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| <b>Report to</b>       | <b>Amesbury Area Board</b>   |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | <b>31 March 2011</b>         |
| <b>Title of Report</b> | <b>Community Area Grants</b> |

| <b>Purpose of Report</b>  | <u><i>Recommendation</i></u>                                      |
|---|---|
| <p>To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £6,221.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Circular Arts – seeking £1,000 to contribute towards the cost of a community arts project for women living in and around Amesbury, Larkhill, Bulford and Shrewton, called “Anything but Plain, Darling”.</li> <li>2. Winterbourne Parish Council – seeking £425 to contribute to the costs of improving and expanding the allotment site at Winterbourne Gunner.</li> <li>3. Amesbury Community Carnival Committee – seeking £4,796 to contribute towards the costs of the 2011 Carnival &amp; Show, which this year includes an enhanced element for all town and parish councils in the Amesbury Area and local businesses.</li> </ol> | <p><i>Approve</i></p> <p><i>Approve</i></p> <p><i>Approve</i></p> |

## **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. £33,916 has previously been committed, leaving a remaining total of £23,813.
- 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](http://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 £17,592.

## **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 | Circular Arts | To run a community arts project – “Anything but Plain, Darling” for women living in and around Amesbury, Larkhill, Bulford and Shrewton culminating in an exhibition at the Urchfont Manor Biennial Sculpture Exhibition in September 2011. | £1,000            |

8.1.1. It is recommended that Circular Arts is awarded a grant of £1,000 to assist with the cost the “Anything but Plain, Darling” community arts project.

8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11. Wiltshire Council’s Head of Arts has also commented in support of this project.

8.1.3. This community arts project is targeted at women from rural villages and military bases within the Amesbury Area, namely Amesbury, Larkhill, Bulford and Shrewton, to help address issues of rural isolation, loneliness, and to contribute to the overall objectives of the county’s military and civilian integration programme. Economic circumstances drastically affect rural women’s lives – reduced transport and the loss of village amenities can often leave women, particularly single women or those without children or any other nearby family, to feel lonely and isolated. Similarly, the welfare support for wives of service personnel and female serving officers is mainly tailored for those with children, leaving little opportunity for single women to express themselves and feel part of a supported community.

8.1.4. The project will involve workshops for women to explore and express their own feelings, emotions and life experiences, through the design and production of Batik Flags for an exhibition at the Urchfont Manor Biennial Sculpture Exhibition in September 2011 (see example below).



- 8.1.5. Since 2004 Circular Arts (registered charity 1113460) has raised funds and delivered many large-scale arts based community projects, involving thousands of people and providing stunning exhibitions. Circular Arts projects promote community building and involvement by running local workshops using simple creative techniques that enable the participants to express themselves and take pride in producing quality art that is then publicly displayed.
- 8.1.6. Plain Action and the Army Welfare (Salisbury Plain) Service are being asked to fund the majority of the costs of this one off project, which totals £11,800. The Amesbury Area Board is being asked to grant £1,000.
- 8.1.7. If this application is approved, the applicant will be encouraged to submit a full evaluation report feeding back on the outcome of the project from the perspective of the women and groups involved, the attendees to the exhibition, and from any other source of feedback sought, as listed on page 3 of the application form.

| Ref | Applicant                   | Project proposal  | Funding requested |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.2 | Winterbourne Parish Council | The creation of additional allotment plots in Winterbourne Gunner and works to clear trees which currently impede the use of existing plots | £425              |

- 8.2.1 It is recommended that Winterbourne Parish Council is granted an award of £425 to assist with the cost of works to create additional allotment plots in Winterbourne Gunner and to clear trees to make it easier to use existing plots.
- 8.2.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.
- 8.2.3 The allotment site is on Downbarn Road in Winterbourne Gunner, and currently provides approximately 23 plots which are enthusiastically and productively used. The parish council has an aspiration as part of its parish plan to maximise the productive use of allotments, and currently has a waiting list of residents wishing to use a plot.
- 8.2.4 The total cost of the works required at the allotment site is £850. The parish council will fund 50% of the cost and is seeking the other 50% from the area board.
- 8.2.5 Ongoing upkeep of the allotment site remains the responsibility of the parish council.

| Ref | Applicant                             | Project proposal  | Funding requested |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8.3 | Amesbury Community Carnival Committee | To stage an enhanced Carnival & Show in 2011 that provides a new opportunity for all town and parish councils in the Amesbury Area, and local businesses to have a stall and play an active part in the event | £4,796            |

- 8.3.1 It is recommended that the Amesbury Community Carnival Committee is awarded a grant of £4,796 to assist with the costs of an enhanced Carnival and Show in 2011 that incorporates stands and attractions for all town and parish councils in the Amesbury Area and the Stonehenge Chamber of Trade.
- 8.3.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11, and supports priorities in the Amesbury Town Plan to 'promote Amesbury and the surrounding area...and to bring people together....'.
- 8.3.3 The aim of this year's enhanced Carnival is to provide the opportunity of closer partnership working within the community by providing an arena for parish and town councils as well as local businesses and craftsmen to showcase what they do in a fun and dynamic setting.
- 8.3.4 The Amesbury Community Carnival & Show has proved that it is a successful asset to the local community attracting 5,000 people to the area. The ambition is to stage an even bigger and better carnival and show, benefiting all who attend, whether members of the local community or visitors to the area, and also benefiting those who take part in the event, by virtue of the footfall and involvement on the day.
- 8.3.5 The area board grant will be used to assist with items such as extra tentage and a wider choice of arena displays to suit a wider audience.
- 8.3.6 Funding and other support will be requested from Amesbury Town Council and others in the community.
- 8.3.7 The area board is recommended to approve this grant on the basis that the project meets the criteria of the Community Area Grant scheme, as it is a one off grant to assist with the costs of an enhanced carnival and show in 2011 that will benefit the wider community, and that approval does not signify commitment to provide further funding assistance in future years.

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| <b>Appendices</b> – not included in agenda papers - available online, or on request | Appendix 1 Grant Application – Circular Arts<br>Appendix 2 Grant Application – Winterbourne Parish Council<br>Appendix 3 Grant Application – Amesbury Carnival Committee |
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