

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	2nd February 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 9 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Corsham Town Council – seeking £1,503 to purchase shelters, tables and chairs and to enable community groups free use of the equipment for outside functions and community events.
2. Box Parish Council – seeking £5,000 to refurbish tennis courts and to create a multi use games area for use by users of the centre, tennis club and local school pupils.
3. Corsham Cricket Club – seeking £1,750 to install external staircase leading to the changing rooms on the first floor of the Cricket Club
4. Kandu Arts – seeking £1,250 to facilitate consultation with young people in Potley and Pockeridge about problems, root causes and possible solutions to anti social behaviour.
5. Transition Community Corsham – seeking £995 for development of website and publicity material to allow the organisation to reach more people in the community area.
6. The Pound Arts Centre – seeking £2,721 to purchase a new high definition projector to enable them to attract a wider audience to cinema screenings.
7. Potley Youth group – seeking £594 to purchase tools seeds and plants for a gardening project and a half term activity to promote and recruit new people to the centre.
8. Corsham Community Centre – seeking £903 to purchase equipment to enhance and develop a snooker room.
9. Mansion House Playgroup – seeking £975 to purchase a suitable storage shed.

Agenda Item No.09

1. Background

- 1.1. A single and simple application process was accepted by the Implementation Executive on 13 May 2009 for use during 2009/10. The Community Grants Pack includes details of the grants process and criteria and may be found either on the Councils website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards or as a paper version through the report author.
- 1.2. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to the Area Boards by the Leader of the Council (13 May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation Area Boards must operate within the policies set by the Leader and /or the Council. The Council has adopted an Area Grants policy, with funding criteria, to which the Area Boards must adhere.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that was contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.4. Corsham Area Board was allocated a budget of £24,117 to distribute through the Community Area Grants Scheme for 2009/2010. Following awards made at the October and December meetings the budget remaining for distribution is £20,093

Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10• Corsham Community Area Plan 2005-2015• Corsham Community Area Plan Update 2009
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2009/10 year are made to applicants where projects can realistically proceed before 31 March 2010.
- 2.2. There are no scheduled further rounds of funding opportunities during 2009/10.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1. Consideration has been given to each application and implications are outlined within section 8 of this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Corsham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations the total will be £15,691 and Corsham Area Board will have a balance of £4402
- 4.3. Corsham Area Board have three options with regard to the under spend of £4,402
Option one
To make an application to be allowed to carry the balance into next year, If this is the case then a decision will need to be minuted and a request to Cabinet that they be allowed to carry forward any under spend. An argument for doing this is that

Agenda Item No.09

Corsham Area Board has only had three funding cycles in the year and that potentially we have two projects of £5,000 each who were not in a position to apply for funding in this round but should be in a position to apply in the new financial year. If this is the course of action you decide upon then you then need to ensure that the Democratic Services colleagues sends the minute to the Democratic Services Officers who deals with Cabinet.

Option two

To try to publicise again and ask for grants of £1,000 or less and hold an extra ordinary meeting specifically for funding bids in early March to allow funds to be distributed.

Option three

To do nothing and allow the under spend to be drawn back to Wiltshire Council funds.

Officer recommendation – Option two

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. Wiltshire Council is committed to Equality and Inclusion. 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. Consideration has been given to each application and implications are outlined within section 8 of this report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Corsham Town Council	To purchase shelters, tables and chairs	£1,503

8.1.1. It is recommended that Corsham town council is awarded a grant of £1,503 to purchase shelters and to enable community groups free use of the equipment for outside functions and community events such as Summer Fetes, Christmas Lights Switch on and Village Days.

8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.

8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing activities, promoting Corsham Town and the surrounding areas.

8.1.4. This application also links to the Council's priority of building sustainable communities and promoting community activities.

Agenda Item No.09

- 8.1.5. This application has been prompted by Corsham Town Council to enable those groups who were without access to shelters will now be able to take part in outside activities such as the ones described above.
- 8.1.6. Corsham Town Council has confirmed 50% of the funding to allow the purchases of the equipment.
- 8.1.7. A decision not to fund this application may result in a delay while the applicant either reconsiders priorities for spending for 2009/10 or delays proceeding with this project until next year when funding can be sought from the 2010/11 budget.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Box Parish Council	Refurbishment of tennis courts to create multi use games area	£5,000

- 8.2.1. It is recommended that Box Parish Council is awarded a grant of £5,000 to enable them to refurbish the tennis courts and enable to them to cater to a wider range of potential user groups.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.
- 8.2.3. This application demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015 and the revised plan in respect of promoting recreational activities especially those aimed at younger people who are not catered for.
- 8.2.4. This application also links to the Council's priorities of building resilient communities though improving people's participation in positive activities as well as encouraging people to take part in activities that will have a positive impact on their health.
- 8.2.5. Box parish Council have confirmed well in excess of the 50% match funding required which demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the success of this project.
- 8.2.6. The Parish Council will precept for the future maintenance costs for this facility and there will also be income generated from use by other groups.
- 8.2.7. A decision not to fund this application will probably result in the existing tennis courts not being used to their full potential and therefore being grossly underused.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Corsham Cricket Club	To install an external staircase leading to the changing rooms on the first floor of the club	£1,750

- 8.3.1. It is recommended that Corsham Cricket Club is awarded a grant of £1,750 to enable them to install an external staircase leading to the changing rooms at the club.

Agenda Item No.09

- 8.3.2. It is also recommended that if this application is granted it is done so on the basis that planning permission is approved.
- 8.3.3. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.
- 8.3.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing recreational activities.
- 8.3.5. The application also links to the Council's priorities to build resilient communities through the encouragement of regular exercise.
- 8.3.6. Corsham Cricket Club has confirmed 50% match funding is in place for this project to take place.
- 8.3.7. A decision not to fund this application will result in this being delayed until other sources of funding can be identified which is unlikely.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Kandu Arts	To facilitate consultation with young people in Potley & Pockeridge	£1,250

- 8.4.1 I feel unable to make a recommendation to fund this project based upon the fact that I know the applicant personally.
However, the Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer that covers Corsham Community Area has stated that he would fully support the Community Area Grant Application that has been forwarded. Therefore it is recommended that Kandu Arts is awarded £1,250 to enable them to carry out the consultation.
- 8.4.2. The benefits of young people being given the voice for us to hear their thoughts and perceptions on anti social behaviour and how the community can grasp an issue and try to bring about positive change really are enormous and to then present this in a drama based performance would truly be of a great benefit for the individuals concerned.
- 8.4.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing meaningful engagement activities for young people. This also relates to the Council's priority to build more resilient communities through creation of more inclusive communities, supporting people to make positive choices and to continue to speak to local people about their concerns over anti social behaviour.
- 8.4.4 Potley & Pockeridge Centre sits within one of the most deprived areas of Corsham Community Area and the management committee are working very hard to engage with the local community.
- 8.4.5 It is anticipated that some 30 plus young people will benefit directly by having a meaningful input and contribute towards local solutions. It is also anticipated that the whole area will benefit from a result in a reduction in actual and perceived reduction in anti social behaviour.
- 8.4.6 Supporting this application will help those young people who are motivated through a more practical hands on experience rather than a more academic route.

Agenda Item No.09

8.4.7 Westlea Housing Association has committed 50% funding towards this application and are fully supportive of the project.

8.4.8 A decision not to fund this application will probably result in the project not taking place.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Transition Community Corsham	Develop website and publicity materials	£995

8.5.1. It is recommended that transition Community Corsham is awarded £995 to enable them to develop a website and design and print publicity material to reach a wider audience.

8.5.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.

8.5.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan and furthermore Wiltshire council's objectives in respect of inspiring local people to develop solutions to address local issues.

8.5.4 Transition Community Corsham have developed strong links with both Corsham Area Board and the Community Area partnership to identify issues and possible solutions and actively engaging people to work towards shared goals.

8.5.5 Having a professional looking website will enable Transition Community Corsham to communicate better with the community at large.

8.5.6 A decision not to fund this may result in long delays while other sources of funding are identified.

Ref	Applicant	Project Proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Pound Arts Centre	To purchase new high definition projector	£2,721

9.6.1 It is recommended that Pound Arts Centre is awarded £2,721 to purchase a new high definition projector to be able to attract a wider audience to cinema screenings.

9.6.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009 /10 grant criteria.

