

Report to	Marlborough Area Board	Agenda Item No.9
Date of Meeting	23 November 2010	
Title of Report	Community Area Grants	

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider two applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding:

- a. Kennet Valley Village Hall request £2,000 to remove the obsolete heating system and replace with a new more efficient and economical system.
- b. Aldbourne Website Group request £3,490 to purchase and install weather station and webcam equipment.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for Funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons as to why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £45,472 for community grants, community partnership core funding and area board projects. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £7,409. This leaves a total budget of £52,881 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 1.6. A decision has 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.
- 1.7. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Marlborough Community Area Manager Julia Densham (julia.densham@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Marlborough Community Area Plan 2004/14
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be six rounds of funding during 20010/11. The fifth is contained in this report and the remaining will take place on:
 - 8 February 2011

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. 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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If the grant requests detailed in this report are awarded, Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of £38,911.

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.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – ‘Officer Recommendations’.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Kennet Valley Village Hall	To remove the obsolete heating system and replace with a new more efficient and economical system.	£2,000

- 8.1.1. It is recommended that councillors consider this application for £2,000 towards the costs of removing the obsolete heating system and replacing it with a new more efficient and economical system.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets grant criteria 2010/11.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates direct links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan in the following sections: to encourage community events that

create a sense of pride and well-being (section 8.5), involving young people in activities (section 8.8) and to increase the number of appropriate cultural venues (section 8.3).

- 8.1.4. This project demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council's priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire that aims to create stronger and more inclusive communities and help young people to take part in positive activities.
- 8.1.5. Kennet Valley Village Hall have already funded the refurbishment of the hall's electrical system from other funding streams and have researched sustainable energy options with an independent assessment before deciding on this project proposal.
- 8.1.6. Should the Area Board make a decision not to fund the project, Kennet Valley Village Hall will have to delay its implementation while it seeks alternative funding, possibly at an increased amount due to the increase in VAT rate.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Aldbourn Website Group	To purchase and install weather station and webcam equipment. The former will provide a live and accurate forecast, plus an introduction to the science of weather and climate for the children of the village. The latter will give an overview of both human and animal/bird life in the local area.	£3,490

- 8.2.1. Aldbourn Website Group - It is recommended that councillors consider this application for £3,490 towards the costs of purchasing and installing weather station and webcam equipment, conditional upon the balance of funding and volunteer time being in place.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets grant criteria 2010/11.
- 8.2.3. This application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to support agriculture (sections 1.1), monitor the use of key village facilities (section 1.8), to support the delivery of policies of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (section 7.6) and to increase numbers of young people engaging in activities (section 8.8).
- 8.2.4. This project demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council's priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire that aims to build 'resilient communities' with high social capital through people feeling socially included, enabling people and communities to build skills, abilities, knowledge and confidence to take effective action and play leading roles in the development of their communities and so enhance their quality of life.

8.2.5. Aldbourne Website Group has sourced the most competitive equipment costs via online suppliers and their quotations have been inspected. The organisation has links via its membership with the Meteorological Office.

8.2.6. Should the Area Board make a decision not to fund the project, Aldbourne Website Group will have to delay its implementation while alternative funding is sought

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Kennet Valley Hall Association Appendix 2 Grant application – Aldbourne Website Group
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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