

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	4 March 2015
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider 6 funding applications and allocation of remaining revenue funding.

1. Athelstan Museum are seeking £4,000 capital funding towards phase 1 (development phase) of a project that will see the purchase, restoration and refit of 18th century listed former Moravian Church.
2. Malmesbury Tennis Club are seeking £12,000 capital funding towards the cost of building two additional floodlit hard courts and a floodlit mini tennis court with practice wall.
3. St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council and partners are seeking £5,000 capital funding towards the construction of a new walking link between the Cowbridge residential development and Malmesbury town.
4. Oaksey Parish Council is seeking £500 capital funding towards an auto-winder installation for the church tower clock in All Saints Church, Oaksey.
5. Crudwell Village Hall Committee is seeking £5,000 capital funding towards tarmac part of their car park and marking out parking bays.
6. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust are seeking £2,900 capital funding towards the provision of a disabled toilet for the community meeting room in the Peterborough Arms pub, Dauntsey Lock.
7. To allocate the balance of the area board revenue budget of £1,951.20, to the Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP), for 2015 legacy projects.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Leader of the Council. Under the Scheme of Delegation area boards must adhere to the [area board funding criteria and guidance 2014/15](#).

1.2. Key aspects of the 2014/15 criteria include:

- The decision to support a funding application and to what level will be the decision of the area board, with no officer recommendation.
- Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding, however the area board will look more positively on applicants where they are able to contribute some funding towards their project.
- Amounts of £1,001 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding.
- The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- Malmesbury Area Board's Community Area Grants scheme will be for capital projects only.
- The area board will prioritise funding to projects under the two JSA 2013 -2015 headings, *Health & Wellbeing* and *Leisure* (details of which can be found [here](#)), having identified them as top areas for community and area board attention during the coming year.

1.3. 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 why this should justify an exception to the criteria which must be minuted.

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1.5. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy 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.

1.6. There will only be a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. [The application process and funding criteria can be found here.](#)

1.7. Funding will be considered at every area board and these dates including the [deadline for receipt of applications can be found on the Malmesbury area board webpage.](#)

1.8. This is the last funding round for 2014/15.

1.9. At the time of writing the area board budget for 2015/16 is unknown. Assuming a budget is allocated, the deadlines for receipt of funding applications in the coming year will be:

- **20 March 2015 for consideration at 6 May 2015 area board**
- 22 May 2015 for consideration at 8 July 2015 area board
- 31 July 2015 for consideration at 9 September 2015 area board
- 25 September 2015 for consideration at 4 November 2015 area board
- 27 November 2015 for consideration at 13 January 2016 area board
- 22 January 2016 for consideration at 2 March 2016 area board

1.10. Within the capital budget, £2,000 capital is ring-fenced for digital literacy grants of up to £500 each.

1.11. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of £34,527.87 capital funding and £6,093 revenue in 2014/2015.

1.12. At the 9 July area board, councillors approved a capital only community grants scheme for 2014/15 and allocated:

- £4,059 revenue to MVCAP
- £5,000 capital to Brinkworth Heritage Society.

1.13. At the 10 September area board, councillors approved:

- £1,368 capital to First Malmesbury (King Athelstan) Scout Group
- Emergency Planning event refreshments, which totalled £82.95 revenue.

1.14. At 5 November area board, councillors approved:

- £1,014.96 capital to Cross Hayes Pre-school.

1.15. At the January area board councillors approved:

- £5,000 capital to Activ Acre playground
- £995 capital to Minety Preschool

1.16. The area board current balance is **£19,144.91 capital** (excluding £2,000 ring-fenced for digital literacy projects) and **£1,951.20 revenue**.

1.17. The demand for capital funding outstrips the supply.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Area Board Community Area Grant Scheme and Digital Literacy Grants – information and funding criteria 2014/15
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded by the area board satisfy [2014/15 area board funding criteria](#) and financial regulations of the council and can proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. On 7 May, Malmesbury area board agreed to prioritise two themes from the 2013-15 Joint Strategic Assessment, which had been highlighted at the 'What Matters to You', event held in April. These were *Health & Wellbeing* and *Leisure*.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. The demand for capital funding outstrips the budget available.

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 and Small 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.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications will be outlined in section 8 of the funding report.