9.6.3 The Pound Arts Centre intends to develop new strands to enable them to extend provision to young people in the Corsham Community Area. To this end this application demonstrates a direct link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan to offer leisure time activities to young people.

9.6.4 This will also be a valuable community asset for the Corsham Community Area by providing a cinema experience for the town. Other beneficiaries include Corsham Civic Society, Corsham Youth Council and Corsham Chamber of Commerce who will all benefit from being able to use these new facilities.

Agenda Item No.09

9.6.5 Pound Arts Centre do already attract a substantial grant from Wiltshire council for the running of the centre but this project is over and above that for which the grant has been achieved.

9.6.6 A decision not to fund this will result in considerable delay in this project proceeding and the delay in people being able to enjoy a cinema experience without having to travel to other towns while other sources of funding are sought.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7	Potley Youth Group	Gardening and half term activity	£594

8.7.1. It is recommended that Potley Youth Group is awarded £594 to purchase tools seeds and plants for a gardening project and a half term activity to promote and recruit new people to the centre.

8.7.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009 /10 grant criteria

8.7.3. Potley & Pockeridge Centre sits within one of the most deprived areas of Corsham Community Area and the management committee are working very hard to engage with the local community.

8.7.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing meaningful engagement activities for young people. This also relates to the Council's priority to build more resilient communities through creation of more inclusive communities.

8.7.5. The half term project will enable young people to experience a different environment and allow their parents to meet in informal surroundings so strengthening community cohesion and attracting new members to the centre.

8.7.6. Support for this project will enable those young people who are motivated through practical hands on learning to gain both new skills and enhance positive life experiences.

8.7.7. Potley Youth Group have worked in partnership with Westlea Housing association to secure a piece of land for the gardening project

8.7.8. The main beneficiaries of this project will be the young people who participate. However, it is hoped that by providing meaningful structured activities the whole community will benefit as a result of intergenerational participation.

8.7.9. A decision not to fund this project will most likely result in it not taking place at all.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposals	Funding requested
8.8	Corsham Community Centre	To purchase equipment to enhance snooker room	£903

Agenda Item No.09

- 8.9.1. It is recommended that Corsham Community Centre is awarded £903 to purchase equipment to enhance the snooker room within the centre.
- 8.7.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009 /10 grant criteria
- 8.8.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing meaningful engagement activities for young people. It also identifies with Wiltshire council's priorities in promoting social well being.
- 8.8.4 The Corsham Comprehensive School is in very close proximity to the centre. Staff at the school have made approaches, hoping to encourage pupils who need more than academic support to use our snooker room during the school day. It is hoped this will enhance the social skills of pupils who struggle to maintain them.
Due to the lack of facilities in this room at present, is not an inviting environment for this to take place.
- 8.8.5 A decision not to fund this project will result in these improvements not taking place and a threat to the future use of the centre.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.9	Mansion House playgroup	Provision of suitable storage shed	£975

- 8.9.1. Mansion House Playgroup – seeking £975 to purchase a shed which will provide suitable storage solution for the group's equipment
- 8.9.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.
- 8.9.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Corsham Community Plan 2005 – 2015 and the 2009 revised plan in respect of providing meaningful engagement activities for young people and children. It also links to the resilient communities priority of the Council.
- 8.9.4. It is hoped that with improvement for storage facilities that any water damaged equipment can be replaced and that existing equipment can be stored from the elements and prolong the life expectancy of it.
- 8.9.5 Mansion House Playgroup have been a valued group within the community for a number of years and have recently relocated to the current premises. They have already made vast improvements to the building and outdoor space. They hope to further improve the facilities with the addition of storage space.
- 8.9.6 A decision not to fund this application will result in a delay while the applicant seeks alternative funding a possible deterioration to the equipment already held in less than suitable storage space.

Agenda Item No.09

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Corsham Town Council Appendix 2 Grant application - Box Parish Council Appendix 3 Grant application - Corsham Cricket Club Appendix 4 Grant application - Kandu Arts Appendix 5 Grant application - Transition Community Corsham Appendix 6 Grant application - The Pound Arts Centre Appendix 7 Grant application - Potley Youth Group Appendix 8 Grant application - Corsham Community Centre Appendix 9 Grant application - Mansion House Playgroup
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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