

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	8 January 2015
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

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

Applicant	Project	Request
Warminster Athenaeum Trust	New staging	£5000

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. The remaining capital budget is £32,363.67
- 1.6. £1,500 has been allocated to fund digital literacy projects.

- 1.7. Applications of up to and including £1000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5000.
- 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. The final round of applications for grant funding will be presented at the next Area Board meeting which is on 5 March 2015.
- 1.12. The funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. A decision was 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; please see the separate CATG report for detail regarding budget and expenditure.

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.
- 4.2. If the applications are approved by the Area Board, the remaining capital allocation will be £27,363.67

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	Warminster Athenaeum Trust	Athenaeum Staging	£5000

8.1.1 The Community Area Manager has appraised the application which meets The grants criteria for 2014 / 15.

8.1.2 Members may wish to note that the Athenaeum Trust has received 4 grants previously from the Warminster Area Board since 2009. These are as follows:

- I. 2009 Restoration of building – including disabled accessibility measures; first floor link from auditorium to bar £4,873
- II. 2011 Works to steps and entrance to improve disabled access £4,950
- III. 2012 Toilet block including DDA compliance £5,000
- IV. 2013 Lighting system £5,000

The 4 grants received from the Area Board since 2009 total £19,823. Awarding the 5th grant for £5,000 will take the total to £24,823 since 2009.

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

8.1.4 The applicant states that the funding is to "replace the old staging, flat pulleys with a Health & Safety approved pulley System".

8.1.5 The project's beneficiaries are "3 amateur theatre groups and 1 School Drama group which stage 12 productions annually. We also attract a number of professional touring groups: "

8.1.6 Match funding is available. The total project cost is £20,000 and the Athenaeum will match £15,000 from reserves, donations and the Athenaeum Friends.

Documents used in the production of this report	Completed Community Area Grant Application forms Community Area Grants criteria Warminster Area Board Funding allocation
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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