects in the Town.
- b) During the preparation of the 2019/20 budget, the possibility of installing solar PV panels at the Pavilion in Castle Meadow was discussed by the budget working party. The pavilion has a large expanse of roof and only moderate electricity demands - making it an ideal site.
- c) The project was supported by the working party as a flagship initiative to launch the ecoTown programme.
- d) During the discussion, it was suggested that Nadder Community Energy's (NCE) – a local community benefit society - may be able to finance the project. It was decided to pursue this approach and make no specific budget provision.
- e) The Council contacted NCE on 30th January to discuss the matter. To facilitate the technical assessment of the project by NCE, the Council provided data about the energy consumption and use of the building.
- f) On Monday 4th March NCE completed its assessment and confirmed that the project would not represent a good investment for the Society, although it would provide a financially viable scheme for Wilton Town Council if financed separately.
- g) In view of the advice received, the Clerk discussed the issue with the Mayor who agreed to raise the matter at Full Council on Tuesday 5th March 2019. In addition, the Clerk submitted a grant application to the South West Wiltshire Area Board for consideration at its meeting on 20th March.
- h) The Council agreed to support the scheme in principle, subject to a technical and financial assessment
- i) assessment.

Nadder Community Energy

- a) NCE is a Community Benefit Society that owns 11 solar PV installations in the Tisbury area, these were funded by raising capital through a community share offer. NCE has recently raised further funds through a second share offer to install solar panels on local

schools.

- b) NCE is not an installer and its Board of Directors are all volunteers.
- c) Following initial discussions with Wilton Town Council, NCE investigated the possibility of including the Wilton pavilion site in a potential third share offer, but financially the scheme did not meet the Society's financial viability criteria.
- d) However, NCE's advice to the Council was that this could be a beneficial option for it to take up independently and would further the objectives in respect of the ecoTown ambition.

The proposal

- a) NCE's advice is to install a 6kW PV panel array on the pavilion roof. This will generate renewable energy for the facility and produce surplus electricity that can be provided back to the National Grid.
- b) The cost of installing the PV panels has been estimated by NCE at £1,000 per kilowatt – around £6,000 in total (12 panels).
- c) Currently, the pavilion consumes £1,000 of non-renewable electricity per annum (2019/20 budget). It is anticipated that this will reduce to £??? per annum if PV panels are installed.
- d) In addition, if the PV panels are installed, the Council can benefit from the Government's 'feed-in' tariff that 'buys' back any surplus renewable energy generated at a fixed rate of £???.
- e) The 'feed-in' tariff will be discontinued on 31st March 2019. Although this would not preclude the delivery of the project, it would lengthen the 'pay-back' period.
- f) It is estimated that the income generated by the PV array at the pavilion would be in the region of £??? per annum.
- g) Therefore, the Council would expect to see a return on its investment within ??? years.
- h) The installation would also be the Council's first flagship ecoTown project and form the basis of a publicity and public awareness campaign.

Project delivery

- a) The Council has submitted a grant application in the sum of £3,000 to the South West Wiltshire Are Board to support this project. It is anticipated that the Board will consider this application at its meeting on 20th March, 2019.
- b) As the total cost of the project it likely to be in the region of £7,000, this would leave £4,000 for the Council to fund. Currently, no provision has been included in the 2019/20 budget.

<p>c) The Council could finance installation by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Funding the costs from its reserves.ii) Virement of funds from an alternative budget (such as the office WC refurbishment) <p>d) The final costs would be subject to the outcome of a procurement process for the supply, installation and commissioning of the PV panels and would include any technical consultancy from NCE.</p> <p>e) NCE will advise on the procurement process.</p> <p>f) The financial viability of the scheme would also depend on securing the green energy 'feed-in' tariff before 31st March, 2019, although as stated earlier this would not preclude the project – it would extend the 'pay-back' period.</p>
<p>Proposal That the Area Board determines the application.</p>

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

Report Author:

Karen Linaker

Community Engagement Manager

01722 434697

karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk