

Report to	Melksham Area Board	Agenda Item No.12
Date of Meeting	9 March 2011	
Title of Report	Community Area Grants	

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 9 applications seeking 2010/2011 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **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.
2. **Seend Trust & Community Centre** have applied for **£959** for good quality projection equipment. The recommendation is to award the funding.
3. **Broughton Gifford Friendship Club** have applied for a grant of **£877** for trips for isolated older people. The recommendation is to award the funding.
4. **West Wilts Interfaith Group** have applied for a grant of **£400** to hire an Indian artist and storyteller for the Melksham Festival of Food. The recommendation is to award the funding.
5. **The Keevil Society** have applied for a grant of **£999** to purchase a marquee for use in the community. The recommendation is to award the funding.
6. **Atworth Parish Council** have applied for **£900** towards redoing the stone kerbing on the village green to prevent erosion. The recommendation is to award the funding.
7. **Poulshot Village Hall** have applied for **£2490** towards the upgrading of the kitchen to facilitate meal preparation and cleaning. The recommendation is to award the funding.
8. **Melksham Without PC** have applied for **£467** towards the purchase of a large screen for viewing of plans. The recommendation is to award the funding.
9. **Bowerhill Residents Action Group** have applied for **£500** towards an information board and details of circular walks in the new picnic area. 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. This will be the final round of funding during 2010/11.

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 **£7535**

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	Seend Parochial Church Council	Purchase of a new printer for the Spotlight community magazine	£1556

- 8.1.1. This application was considered by councillors at the area board on 1 December 2010. The funding was not awarded as they wanted to look at a cheaper solution. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan in terms of 'coordinating information for local people'.
- 8.1.4. Locally agreed priorities: spotlight supporting Big Society.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.1.6. SPPC are looking to fund a new printer as the current one is becoming increasingly 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 homes 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.
- 8.1.7. No equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project.
- 8.1.8. If the area board does not grant funding the group would attempt to raise funding from other sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Seend Trust & Community Centre	Good quality projection equipment	£959

- 8.2.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.2.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.2.3. Current community plan is not applicable to Seend.

- 8.2.4. Locally agreed priorities: Seend Parish Council's aim to extend community enhancement.
- 8.2.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.2.6. This project is to install high quality projection equipment to allow the main hall to be used for films and other visual material. Requests have been received from existing user groups and people with new ideas for events and activities, and from community and local government bodies. The project will open opportunities for many more people to participate in community activities in an enhanced village venue. Also, the Community Centre, which is a charity, relies on income from hiring out its facilities, so having more to offer to potential hirers will benefit all users of the Centre in the long term
- 8.2.7. Equality and inclusion issues addressed by this project: none
- 8.2.8. If the area board does not grant funding project would be delayed until alternative funding could be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Broughton Gifford Friendship Club	Trips for isolated older people	£877

- 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: reducing disadvantage and inequalities.
- 8.3.4. Locally agreed priorities: none
- 8.3.6. The applicant is a local community group.
- 8.3.7. This project is to take members on an outing by community transport to Bishops Lydiard to travel on Steam Train to Minehead and return. Many of their members are widows/ers and the monthly meetings are the only opportunity to socialise. Lonliness and isolation have been highlighted in many pieces of research in rural communities. Some members are living on very low incomes and not necessarily supported by local public services.
- 8.3.8. Equality and inclusion issues: the project seeks to improve the quality of life of isolated older people some of whom as mobility difficulties.
- 8.3.9. If the area board does not grant funding then some of the members would be excluded from the trip.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	West Wilts Interfaith Group	Hiring an Indian artist and storyteller for the Melksham Festival of Food.	£400

8.4.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.4.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.4.3. Link to the Community Plan: improving the cultural quality of life of residents in the area.

8.4.4. Locally agreed priorities: none

8.4.6. The applicant is a voluntary sector organisation.

8.4.7. The Group is working with different groups to hold Interfaith/intercultural stalls and organising food from different cultures at the Melksham Food and Drink Festival in 2011. This project is to hire an Indian artist and story teller to entertain children and adults alike to enhance the stall.

