

ITEM 13

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	2nd December 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £8,217.07.

Recommendation

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| 1. Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council – seeking £1,868.07 to contribute towards the cost of purchasing and installing an infant cradle swing at Meadow View Play Park. | <i>Approve</i> |
| 2. Wiltshire Police – seeking £500 to contribute towards the costs of bicycle lights and locks for distribution at a “Cycle Safety & Crime Prevention” initiative in Amesbury | <i>Approve</i> |
| 3. Age UK Salisbury District – seeking £5,000 to contribute towards the expansion of the Befriending Service in the Amesbury Area | <i>Approve</i> |
| 4. Stonehenge Chamber of Trade – seeking £369 to contribute towards the cost of a Winter Solstice / Yuletide Cultural Art event featuring The Ancestor | <i>Approve</i> |
| 5. Bulford Parish Council – seeking £480 to contribute towards the cost of a replacement park picnic bench and seat (the current one having been vandalised) | <i>Approve</i> |

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 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. The Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £50,529 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget was £7,200 (including returned funds from the Stonehenge Community Area Partnership). This gave a total budget of £57,729 for the 2010/2011 budget. £16,172 has previously been committed in grants approved at the April, July, September and October 2010 meetings, leaving a remaining total of £41,557.
- 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 the 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 Community Area Manager.

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.

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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Amesbury Area Board will have a remaining balance of £33,340.35.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1. There are no specific human resources 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	Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council	To purchase and install a new infant single seater cradle swing at Meadow View Play Park	£1,868.07

8.1.1. It is recommended that Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council is awarded a grant of £1,868.07 to assist with the cost of purchasing and installing a new infant single seater cradle swing at Meadow View Play Park.

8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.1.3. Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Meadow View Play Park, and, as agreed by the Area Board in October 2010, will soon take ownership of this community asset from Wiltshire Council.

8.1.4. There has been strong local demand for the parish council to install play equipment suitable for 0-5year olds at the play park, as currently, parents, grandparents and children have to travel outside of the village to enjoy such facilities.

8.1.5. Unfortunately, health and safety regulations dictate that the parish council is unable to modify its existing set of swings to add an infant cradle seat, and therefore there is a need to install a new standalone single seater infant swing.

8.1.6. The parish council, assisted by volunteer support and labour will ensure the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of this new swing.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Wiltshire Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team	To run a Cycle Safety & Crime Prevention Initiative in Amesbury to promote improved cycle safety and security.	£500

8.2.1 It is recommended that the Amesbury Area Neighbourhood Policing Team is awarded a grant of £500 to assist with the cost of purchasing 50 bicycle locks and 50 lights for distribution at a Cycle Safety & Crime Prevention Initiative in Amesbury to raise the awareness of the need for improved cycle safety and security.

8.2.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11, as it will benefit the wider community and is being run as a partnership event between the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Amesbury Town Council.

8.2.3 Communities in the Amesbury Area, in particular in Amesbury town itself, have been highlighting the need to improve young people’s attitude and behaviour when cycling through the town, including the need for young people to have lights on their bikes. Additionally, there has been a recent spate of cycle thefts in the towns, where cycles have been left without a lock.

8.2.4 This initiative complements the Wiltshire Council Bikeability education scheme which is being run in conjunction with primary schools in the area for pupils aged 10 years or above.

8.2.5 Amesbury Town Council fully supports this application, and has been asked to support the initiative by contributing towards the costs of the bicycle security labels.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Age UK Salisbury District	To extend Age UK’s Befriending Service to benefit socially isolated older people in the Amesbury Area	£5,000

8.3.1 It is recommended that Age UK Salisbury District is awarded a grant of £5,000 to assist with the one off set up costs of expanding its Befriending Service to communities in the Amesbury Area, on the condition that the organisation does not apply for funding from the Area Board in subsequent years to assist with running costs.

8.3.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11, and demonstrates a direct link to the Wiltshire Community Plan’s objectives of ‘fostering strong communities’ and ‘reducing disadvantage and inequalities’. The application also supports aims 3 and 4 of the Amesbury Community Plan, to create healthier more inclusive communities, and to support residents to live independently in Amesbury and surrounding villages.

8.3.3 The Befriending Service is run by volunteers, who carry out home visits to provide much valued companionship to older people. The visits help to reduce isolation by engaging the older person in conversation, a game of scrabble, a crossword, or reading a newspaper with them. As a consequence, the general health and wellbeing of the older person is improved. The Service also provides a telephone support service for older people.

