

Chippenham Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

- To provide details of the grant applications made to the Chippenham Area Board. These could include:
 - community area grants
 - youth grants
 - older and vulnerable people grants
 - area board initiatives
- To document any recommendations provided through subgroups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2024-25	£ 33,527.00	£ 30,500.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 500.00	£ 9,000.00	£ 550.00
Current Balance	£ 33,027.00	£ 21,500.00	£ 7,150.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 26,027.00	£ 9,000.00	£ 650.00

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG1914	Community Area Grant	Chippenham Cycle Network Development Group	Stainers Way shared use path improvements	£10000.00	£5000.00

Project Summary:

The path along one side of Stainers Way in Cepen Park North was originally built to the standards required for shared use (i.e. people walking, wheeling and cycling), and has pink tarmac (compared to standard black tarmac on all the other paths in the area that were not intended for cycling). There is even a 'Cyclists dismount' sign present at one point where the path exits onto a road – demonstrating the expectation that people would be cycling on it. However, the path was never correctly signposted or marked as a shared use path, which now leads to confusion among people using it – it is unclear whether are people allowed to cycle here or not. This project will address this problem, to ensure everyone using the path knows it is a shared use path. The project will be delivered in phases. This funding application is for phase 1, which will cost £10K and will include:

- Signing the path at regular intervals (with shared use signs);
- Other associated road markings, signage and street furniture;
- Corduroy paving where the shared use path meets foot paths, to support people with visual impairments
- A number of dropped kerbs, to improve access onto the shared use path from nearby residential streets.

Subsequent phases will look to deliver:

- Additional dropped kerbs;
- Improved side road crossings for people walking, wheeling and cycling;
- Safety improvements at the Stainers Way/Argyle Drive roundabout;
- Safety improvements for crossing Hardenhuish Lane;
- Wayfinding signage for people cycling.

ABG1960	Community Area Grant	St Peters Church	St Peters Community Hall Area Flooring Project	£4000.00	£2000.00
<p>Project Summary: Our Community Hall in Lords Mead needs a new vinyl floor. The existing one has been in place since the hall was built in 1995 and is cracking and deteriorating. The Hall is used throughout the school year by the Lordsmead Play Group and many others, including the elderly (fitness groups and friendship lunches) and the disabled (LIGHT service). With its automatic door, the hall entrance also provides the main means of access for those using a wheelchair or walking frame and parents with pushchairs. The existing floor, currently covered with gaffer tape over the cracks, is becoming a health and safety hazard. We are looking to replace it with a new ecofriendly vinyl flooring with an A+ rating, using recycled materials and fully recyclable at the end of its own life and fitted by a local company. The lowest cost estimate we have received to date is £4K. If the project were eligible for consideration, we would be looking for a grant of £2K towards this cost.</p>					
ABG1881	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Wiltshire Scrapstore and Resource Centre	Supported volunteer placements for older people	£19063.20	£2500.00
<p>Project Summary: We want to apply for funding to help us with revenue costs towards supporting older people, who are isolated and living alone with their volunteer placement. We want to ensure we give each individual time and attention to feel fulfilled, supported with their mental well-being and given the opportunity to socially interact with others. It is important to us to support our older volunteers by making them feel at home, valued and important to our Charity, so they feel they have a purpose.</p>					
ABG1898	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding / Youth Grant	Chippenham Rugby Football Club	Chippenham RFC Mixed Ability Team Cavaliers	£24000.00	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary: Maintaining an adult playing section at the club to enable players that are returning from injuries, new SEND and disabled players, retired senior players, people who have never played rugby and players that can't afford to injure themselves due to their day to day jobs to play mixed ability rugby at a friendly local club. Setting up a U16 mixed ability team. Mixed ability rugby: 2 teams of 15, playing a competitive game of rugby (but with uncontested scrums). Each team consisting of 15 players of different size and shape, each with a unique skill sets. Area Board funding requested as follows: £2500 from Older and vulnerable people fund and £2500 from 13-19(24 with disabilities) fund.</p>					

ABG1906	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Wiltshire Rural Music	Keep Music In Mind helping older people especially those living with dementia	£3000.00	£1500.00
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Project Summary:

'Keep Music in Mind' takes live acoustic music and song sessions of 45 minutes to older people (especially those living with dementia). This can be in care homes or at dementia specific day clubs, and some day clubs for older people, often vulnerable and isolated some of whom may have early symptoms. For this bid, we propose taking two sessions each to 'Music for the Mind' (Alzheimer's Support), Seymour House (Order of St John Care Home) and Chippenham Day Centre (King Alfred's Hall). Music has medically proven well-being and health benefits for everyone, especially older people and those living with this dementia, a disease which sees a person slowly change and fade away. Our performances, delivered by experienced professional musicians, also really help carers (often older people themselves or working age family members) partly as if they get a much needed recharge if the session is at a day care club which looks after the person with dementia for a couple of hours, and also as they hear of/see the person they are slowly losing 'come back' for a short time when hearing the music and singing much loved songs. This provides a huge wellness boost and decreases feelings of isolation for carers in our community who carry out this invaluable and often thankless role. It also boosts resilience helping them to care for the person living with dementia in their own home, or reassurance to families with loved ones in care homes when they hear that enjoyable and positive activities are being provided. We developed this program in 2020 in conjunction with Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire, and it has been hugely successful. Keep Music In Mind is delivered to care homes and memory cafe's and day clubs in Wiltshire. The majority are dementia specialists but some benefit day clubs for older people many of whom are older and isolated.

