

Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	08/09/2020
Title of Report	Community Area Grant funding

Purpose of the report:

To consider the applications for funding listed below.

Applicant	Amount requested
Applicant: Melksham Without Parish Council Project Title: Shurnhold Fields Car Park View full application	£5000.00
Applicant: Wiltshire Music Centre Project Title: Celebrating Age Wiltshire Phase 2 View full application	£1500.00
Applicant: Bulkington Parish Council Project Title: William Breach Playground Equipment Replacement View full application	£5000.00
Applicant: Forest Community Centre Project Title: Forest Community Centre Roof 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 2020/2021 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
3678	Melksham Without Parish Council	Shurnhold Fields Car Park	£5000.00
Project Description: Shurnhold Fields is a joint project of Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council. Developing the public open space that was the former playing fields of George Ward School into a mini country park for all to enjoy. The provision of a fenced car park and bike rack is to ensure that this open space is accessible to all from Melksham Town, Melksham Without and the wider Melksham Community Area and not just those within walking distance from the George Ward Gardens estate. It needs to be secure to prevent vehicles and unauthorised encampments accessing the fields. In the Melksham Community Area profile 2014-2026 that informed the core strategy, it states an under supply of amenity green space in both the urban area and rural area page 7 and 8. Page 16 priorities for the area recommends onsite provision for amenity green space should be sought in areas of under provision. The JSA is currently not available online for us to view and acknowledge that it is about to be updated but we feel the improvement of this public open space with its wildflower meadow, 200 WW1 commemorative trees and rare orchard trees to be planted contribute to both the Wiltshire Council carbon neutral agenda as well as the general health and wellbeing of the residents of the Melksham community area. Giving them an easily accessible place to be able to walk in the countryside. Without adequate car parking facilities cars will park in Dunch Lane. A 10-space car park is planned and will require land drainage			

consent but likely to be considered permitted development. The car park construction will be of a grass matting variety to suit the land drainage requirements.

Input from Community Engagement Manager:

Melksham Without Parish Council have a 10K earmarked reserve for the Shurnhold Fields Project for capital items and are using 5k as their share of funding. The remainder is for other future projects. There is another earmarked reserve for open space maintenance of 97K from Persimmon from S106 agreement. Other aspects of the project such as improvements to the entrance gates ground works for the bike rack and ongoing maintenance are funded from that reserve.

Proposal

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3822	Wiltshire Music Centre	Celebrating Age Wiltshire Phase 2	£1500.00

Project Description:

Celebrating Age Wiltshire (CAW) Phase 2 will use arts heritage activities to reach the most isolated older people in the Melksham area helping to tackle loneliness and aiming to improve their health and wellbeing through creative and artistic engagement. In particular, CAW will target those people who are vulnerable and socially isolated due to frailty ill health dementia poor mobility or caring responsibilities. Due to Covid-19 outbreak our work now draws on five different strands of both live and online activity. CAW is a partnership of community organisations across the county with Wiltshire Music Centre as lead organisation.

CAW Phase 1 has run very successfully in 6 community areas over the last 3 years and has engaged with some of the most vulnerable and isolated members of those communities. We now wish to build on this success and forge new links within the Melksham community in order to reach more people who are not able to socialise and attend arts and heritage events. Due to Covid-19 there are many frail older people who are even more socially isolated now and with the support of GP Care Co-ordinators Social Prescribers Community Connectors and Care workers we wish to offer more focused activity on a one to one basis for those who are referred to the project. As most activity has moved online we are planning to connect with those who are not online and offer them bespoke Creative Conversations either via telephone or when possible in their own homes. We will enrol the assistance of many volunteers to support this activity with preparation and follow up phone calls. We will also develop a Wiltshire Postcards project which will send postcards and correspondence to many older people engaging with school children to help design the images and messages sent. We will work with the Melksham Community Engagement Manager Melksham Seniors and the Age Friendly Melksham co-ordinator as well as local medical centres and sheltered housing management to refer participants to the project. Our aim is for participants to feel a reduced sense of social isolation or loneliness due to the regular connection our Creative Conversations and engagement in the project can offer them. They may also experience an increased sense of wellbeing due to learning new activities or creative stimulation. When government guidelines allow us to we will return to programming

suitable age-friendly events such as concerts, theatre, singing and poetry sharing's in local venues sheltered housing and care home gardens and lounges.

Input from Community Engagement Manager:

This request for £1,500 in 2020/21 will fund a bespoke cultural offering for Melksham community area ensuring that isolated older people gain access to high quality heritage and creative arts activity. Melksham community area's involvement forms part of the overall lottery funded programme that is benefitting a total of 10 Community Areas in the county: Trowbridge, Melksham, Calne, Amesbury, Corsham, Salisbury, Royal Wootton Bassett, South West Wiltshire, Warminster and Chippenham.

Proposal

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3690	Bulkington Parish Council	William Breach Playground Equipment Replacement	£5000.00

Project Description:

For the past two years our ROSPA safety reports on the current equipment in the playground there are a couple of items which no longer meet UK Safety standards. There was one item which is reported as being unsafe and needs to be removed to remove the risk of injury to the public the removal of this item has been completed safely by the local community. However, the removal of the item from the playground has left a significant void in the range of equipment for the local children. This project will replace provide a replacement piece a climbing tower with a new one ensuring the facilities remain a good choice for children but will now meet safety standards and remove the potential risk of the decaying wooden climbing tower.

Local children will benefit from the replacement of the climbing tower in the playground because the current one needs to be removed due to safety reasons and we want to maintain the options for play in the playground.

Input from Community Engagement Manager:

The Parish Council is contributing £ 10,000 from its reserves towards total project costs of £ 15,000.

Proposal

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3845	Forest Community Centre	Forest Community Centre Roof	£3000.00

Project Description:

We are a community centre in Forest, Melksham. Since opening back up after the COVID closed period we have discovered a leak in our roof which needs to be fixed as a matter of urgency. However, we don't have the funds to afford to get this work completed.

The local community rely on the community centre and its events and being able to hire the centre. The community centre plays an important role within the community of Forest and Melksham as a whole. Forest is classed as a deprived area of Melksham. The

community comes together at events hosted by the community centre to bring the community closer together. The centre has many outside organisations using the building, such as Older People groups, This Girl Can, Melksham Quilters, and Forest Community Centre Football Club. The centre is well used by members of the local community and it is vital that the centre continues for the long term.

Input from Community Engagement Manager:

Free reserves are being used to cover the day to day costs of running the community centre during the COVID crisis. The centre was closed from March to August and can now only open with limited capacity. The charity will be making a contribution towards to cost of these essential repairs but cannot fully fund it. The balance of match funding will come from a cash donation of £ 2,000 plus an in-kind contribution of 75 hours of volunteer time.

Proposal

That the Area Board determines the application.

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

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