

Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	04/11/2020
Title of Report	Community Area Grant funding

Purpose of the report:

To consider the applications for funding listed below.

Applicant	Amount requested
Applicant: Conigre Mead Volunteers Project Title: Brush Cutter View full application	£590.00
Applicant: Atworth Youth Club Project Title: Replacement of toilets and construction of disabled access at Atworth Youth Club View full application	£5000.00

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
3909	Conigre Mead Volunteers	Brush Cutter	£590.00
Project Description: The Conigre Mead volunteers urgently require a brush cutter tool for maintenance of Conigre Mead Nature reserve.			
Input from Community Engagement Manager: Visitors to the Nature Reserve will benefit from safe clear paths and access to nature areas. This will benefit particularly children and disabled visitors as the paths width can be maintained and kept clear of obstructions. The community group has limited funds which are kept for emergencies.			
Proposal That the Area Board determines the application.			

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
3859	Atworth Youth Club	Replacement of toilets and construction of disabled access at Atworth Youth Club	£5000.00

Project Description:

We need to update the toilet facilities at the Youth Club. The facilities are not fit for purpose and cannot meet the requirements of the system of controls for COVID-19. There is no hot water and toilets fail to flush frequently. The current facilities limit the way in which the building can be used for the community and currently prevent the Youth Club re-opening due to COVID-19 compliance.

Input from Community Engagement Manager:

Atworth Youth Club provides the only youth provision for the young people of Atworth. The facilities represent a local building that could be available for the local community many of whom are unable to travel to the local towns. A significant percentage of the young people come from low-income rural families who do not have access to other provision. Atworth is part of the Melksham Community Area in which 13.5% of children and young people under 20 live in low-income families. The Club runs a Membership Assistance scheme for families that would like to send young people to the club but would struggle with the cost. They especially recognise this can be a challenge for those with several children. The aim is that no young person should be excluded from attending based on ability to pay. They are updating the toilet facilities in the youth club building as the current facilities cannot be made COVID-19 compliant due to a lack of hot running water and surfaces that are difficult to clean due to age and deterioration. The facilities at present are not fit for use for their clients and prevent other community groups from using the space. The toilets are often extremely difficult to flush especially for the young people. The cold taps are difficult to fully turn off and the urinals continually flush leading to water waste. The current facilities limit the way in which the building can be used as well as preventing people from hiring the space especially in the case of people with disabilities or very young children. The new toilet facilities will be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act DDA 2005 current safety standards and Public Health guidance. They will install one unisex disabled toilet and one unisex cubicle with water saving toilets and install taps with push button taps in order to save water usage. There are currently no baby changing facilities in the hall and the installation of a baby changing unit will provide further opportunities for hiring the club house out to the community. This project will bring the community together by providing better facilities which can be used by a wider range of users including those with young children through the installation of a baby changing unit and provision of hot running water. Through this project they will provide a safer and cleaner space for the clubhouse users. They will also provide a greater environmentally friendly facility for users by saving water with the installation of water saving toilets and push button taps. A measurable impact will be seen in a reduction to the club's water bill due to the water saving facilities having been installed. They regularly speak to the young people and ask for their feedback about the youth club and the activities on offer and they have expressed a need to update the toilets. They also know from potential club house users that one of the reasons why they have not hired the building is due to the facilities being outdated, appearing unhygienic and not in good working order. The toilets were installed in the 1960s and cannot meet the Systems of Control required to make the club house safe during the pandemic. Without this upgrade in facilities it will not be possible for the youth club to open safely. In addition without the improvements to disabled access the building is not compliant and not accessible.

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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