8.4.8. Equality and inclusion issues: raising awareness of different faiths and cultures that exist in Melksham.

8.4.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the groups would have a smaller stall which would attract less people.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	The Keevil Society	Purchase of a marquee for use in the community.	£999

8.5.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.5.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.5.3. Link to the Community Plan: none

8.5.4. Locally agreed priorities: none

8.5.6. The applicant is a local community group.

- 8.5.7. This project is to improve activities by the many local organisations in the open air by providing a robust, weatherproof marquee. These events attract people of all ages from Keevil and surrounding villages. The marquee would be used regularly and throughout the year.
- 8.5.8. Equality and inclusion issues: none.
- 8.5.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the old, depreciated current equipment would continue to be used.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Atworth Parish Council	Redoing the stone kerbing on the village green to prevent erosion	£900

- 8.6.1. This application was considered by councillors at the area board on 28 July 2010. A decision on this application was deferred as highways officers had some concerns about this work being carried out. These issues have now been resolved. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 8.6.3. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.6.4. The application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan.
- 8.6.5. Locally agreed priorities: the Atworth parish plan expressed much concern over the impact of vehicle parking. This project will be a useful contribution to easing the consequences such as erosion of the green.
- 8.6.6. The applicant is a parish council.
- 8.6.7. The aim of this project is to replace stone kerbing on the village green to prevent further erosion and returning it to its previous state. The Green is used as the evacuation point for Churchfields primary school, and it also well used by parishioners as a resting point and a nearby nursery school. The Green has gradually deteriorated over several years.
- 8.6.8. No equality and inclusion issue will be addressed by this project
- 8.6.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the project will be delayed by at least 12 months.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7.	Poulshot Village Hall	Upgrading the kitchen	£2490

8.7.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.7.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.7.3. Link to the Community Plan: none

8.7.4. Locally agreed priorities: Poulshot village hall held an open evening in the hall when all villagers were invited to give their opinion on what improvements were needed in the hall.

8.7.6. The applicant is a non for profit organisation.

8.7.7. This project is to upgrade the village hall kitchen to facilitate meal preparation and cleaning up.

8.7.8. Equality and inclusion issues: none.

8.7.9. If the area board does not grant funding then less improvements will be made.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.8.	Melksham Without PC	Purchase of large screen for viewing plans.	£467

8.8.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.8.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.8.3. Link to the Community Plan: enabling everyone to have equal access to local decision making.

8.8.4. Locally agreed priorities: updating IT equipment, using the most appropriate methods of engagement, assisting the socially deprived to engage in the planning process.

8.8.6. The applicant is a parish council.

8.8.7. This project is to purchase a large screen to facilitate the viewing of plans by councillors and the public. MWPC regularly receives consultation papers,

newsletters and planning applications (revised plans) from Wiltshire Council with no hard copies, that can only be viewed from a CD or website. Efforts to print out on A4 and enlarge sometimes results in blurred images which omit important detail (plans) ; images just made bigger, not clearer. Large consultation documents are timeconsuming and costly to print off for the Council to review. A large, central office screen would ensure that plans and other documents can be viewed properly at meetings by the Council and members of the public. The costs include a new television screen (no television licence is required as there is no TV aerial) and the necessary graphics card and computer to run the internet and software required. The new PC will also be used as the Asst Finance Officer's main PC to replace the current one which has the Windows 2000 operating system - no longer supported by Microsoft and unable to run newer programs such as anti-virus systems, and later versions of Mircosoft Office.

8.8.8. Equality and inclusion issues: facilitating access to the planning process for those without internet access.

8.8.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the project would not go ahead.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.9.	Bowerhill Residents Action Group	Installation of a local information board in new picnic area.	£500

8.9.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.9.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.9.3. Link to the Community Plan: increase the numbers of people walking and providing information to canal users.

8.9.4. Locally agreed priorities: none

8.9.6. The applicant is a local community group.

8.9.7. This project is to improve the picnic area and encourage more people to use it. At the opening of the picnic bench project many people said they could not find the way to the canal path as there was only one sign in Bowerhill and that didn't provide enough information. Wiltshire Council's Path Information Grant Scheme, Melksham Without Parish Council and the Residents Action Group agreed to finance improvements to the permissive footpath from Brabazon Way to the canal and pay for some signposts to the canal from Bowerhill. BRAG want to take this further with more signposts and the publicising of a circular route from Brabazon Way, through Giles Wood to the canal then back to the bridle path and back to Bowerhill.

8.9.8. Equality and inclusion issues: none

8.9.9. If the area board does not grant funding then the project would not go ahead until another source of funding could be found.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Seend Parochial Church Council Appendix 2 Grant application – Seend Trust and Community Centre Appendix 3 Grant application – Broughton Gifford Friendship Club Appendix 4 Grant application – West Wilts Interfaith Group Appendix 5 Grant application – Keevil Society Appendix 6 Grant application – Atworth Parish Council Appendix 7 Grant application – Poulshot Village Hall Appendix 8 Grant application – Melksham Without PC Appendix 9 Grant application – Bowerhill Residents Action Group
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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