- 8.3.4 Age UK receives requests for the Befriending Service at greater levels than existing resources allow, and demand is anticipated to increase with the introduction of the Good Neighbour Scheme.
- 8.3.5 Through this initiative, Age UK will help to provide volunteering opportunities for 20 people in the Amesbury Area, who will be trained to carry out visits to between 30 – 40 old people in the Area. This expansion to the service will deliver an additional 3,000 hours of volunteer befriending per year.
- 8.3.6 Financial support for this expanded service in subsequent years will be provided by Age UK reserves and from other grant funding organisations.
- 8.3.7 Advice from the Voluntary & Community Services (VCS) team in Wiltshire Council is that this proposal to extend the Befriending Service to towns and villages across the Amesbury Area does not conflict, but rather complements the council's strategy and commissioning practices. An extension to the Befriending Service will assist the council's Good Neighbour Scheme, particularly as it is anticipated that referrals to this Scheme will arise from the activity of volunteers working for Age UK's Befriending Service. Additionally, clarification has been given that whilst the current Befriending Service that is provided in the Amesbury Area, is funded through a Service Level Agreement with Wiltshire Council, the expansion to the service which is the subject of this grant application is not being funded through the council.
- 8.3.8 Another point to note is the level of "free reserves" held by Age UK Salisbury District, which is £198,438. The Chief Officer of the organisation has clarified that £132,295 of that figure has to remain within the reserves to cover costs incurred should the organisation ever have to be wound down. The £132,295 would need to cover 6 months operating costs, staff redundancy costs, outstanding expenses, rental costs, accountancy and legal fees. The remaining free reserves are required to enable the charity to continue to maintain and grow services whilst experiencing declining income from statutory bodies, fundraising and donations. The Trustees set a budget with a deficit of £25,000 for the current financial year and anticipate similar deficits in the next two years.
- 8.3.9 With this clarification, and whilst mindful of the Community Area Grant scheme's criteria which states that Area Boards should not approve funding for schemes that could reasonably be expected to secure finance by other means, councillors will need to carefully assess whether or not to approve this application. On balance, the officer's recommendation is to approve the grant on the following grounds:
- (a) this is for one off set up costs to expand the Befriending Service, to benefit older and vulnerable people in the Amesbury Community Area. A waiting list of clients needing befriending already includes clients from Amesbury, Durrington, Shrewton, Porton, Bulford, Figheldean, Great Wishford and Steeple Langford. Demand for this service could further increase in villages along the Bourne Valley, as a consequence of the introduction of the Good Neighbour Scheme in this area.
 - (b) whilst the reserves of Age UK Salisbury suggest that the expansion of this service could be paid for 'by other means' than a community area grant, the Area Board's financial support in this instance clearly signifies its commitment to the objectives of the Befriending Service and its recognition of the level of need for such a service in this Community Area.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Stonehenge Chamber of Trade on behalf of The Ancestor Project	To put on a Winter Solstice / Yuletide Event at Solstice Park, Amesbury, as part of The Ancestor project	£369

8.4.1 It is recommended that The Ancestor Project is awarded a grant of £369 to assist with the costs of running a Winter Solstice / Yuletide interactive cultural art event at Solstice Park on the 20th December 2010.

8.4.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11, as the Stonehenge Chamber of Trade is acting as the project co-ordinators' (two local artists) accountable body. Community Area Grants cannot be awarded to individuals, but can be paid to an accountable body, with a constitution, on the basis that the award is to fund a project of community benefit and will not financially benefit the individual project co-ordinators themselves.

8.4.3 The Ancestor is a 20ft tall metal sculpture of an ancient man on his knees with his arms wide open to greet the sunrise. The sculpture has been created by two local artists and is currently on display at Solstice Park. The sculpture is being used to improve visitor and tourism prospects for Amesbury, and is involving a wide range of individuals and groups from the Amesbury Area, including schools, scouts and cubs, local businesses and Amesbury Town Council in this work. This local art piece has captured the imaginations of many local people, and is even developing positive promotion of Amesbury and Stonehenge to an international audience.

8.4.4 The project co-ordinators have secured support from local businesses, schools and other organisations locally to put on this Winter Solstice / Yuletide event at Solstice Park, where it is hoped up to 400 people will attend to see The Ancestor installed with a new winter crown and decorations which have been created by people from the local community and assisted by a project officer from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The event will also involve attendees in

- creating a display of candle-light around the base of The Ancestor;
- exploring the local culture, heritage and folklore with help from The Stonehenge Druids
- enjoying the music of the folk band Druidicca
- free refreshments donated by local businesses

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Bulford Parish Council	To purchase and install a replacement park picnic bench and seat	£480

8.5.1 It is recommended that Bulford Parish Council is awarded a grant of £480 to assist with the cost of purchasing and installing a replacement park picnic table and bench to replace the one that has been vandalised.

8.5.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.5.3 Bulford Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of this community facility and will continue to be responsible for its ongoing maintenance and repair.

8.5.4 The picnic bench and seat is well used by local residents and visitors and provides a useful place for families to rest and supervise their children whilst they play in the recreation field.

8.5.5 The proposed replacement picnic bench and seat is made of very durable material that is designed to be vandal-proof.

<p>Appendices – <i>Available online only</i></p>	<p>Appendix 1 Grant Application – Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council Appendix 2 Grant Application – Wiltshire Police Appendix 3 Grant Application – Age UK Salisbury District Appendix 4 Grant Application – Stonehenge Chamber of Trade Appendix 5 Grant Application – Bulford Parish Council</p>
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