

BRADFORD ON AVON AREA BOARD

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
24 NOVEMBER 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

Report from the Bradford on Avon Community Area Grants Advisory Group

The Bradford on Avon Community Area Grants Advisory Group is composed of Parish Councillors from across the Bradford on Avon Community Area. The Group is tasked with examining applications requesting community area grant funding to ensure best value for money. The comments from the group are presented to the Wiltshire Council Councillors on the area board as additional information to help them when they are deciding whether to award funding. The decision on whether to award funding is taken at a public area board meeting by Wiltshire Councillors.

The Grants Advisory Group considered the three grant applications electronically. Comments were received from Councillor Bil Bailey (Limpley Stoke Parish Council), Cllr Terry Biles (Westwood Parish Council and Cllr Alan Mines (Wingfield Parish Council).

The group have put forward the following comments on each application:

Holt Sports & Recreation Committee - Second Sports Court - £5000

Members of the advisory group commented that this was clearly already a successful community initiative which enjoyed broad and growing support. It was felt that such success is worthy of further support, especially as the Community Plan identifies need. It was also recognised that Holt has various active and successful community based projects/improvements currently in hand.

Some members of the advisory group expressed concern that there remained costs for the project which were outstanding. Other members of the group did not see this as a serious obstacle.

In summary, the group were minded to support the bid in full.

The group additionally asked whether it would be possible for Beejays Netball Club to be invited to use the new court in a broadened and expanded netball facility.

Bradford on Avon Chamber of Commerce - Christmas Lights - £1880

Members of the advisory group expressed concern that this was essentially a commercial venture which would primarily benefit traders in the town. It was felt that the perceived benefit to residents of the town would be very short-lived.

It was also questioned whether this would set a dangerous precedent and that similar applications could follow on an annual basis.

In light of this, the group expressed reservations in the use of public funding to fund the Christmas lights.

It was suggested that perhaps a smaller grant could be awarded – of £1000 or £500 or that the grant request be refused in full.

Beejays Netball Club - Expanded provision - £560

Members of the grant advisory group commented that appeared to be a moderately successful community initiative which seeks to provide an enhanced facility to a limited part of the community.

They suggested that the club should seek to offer its facilities to a slightly wider audience within the community.

Members of the group were in agreement that the funding request is modest and proportionate, and they were minded to support the grant request in full.

They further commented that should Beejays Club be pleased to accept a condition to seek to offer its expertise and expand its provision in concert with the Holt netball community that they would be supportive of the award of a larger grant of £1000.