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| <b>Report to</b>       | <b>Warminster Area Board</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | <b>8 May 2014</b>            |
| <b>Title of Report</b> | <b>Community Area Grants</b> |

## Purpose of Report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following 5 applications seeking 2014 /15 Community Area Grant funding.

| <b>Applicant</b>               | <b>Project</b>  | <b>Request</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Corsley memorial Playing Field | All weather outdoor table tennis table                | £999.53        |
| Corsley Reading Room           | Building IT literacy in local community               | £383.88        |
| Corsley Reading Room           | Building a new wall at side of Reading Room           | £1700          |
| Warminster Town Council        | Warminster Festival                                   | £4000          |
| Wiltshire Blind Association    | Assistive Technology workshops / drop –ins Warminster | £3933.32       |

The requests total:

- £4,000 from the revenue budget of £7936

(NB £6,835 also requested for Warminster and Villages Community Area Partnership from revenue pot under item no.11)

- £383.88 from the digital literacy budget of £1,500
- £6632.85 from the capital budget of 44,968.33

## Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria 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 emphasis in the Coalition Government's 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. Warminster area Board has been allocated a 2014 / 15 capital budget of £44,968.33 for community grants and area board / councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. £7,936 revenue funding is available to fund the Community Area Partnership and for any revenue funding requests for 2014 /15.
- 1.6. £1,500 is also available to fund digital literacy projects.
- 1.7. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.8. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (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.
- 1.9. In addition to CAGs and Small 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. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.10. From April 2014, officers are **not** required to provide recommendations in their funding reports. The decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.11. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.12. The funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

- 1.13. A decision was been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.14. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.15. Warminster Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget for 2014 /15 for £15,226 and with an under-spend in 2013 /14 the total is £26,369.58 (see item no.12).

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014 /15 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. Community Area Managers are no longer required to submit recommendations for community area grant requests. All requests will be presented to the Area Board as long as the grant criteria are met.

## **3. Environmental & Community Implications**

Community Area Grants will 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 Warminster Area Board.

## **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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

## 8. Grant request detail:

| Ref | Applicant                      | Project proposal                       | Funding requested |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 8.1 | Corsley Memorial Playing Field | All weather outdoor table tennis table | £999.53           |

8.1.1 The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria.

8.1.2 Funding is available from the Warminster Area Board's capital allocation.

8.1.3 The project is to purchase and install an all weather outdoor table tennis table at Corsley memorial Playing Field. This is a very popular activity with young people and older people alike. Disabled people will also be able to play, including those using wheelchairs.

8.1.4 The aim of the project is to allow table tennis to be played outside in most weather.

8.1.5 Corsley Memorial Playing Field provides affordable leisure activities for Corsley, Chapmanslade and the surrounding villages. There will be free coaching available at the launch of the table tennis if funded. The event will include a barbecue and will be publicised widely. Coaching will also form part of the annual sports day in Corsley.

8.1.6 Match funding is not required under £1000. However, the group will be able to purchased bats and balls, supply some coaching and fund the barbeque event

| Ref | Applicant            | Project proposal                            | Funding requested |
|-----|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.2 | Corsley Reading Room | Building IT literacy in the local community | £383.88           |

8.2.1 The Community Area Manager has appraised the application which meets the grants criteria of the digital literacy programme.

8.2.2 Funding is available from the Area Board's digital literacy allocation.

8.2.3 The project will provide wifi in the Corsley Reading rooms to support regular sessions in sharing skills and knowledge on how to use smart phones, tablets, and laptops for communication, creativity, accessing services and learning.

8.2.4 Many people living in Corsley and nearby want to learn more about using the internet and accompanying technology as above and the sessions will be well utilised by the local community to increase their digital literacy skills.

8.2.5 Match funding is not required for this amount of funding under digital literacy criteria.

| Ref | Applicant            | Project proposal                             | Funding requested |
|-----|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| 8.3 | Corsley Reading Room | Build a new wall at the side of the building | £1,700            |

8.3.1 The Community Area Manager has appraised this project which meets the grant criteria.

8.3.2 Funding is available from the Area Board's capital allocation.

8.3.3 The project is to build a new wall at the side of the building between the building and the road. A hand rail will also be included. The new wall will add value to the building and is therefore a capital item. The current wall along the roadside is currently unsafe and crumbling.

8.3.4 All users of the Corsley Reading Rooms will benefit from this project especially those who need help with walking up the steep hill via the new handrail.

8.3.5 Match funding is in place for £1700 for the total cost of £3400.

| Ref | Applicant               | Project proposal         | Funding requested |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.4 | Warminster Town council | Warminster Festival 2014 | £4000             |

8.4.1 The Community Area Manager has appraised this project which meets the grant criteria.

8.4.2 Funding may be available from the Area Board's revenue allocation although the Board should note that there is also a request from the Warminster and Villages Community Area Partnership (WVCP) for running costs of £6,835. The Warminster Area Board total revenue allocation for 2014 /15 is £7936.

8.4.3 The Town Council alongside partners are hoping to hold a bi-annual festival to promote and foster appreciation of and participation in arts, sports and leisure activities. The event will help to promote social inclusion. The theme will be "The Wonders of Warminster". The festival will show case local talent as well as introducing new experiences and interests. It links with the annual Carnival and the Army firework display.

8.4.4 The total project costs are £15,350 and there is match funding in place from a number of organisations including Warminster Town Council, the Lions, Rotary Club and the Fudge Trust.

8.4.5. Members are requested to decide the allocation of the revenue budget of £7,936 noting requests for Warminster festival of £4,000 and the WVCP of £6,835. These requests for funding are £2,899 in excess of the revenue allocation.

| Ref | Applicant                   | Project proposal                                    | Funding requested |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.5 | Wiltshire Blind Association | Assistive Technology Workshop / Drop-ins Warminster | £3933.32          |

8.5.1 The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria.

8.5.2 Funding is available from the Warminster Area Board's capital allocation.

8.5.3 The project is to provide Assistive Technology workshops at Warminster Fire Station for people with sight loss over a 12 month period. The sessions will be run free of charge and will be provided by a sight advisor supported by volunteers. The sessions teach people how to use computers and assistive technology and help them with many aspects of their lives including finances, work, volunteering, internet usage, shopping and communications.

8.5.4 The project will deliver 24 workshops of 3 hours with 10 participants each time totalling 240 people. There will also be 20 drop in sessions of 2 hours each. At least 60 people will attend these over the year. All will be supported by a sight advisor and trained volunteers.

8.5.5 Assistive technology is vital for those with sight loss in breaking down barriers to allow people to fully participate in society. The project will also reduce isolation, improve mental health, maintain independence and self esteem helping the local community to become stronger and more resilient.

8.5.6 The total project will cost £16,658.32 and match funding is in place from reserves. Any funding from the Area Board would be to provide the capital items listed which total £3,933.32. This includes lap top computers, tablets and specialist assistive technology equipment.

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| <b>Documents used in the production of this report</b> | <b>Completed Community Area Grant Application forms</b><br><b>Community Area Grants criteria</b><br><b>Digital Literacy criteria</b><br><b>Warminster Area Board Funding allocation</b> |
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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