8. Applications for Consideration

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Athelstan Museum	To purchase, restore and refit the former Moravian Church	£4,000 capital

- 8.1.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15. This project does not link to either of the two local Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) priorities the area board identified for consideration in 2014/15. It does however relate to the desire to promote culture and community engagement.

- 8.1.2. The applicant is seeking £4,000 towards the development phase of the project (costing £32,300). This will lead to the delivery phase (costing £344,500), which will involve purchasing, restoring and refitting the 18th century listed former Moravian Church to community use as a meeting and exhibition space for the Museum and for community groups as well as for the storage of the Museum's collection of artefacts.
- 8.1.3. The applicant is hoping to receive Heritage Lottery funding towards both the development and delivery phases. Confirmation from HLF regarding phase 1 should be received shortly before the March area board. It is suggested that any award is conditional on this funding being received.
- 8.1.4. It should be noted that the museum is committed to raising £50,000 towards the whole project, in addition to the estimated £59,350 value of the Museum's volunteer team.
- 8.1.5. The plans to develop the Church will allow the Museum to mount larger exhibitions on the community's heritage plus bring in travelling exhibitions from other institutions around the country. In addition it will provide desperately needed storage space for the Museum's growing collection, and also provide additional community space, which it is hoped can be rented to local community groups or exhibitions. A kitchenette and toilet facilities will be provided and the whole building made fully accessible.
- 8.1.6. Friends of Athelstan Museum (owners/operators of the Museum) currently have 260 members who support and work in or for the Museum and more will be encouraged to join them as this project develops.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Malmesbury Tennis Club	Two floodlit hard courts and a floodlit mini tennis court with practice wall.	£12,000 capital

- 8.2.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15 and links directly the two area board 2014/15 JSA priorities of Health & Wellbeing and Leisure. The area board criteria state that that the area board does not normally make awards of more than £5,000.
- 8.2.2. The applicant is requesting financial support towards almost doubling their playing facilities at the club. This will include two floodlit courts and one mini court for use by under 10 year olds, as well as a practice wall. The application includes fencing and court equipment.
- 8.2.3. The applicant is seeking £12,000 from the area board towards their £145,053 project. £100,000 has already been raised from a Sport England grant and a Lawn Tennis Association loan. Funding has been provided by the Carnival Committee, Club reserves and the remainder will come from club fundraising.

- 8.2.4. The applicant is keen to emphasise that these additional facilities will allow the club to grow their offer of tennis to all age groups within the town regardless of whether or not they are members of the club. The facilities will benefit anyone in the community who wishes to play tennis.
- 8.2.5. The club provides coaching for pupils at Malmesbury Primary School as part of their PE curriculum and other schools have been invited to use the facilities. Additional courts would reduce the number of children per court and improve the quality of their tuition. 'Drop in' Saturday sessions for children are popular, but the ambition is to offer coaching for parents at the same time. Annual membership for junior membership is £30.
- 8.2.6. The club runs sessions for local businesses e.g. Dyson and other groups such as Young Farmers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, full time carers and retired people. More courts will allow the club to extend this type of programme to engage the wider community.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council and partners	New walking route between the Cowbridge residential development and Malmesbury town.	£5,000 capital

- 8.3.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15 and links directly the two area board 2014/15 JSA priorities of Health & Wellbeing and Leisure.
- 8.3.2. The applicant is seeking £5,000 to complete the works associated with providing a formal footpath connecting residents in the Cowbridge area with the Malmesbury town, using the disused railway line and Cowbridge Weir bridge. This is a partnership project involving Sustrans, Malmesbury town council, St Paul Malmesbury Without parish council, local residents and other stakeholders. All key partners have contributed towards this project, costing £40,000.
- 8.3.3. The project is nearing its completion, when the responsibility of the maintenance will fall to St Paul Malmesbury Without parish council, but until that time this is a community project and therefore eligible for funding from the area board.
- 8.3.4. The route will create safe walking between Cowbridge and Malmesbury for residents, workers and tourists. Currently the only route to Cowbridge from Malmesbury is a narrow footpath along the B4042 or indirect footpaths. In particular it will offer an alternative safe route to school in Malmesbury.
- 8.3.5. The area board did provide funding towards this project in 2013/14, however project costs have increased due to unexpected delays and expenses associated with negotiations with landowners.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Oaksey Parish Council	Auto-winder installation for the tower clock of All Saints Church, Oaksey	£500 capital