ABG1932	Youth Grant	Rag and Bone Arts CIC	Chippenham Teen Improvisors and designers Take 2	£10800.00	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>We would like to provide a second year of drama improvisation and art and design for the young people of Chippenham on Wednesday evenings for another year. Following Covid, we found full length productions too much for many of our attendees due to a decrease in confidence and fear of the pressure of performance many. Consequently, we decided to take the decision to move to teaching drama improvisation session instead, which is a vital skill for any actor and a starting point for finding characters, working with others and learning how to think on your feet, responding to offers and reacting to situations. Many professional actors will use this as a way of learning how to create scenes and work spontaneously and some will find work in improvisation troupes. Some companies use improvisation to create full length plays, touring nationally and internationally and will make a living for the actors, entertaining large audiences. We like to think that introducing young people to these skills will help broaden their experience beyond using scripts and make them skilled, employable performers, for those who want to take that route. Our art and design sessions are high quality workshops where young people learn lots of design skills and think about how to produce work outside of traditional galleries. They have created another colour wall for Chippenham library and sent their mini statues of people onto the streets. This provision is also highly supported, with a minimum of two skilled members of staff in each room and a facilitator also present to support and keep safeguarding high. We have a high number of neurodiverse attendees but we're not a specialist SEN provision. We ask that anyone with an EHCP now allows us to have access to it as we need to know if our team have the skills to support them. Everyone we employ has an inclusive attitude to delivery, but we're clear that it's not an SEN group. Our expectations are high, and we train many our attendees about what a career in the arts will be like. Where they aren't there for that - we still ask them to work to their highest ability, regardless of any perceived, or actual difference. It can be a strength, instead of a weakness in many creative industries. Our drama group report really enjoying the lack of pressure in our sessions, and some took the challenge of performing in front of their parents and friends for a gig, rising to the challenge and excelling. They also worked alongside the adult drama group at this event and were spurred on to take greater risks as a result. We'd like to now challenge the actors a bit more, taking them to Bristol to see the Bristol Improv Theatre. We have contacted them and found that under 18's can attend if they're accompanied by adults, so we'd organise a trip for anyone keen to join us. We'd also like to have guest teachers in to stretch them even more if we can create enough revenue to do so. We have decided that we need to include a marketing budget for this group to try and increase our revenue. Photographing each session, posting to social media, uploading to all of the available sights, printing leaflets, contacting schools etc. all takes huge amounts of time, which we don't have alongside our planning and delivery. We need to include this in our next budget if we're to get word out and increase our numbers It can be hard for people to understand the benefits of drama improvisation without trying it first, so it may be that we can run a trial session, if we have the budget to do so. Our margins are tight, even with funding, so we need to make sure that we keep finding new attendees. We are keen to help young people discover the joy of improvisation and art and design, so this element is vital if we are to continue to be successful.</p>					
ABG1959	Youth Grant	We Hear You	Counselling in Chippenham for young people aged 13 to 19 affected by cancer	£37445.20	£5000.00

Project Summary:

Our mission is to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of local young people affected by cancer and other life-threatening conditions. Each year, we provide high-quality counselling for over 500 individuals, families, children and young people across Wiltshire, Bath and North-East Somerset and Somerset, with a focus on supporting those with limited income. We are applying for funds to help us continue to provide free and low-cost counselling for young people of Chippenham, who have been affected by cancer or other life-threatening conditions. We have been providing high-quality, compassionate and person-centered counselling across our region for 30 years. We have a team of highly experienced professional counsellors, with extensive knowledge of and insight into life-threatening illness. They provide a safe and comfortable space to help young people talk openly about the problems, feeling and worries they are facing. In Chippenham, our counselling takes place at 'The Therapy Rooms' on Pew Hill. We also offer online sessions and sessions by phone, if this is preferred by the client. During each session, young people can say the unsayable, and ask the unanswerable, without fear or judgement. We help young people come to terms with their diagnosis or bereavement, work through their emotions, and build tools to cope. The average number of weekly sessions used is 9 per person, but we offer up to 16 sessions and more if needed for those with the most severe concerns. Over the last year, we have been able to offer three sessions a week at our Chippenham space. But we have recently recruited more counselling resource for this area, which will enable us to offer help to 10 local residents per week from September. We have taken this step due to the high level of demand we are receiving from people affected by cancer and other illnesses in this area. This will enable us to triple the number of local residents we can support over the course of the year, but we are in great need of funds to enable this level of support to continue. The total cost of 10 sessions per week for 12 months is £37,445.20 which includes counsellor costs, clinical management and supervision, service coordination, room hire, and a small contribution to our essential running costs (admin, finance, HR, utilities etc). A grant of £5,000 will fund just under 50% of the cost of three sessions per week in Chippenham which will be solely for young people for one year.

Background

3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
 - Community Area Grants (capital)
 - Youth Grants (revenue)
 - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

Main Considerations

6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young person's funding guidelines have been adhered to.
7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by subgroups of the Area Boards.

Safeguarding Implications

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

Public Health Implications

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

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

11. 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.

Financial Implications

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

Legal Implications

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

Workforce Implications

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

Equalities Implications

15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community-based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

Proposals

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

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