

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Melksham Area Board</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.10</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>2 Feb 2011</b>	
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>	

## Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2010/2011 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **Melksham Tennis Club** have applied for a grant of **£1095** towards the installation of floodlights on the two all weather courts at Melksham Tennis Club. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **Happy Circle Day Centre** have applied for **£985** for a series of trips and activities for day centre members (older people living independently). The recommendation is to award the funding.
3. **Melksham Town Council** have applied for a grant of **£1447** to promote and market the new cinema offering within Melksham Assembly Hall. 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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11</li><li>• Melksham Community Strategy</li><li>• Grant applications</li></ul>
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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 2 more rounds of funding during 2010/11. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on 9 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 **£12,422**.

## **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	<b>Melksham Tennis Club</b>	<b>Installation of floodlights on the two all weather courts at Melksham Tennis Club.</b>	<b>£1095</b>

- 8.1.1. Planning permission was applied for on 13 Dec 2009. The recommendation is to award the funding subject to planning permission being approved.
- 8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan by enhancing sport and leisure in the town.
- 8.1.4. No other locally agreed priorities.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.
- 8.1.6. The all-weather courts offer a good playing surface throughout the year but cannot be used in semi light or darkness because there is no floodlighting. Although full floodlighting is costly, the Committee has drawn up a plan to put in place adequate lighting in a cost-effective manner. This project will be completed by local traders and use some old light fittings which would otherwise find their way into landfill. When the new lights are in place the Club would offer all year tennis to its members and would hope to increase its membership from the local area.
- 8.1.7. No equality and inclusion issues will be addressed by the project
- 8.1.8. If the area board does not grant sufficient funding the club may be able to allocate a little more money to the project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	<b>Happy Circle Day Centre</b>	<b>A series of trips and activities for day centre members (older people living independently)</b>	<b>£985</b>

- 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 to improve the cultural quality of life of residents in Melksham.

8.2.4. Locally agreed priorities: none

8.2.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.

8.2.6. This project is to provide a series of trips/activities to enhance the members' experience at the day centre; and address the issue of social isolation and independence. This programme of activity is an extension to what the day centre would normally be able to provide. Their aim as a charity is to increase and benefit the quality of life of older people living independently in Melksham, and address the issue of social isolation amongst this group. For some a Monday is the members only day 'out', and so trips and carefully planned visits would be special times for these people, which the day centre would not normally be able to afford. Another element of the project is keeping our elderly members fit and active. In doing so the day centre is helping to keep them as independent and active members of their community for as long as possible; helping positivity; and also helping to prevent falls/ recovering gently from illness and regaining strength. Planned activities include: two trips to Rowde for 32 people and 5 sessions of chair based exercises.

8.2.7. Equality and inclusion issues addressed by this project: it will benefit isolated older people who are unable to access other leisure/social activities.

8.2.8. If the area board does not grant funding the day centre would not be able to run these trips/activities.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	<b>Melksham Town Hall</b>	<b>To promote and market the new cinema offering within Melksham Assembly Hall.</b>	<b>£1447</b>

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: the lack of a cinema within the town is specifically referred to as a weakness.

8.3.4. Locally agreed priorities: none

8.3.6. The applicant is a town council.

8.3.7. This project is intended to promote a major new community benefit, alerting residents within the Melksham area to the opportunity to enjoy an affordable high quality cinema experience within the locality. The opportunity now exists through the White Horse Pictures initiative ("WHPI") to bring a cinema facility with cinema quality projection and sound systems to the Melksham Assembly Hall. Melksham is one of a select few locations in Wiltshire and the Test Valley to participate in this initiative which will significantly enhance the leisure and recreational offering within

the town, particularly for young people and families. Crucially, it has the potential to provide a wide community benefit that will serve to encourage people to come together to enjoy a cinematic experience with their friends, families and neighbours. WHPI is being launched as a three year pilot project with a viability review after year one. The grant applied for will allow the project the greatest possible chance of success by advertising and marketing the new offering to the widest possible audience within the locality.

8.3.8. Equality and inclusion issues: the project seeks to promote and advertise the availability of a local high quality, affordable cinematic experience for all residents within the Melksham community area, avoiding the costs and travel difficulties associated with a journey to a regional centre or bigger town for a cinema facility.

8.3.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the ability to market and promote the new offering will be compromised with a consequential adverse impact on attendances. If the initiative is deemed not to be viable after year one, the WHPI cinema may be withdrawn from Melksham and the benefits it provides for the local community, the town and the Assembly Hall, may be lost.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Grant application – Melksham Tennis Club</b> <b>Appendix 2 Grant application – Happy Circle Day Centre</b> <b>Appendix 3 Grant application – Melksham Town Council</b>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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