- 8.4.1. It is considered border-line as to whether this application meets the grant criteria 2014/15. It does not link to the area board's 2014/15 JSA priorities. Funding is not normally made to parish councils except where there is a wider community benefit and falls outside the responsibilities of the parish precept. The area board will have to consider this application carefully.
- 8.4.2. It would appear that some years ago the parish council took responsibility for the insurance and maintenance of the clock as a village amenity, but there are no records available. It does, however seem strange that the clock and its mechanism should not be the responsibility of All Saint's Parochial Church Council (PCC).
- 8.4.3. The parish council has sought funding from the PCC (£1,500) and is seeking £500 from the area board towards a scheme totalling £4,722.
- 8.4.4. The applicant wants to replace the manual winding clock mechanism which requires climbing a twenty foot ladder, entering a trapdoor into the loft, using a crank-handle to wind the clock and chime mechanisms. This requires strenuous physical effort every other day to avoid the chime weights from hitting the floor and stopping the clock. An auto-winder installation will remove the need for hand winding and decommission the heavy weights.
- 8.4.5. The applicant considers the Church as central to the village being next to the school and to the playing field and the village hall so the clock will benefit all the villagers.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Crudwell Village Hall Committee	Tarmac part of the car park and marking out parking bays.	£5,000 capital

- 8.5.1. The application meets the grant criteria 2014/15, but does not directly link to the area board's two 2014/15 JSA priorities. The area board will need to consider the degree of community benefit a car park will provide.
- 8.5.2. The car park servicing the village hall, playing fields and play area is only partially surfaced (near the hall) and the desire is to re-surface the other half and mark out bays. This is to ensure a less hazardous surface and better use of the space available.
- 8.5.3. This project is supported by many hall users, including the Pre-school, Rainbows, Brownies, flower club and Malmesbury Decorative and Fine Arts Society who have over 70-90 members attending monthly meetings. The

facilities at the village hall site are well used, but it seems a pity that the parish council is not in a position to support this project.

8.5.4. The total project cost is £19,498, with community funding coming from Bike riding funding (£9,000), MDFS (£1,000) and £4,696 from village hall fundraising.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Disabled toilet for the community meeting room at Peterborough Arms pub	£2,900 capital

8.6.1. The application meets the grant criteria 2014/15, but does not directly link to the area board's two 2014/15 JSA priorities. Provision of these facilities will ensure inclusive use of the community room.

8.6.2. The first stage of the refurbishment of The Peterborough Arms pub (recently purchased by the applicant) is to create a community meeting room which requires a DDA compliant toilet. The applicant is seeking funding to provide a unisex disabled toilet.

8.6.3. Planning permission is being applied for and any funding would be conditional on this being received.

8.6.4. The total cost of this project is £7,800, a seemingly high figure, but this is a Grade 2 listed building. £1,410 has been obtained through fundraising and £1,000 is being sought from the parish council. Volunteer time and expertise is calculated at £2,490, as some work will be carried out by trust volunteers, some of whom are qualified trades people.

8.6.5. The Dauntsey Lock community have been without a meeting place since the Peterborough Arms closed two years ago. Both this immediate community and the wider community in Dauntsey will benefit from a meeting room large enough for about 50 people. Quiz nights, film shows, group meetings have all been expressed as uses of such a community space. There is plenty of parking for those coming from outside the immediate area.

8.6.6. Over the next year or two the pub itself will be refurbished and re-opened as a community pub, with letting rooms, run by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. The canal track will be purchased and this will complement the pub and attract more business. The re-opening of the pub and the canal centre with boat trips and possible bike hire will bring economic benefits to the community in the way of jobs and local tourism which will all benefit local suppliers. It is all part of the larger restoration of the whole Wilts & Berks Canal, opening up long distance walking and cycling paths and a green corridor for wildlife, providing health and social benefits and access for all.

9. It is suggested that the area board award the balance of their revenue funding £1,951.20 to Malmesbury & Village Community Area Partnership to be used towards a 2015 Legacy project, the details of which are still to be finalised.

Appendices	Appendix 1 containing all funding applications
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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