

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Bradford on Avon Area Board</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.10</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>	
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>	

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 20010/11 Community Area Grant Funding:

### **i. Bradford on Avon Town Council – Hanging Baskets - requesting £ 2,798**

The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £ 2,798 is awarded to Bradford on Avon Town Council for Hanging Baskets, on the basis that this is a one-off payment and cannot be repeated in subsequent years.

### **ii. Holt Parish Council – Tannery Development Brief – requesting £ 2,825**

The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £ 2,825 is awarded to Holt Parish Council for the Tannery Development Brief project. The Spatial Planning Officer has requested that this be in the form of a 'Design Guide'.

### **iii. Bradford on Avon Development Trust / Bradford on Avon Town Council/ Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon – Bradford 2026 Study – requesting £ 7,100**

The officer recommendation is that the application is deferred pending further discussions with Spatial Planning Officers.

### **iv. Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership – Come and Try it Sporting Activities – requesting £1,500**

The officer recommendation is that full funding of £1,500 is awarded to Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership for the Come and Try It Sporting Activities project.

### **v. Walkers Are Welcome Steering Group – Launch of Walkers Are Welcome Initiative – requesting £758**

The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £758 is awarded to the Walkers are Welcome Steering Group for the launch of the Walkers Are Welcome initiative.

**Total amount requested £14,981**

## 1. Background

1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community 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 decision 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2010/2011 of £47,110 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £5,122. This leaves a total budget of £52,232 for the 2010/2011 financial year. It has again been agreed that unspent monies at 31/03/11 can be rolled forward into the budget for the 2011/12 financial year.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11</li><li>• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan</li><li>• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement</li><li>• Report of Grant Advisory Group</li><li>• Technical Officer reports</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 have been 5 rounds of funding during 20010/11, this being the final round.

### 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of £ 20, 436 which can be rolled forward to the 2011/12 financial year.

### 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

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Bradford on Avon Town Council</b>	<b>Hanging Baskets</b>	<b>£ 2, 798</b>

8.1.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria 2010/11. It is eligible as one-off capital expenditure and cannot be funded again in subsequent years.

8.1.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support to the local tourism industry, improving the appearance of the town centre and thereby encouraging expenditure in local shops and on local services.

8.1.3 Members of the Grants Advisory Group have commented on this application and have raised concerns about the size of the reserves of the Town Council, the competitiveness of the quotes received and the value for money of the project. The full comments are available in an appendix to this report.

8.1.4 The project will provide 54 hanging baskets at locations around the town centre at a total cost of £ 5, 597.48. 3 quotations have been received for this work.

**The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £ 2, 798 is awarded to Bradford on Avon Town Council for Hanging Baskets, on the basis that this is a one-off payment and cannot be repeated in subsequent years.**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Holt Parish Council</b>	<b>Tannery Development Brief</b>	<b>£ 2, 825</b>

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria 2010/11 and the Principal Legal Officer has confirmed that it is a lawful use of public money.

8.2.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through support to the Village Plan for Holt which is focused on the future of the Tannery site and consultation with local people through an enquiry by design process.

- 8.2.3 The Grants Advisory Group, Principal Legal Officer, Spatial Planning Officer and Economic Development Officer all have commented on this application. The full comments are available in an appendix to this report.
- 8.2.4 Spatial Planning and Economic Development Officers are broadly supportive of the project. The Grants Advisory Group's view is that the Grants system was not designed to provide funding to aid and support campaigns of pressure groups such as described in this project. They question the community benefit and consider the application to be premature given impending changes to planning legislation under the Localism Bill.
- 8.2.5 The project will bring in professional assistance to develop a participative process around a large, high profile site in the village that will bring together all parties to develop a plan for future uses of the site that best matches all aspirations. The 'enquiry by design' will engage a range of stakeholders including residents, local businesses, the developer, the site owner and the Council in a workshop process.

