

Report to	Melksham Area Board	Agenda Item No.8
Date of Meeting	1 December 2010	
Title of Report	Community Area Grants	

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2010/2011 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **Keevil Parish Council** have applied for a grant of **£330** towards repairs to the village playing field fencing. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **Seend Parochial Church Council** have applied for a grant of **£1556** towards a new printer for the Spotlight community magazine. The recommendation is to award the funding.
3. **Bath Spa University** have applied for **£5000** towards the Melksham Resilience project. The recommendation is to award the funding.
4. **Atworth Youth Club** have applied for **£930** towards a Duke of Edinburgh's award training and activities. The recommendation is to award the funding.
5. **Lowbourn Neighbourhood Centre** have applied for **£959** towards IT equipment. The recommendation is to award the funding.

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 recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 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. EXAMPLE Two applicants withdrew their applications and hope to reapply at a future date. One application did not meet the funding criteria and was referred to Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. CIB work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every other Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Melksham Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £49,762 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £1,783. This leaves a total budget of £51,545 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. 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 Community Area Manager.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Melksham Community Strategy• Grant applications
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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 3 more rounds of funding during 2010/11. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on 2 February 2011 and 29 March 2011.

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 Melksham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Melksham Area Board will have a balance of **£13,464**

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	Keevil Parish Council	Repairs to the village playing field fencing.	£330

- 8.1.1. The recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.1.3. This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.
- 8.1.4. This application meets locally agreed priorities in that residents have approached the parish council about this issue.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a parish council.
- 8.1.6. This funding will go towards replacing some fencing that needs maintenance adjacent to properties that border the playing field.
- 8.1.7. No equality and inclusion issues will be addressed by the project
- 8.1.8. If the area board does not grant funding the parish council would seek alternative funding routes.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Seend Parochial Church Council	Purchase of a new printer for the Spotlight community magazine	£1556

- 8.2.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.2.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.2.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan in terms of 'coordinating information for local people'.
- 8.2.4. Locally agreed priorities: spotlight supporting Big Society.
- 8.2.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.2.6. SPPC are looking to fund a new printer as the current one is becoming

increasing unreliable and difficult to maintain. It is used to print the community magazine, which is edited and printed by volunteers. Over 700 copies are distributed to all home in Seend and Bulkington 10 times a year. The printer that they would like is a DEVELOP INEO+35. This new printer will increase the print quality and also save volunteers time as it will print in sets so little collating is required.

8.2.7. No equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project.

8.2.8. If the area board does not grant funding the group would attempt to raise funding from other sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Bath Spa University	Melksham 0-19 Resilience Project	£5000

8.3.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.3.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.3.3. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan. It addresses directly Priority 3 - Young People, in particular young people themselves recognising and dealing with anti social behaviour issues

8.3.4. Locally agreed priorities: Educational attainment in Melksham is low compared with most other parts of Wiltshire. This project would help to address this and also have an impact on antisocial behaviour which is an issue that is often raised in the town.

8.3.5. The applicant is a university.

8.3.6. Bath Spa University are keen to develop action based research on developing emotional resilience among children and young people – especially the most vulnerable – and its impact on school outcomes, behaviour and family relationships. They are also interested as to how a common approach might improve cross school and multi agency working, and the way in which families experience these. Melksham was chosen, as one of the most deprived areas within Wiltshire where work had been undertaken in 2008 to develop collaboration, but had been discontinued owing to a lack of funding. The town already has two Children’s Centres, while several of the schools have traditions of innovation in Special Needs and Behaviour Support. Melksham Oak School has for several years been developing ‘Restorative’ approaches which seek to understand why a student is misbehaving and help to develop alternative coping strategies and self confidence. Other agencies have expressed interest in joining the project, including the police and youth services. By developing a 0-19

'joined up' approach along these lines we can benefit young people, families and the community, as well as developing a model which can be replicated elsewhere.

- 8.3.7. Equality and inclusion issues: Improving the educational outcomes and behaviour for children and young people is likely to impact on those from the most vulnerable families.
- 8.3.8. If the area board does not grant funding then the project would have to be scaled down reducing the potential impact on individual staff, children, families and the community, and potentially weakening any bids for future funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Atworth Youth Club	Duke of Edinburgh's Award training and activities.	£930

- 8.4.1. The recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.4.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.4.3. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan in terms of providing additional structured positive activities for young people and to achieve greater benefits and provide a greater variety of activities and sessions from existing youth facilities.
- 8.4.4. Locally agreed priorities: the young people have asked to participate in Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme.
- 8.4.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.4.6. Training a youth worker to enable us to offer young people (approx 16) the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Also equipment for the whole Thursday evening over 13's group to participate in sports, craft projects and promoting healthy cooking/eating.
- 8.4.7. Equality and inclusion issues: This project focuses on giving young people aged 13-19 from Atworth and the surrounding area the opportunity to participate in structured activities, access to support and guidance from trained youth workers and the opportunity to take part in volunteering in their community
- 8.4.8. If the area board does not grant funding the project will not go ahead until alternative funding is found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Lowbourne Neighbourhood Centre	IT equipment	£959

8.5.1 The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.5.2 Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.5.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan in terms of access to broadband. Internet access for all in compliance with the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026.

8.5.4 No other locally agreed priorities.

8.5.5 The applicant is a not for profit organisation.

8.5.6 With the grant money we will purchase IT equipment, so that residents can access the internet and other useful services for free. We can then use the equipment to provide other training programmes, to improve skills and education. The project will benefit the community through increased facilities. With access to IT equipment, there are further possibilities for development. One such idea we have is to host a work club, to support people back into work. JobCentre Plus very much support this action. The IT equipment will help people to create CV's, and send them to employers. Benefiting the local community be increasing employability.

8.5.7 Equality and inclusion issues: The neighbourhoods of Queensway and Forest are significantly higher in terms of multiple indices of deprivation in relation to the rest of Melksham as a whole; 10572 and 10326 respectively. We believe there is an intrinsic link reducing the number of people on out of work benefits and deprivation.

8.5.8 A reduction in the grant would decrease our ability to meet people's needs and provide the community with much needed resources.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Keevil Parish Council Appendix 2 Grant application – Seend Parochial Parish Council Appendix 3 Grant application – Bath Spa University Appendix 4 Grant application – Atworth Youth Club Appendix 5 Grant application – Lowbourne Neighbourhood Centre
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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