**The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £ 2, 825 is awarded to Holt Parish Council for the Tannery Development Brief project. Spatial Planners have requested that this be in the form of a 'Design Guide'.**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	<b>Bradford on Avon Development Trust/ Bradford on Avon Town Council/ Climate Friendly Bradford</b>	<b>Bradford on Avon 2026 Study</b>	<b>£ 7, 100</b>

- 8.3.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria 2010/11 although the funding requested is above the normal threshold of £ 5, 000 per grant.
- 8.3.2 This application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement by providing importance evidence and parameters for the refresh of the 2005 plan, as well as addressing new areas not previously covered such as climate change.
- 8.3.3 The Grants Advisory Group, Spatial Planning Officer and Economic Development Officer have all commented on this application. The full comments are available in an appendix to this report.
- 8.3.4 The Spatial Planning Officer is supportive in principle but is concerned at the changing legislative framework in the light of the Localism Bill and recommends a re-focusing of the initiative as a 'Vision and Scoping' exercise rather than a

supplementary planning document. The Economic Development Officer stresses the need for the exercise to conform with the core strategy and LDF process and the need for a steering group of key local bodies to oversee the project. The Grants Advisory Group was concerned at the cost of the exercise, the lack of clarity around it and the timing of the application given impending changes to planning legislation under the Localism Bill. They consider that the grants system does not exist to aid this type of project and believe that, given the doubts expressed by spatial planning officers that the application as it stands should be rejected.

8.3.5 The project is to prepare a spatial planning framework for Bradford on Avon as a supplementary planning document to cover the next 15 years. This will be underpinned by a town roadmap to meet Climate Change Act obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 34 % by 2020.

**The officer recommendation is that the application for the Bradford on Avon 2026 Study is deferred pending further discussions with spatial planning officers.**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership	Come and Try It Sporting Activities	£ 1, 500

8.4.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria 2010/11.

8.4.2 This application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement by addressing the need for outdoor sports and coaching facilities and by addressing objectives on health and wellbeing and promoting active lifestyles.

8.4.3 The Grants Advisory Group and Sports Development Officer have commented on this application and are both supportive. These comments are available in an appendix to this report.

8.4.4 The project will provide a week of come and try it sporting activities in conjunction with sports clubs throughout the community area, culminating in a sports weekend in the Country Park in Bradford on Avon running alongside the externally organised Triathlon, Aquathon and 10K Run.

**The officer recommendation is that full funding of £ 1,500 is awarded to Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership for the Come and Try It Sporting Activities project.**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	<b>Walkers Are Welcome Steering Group</b>	<b>Launch of Walkers Are Welcome Initiative</b>	<b>£ 758</b>

8.5.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria 2010/11. Since the application was submitted WAW status has been successfully granted to Bradford on Avon, the first town to be designated in Wiltshire. This application will now focus on the launch of the initiative.

8.5.2 This application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan by encouraging visitors, tourism and spending in the local economy as well as the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the conservation of the local landscape character.

8.5.3 The Grants Advisory Group has commented on this application and is supportive. These comments are available in an appendix to this report.

8.5.4 The objectives of WAW are i) action to ensure facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition; ii) adequate marketing of WAW status to benefit the local economy by attracting visitors and ensuring they are welcome and the town is easy and safe to navigate on foot; iii) encouragement of walking using public transport. The launch event will be celebrated as part of the Bradford on Avon Sports Festival week, 16-22 May 2011.

**The officer recommendation is that the full funding of £ 758 is awarded to the Walkers are Welcome Steering Group for the launch of the Walkers Are Welcome initiative.**

Appendices:	<p>Grant applications from:</p> <p>Bradford on Avon Town Council  Holt Parish Council  Bradford on Avon Development Trust/ Bradford on Avon Town Council/ Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon  Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership  Walkers Are Welcome Steering Group</p> <p>Report from the Grants Advisory Group together with comments from technical officers</p>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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