

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	18th July 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 20011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

- 1. Devizes Carnival** – Funding to expand the work of the project to embrace new groups not previously involved. They are seeking £2,200. **Recommended for consideration for approval**
- 2. White Horse Opera** – Funding to purchase lighting so that they can perform at more venues. They are seeking £999. **Recommended for consideration for approval**
- 3. Market Lavington Parish Council** – Funding to pilot youth work in Market Lavington through working in partnership with West Lavington. They are seeking £1,275. **Recommended for consideration for approval**

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 (15 April 2011). 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 for 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. The emphasis in the coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.5. Area boards will not consider applications from Town and Parish Councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from Town and Parish Councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town/Parish Council.
- 1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting (providing there is money available).
- 1.7. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who is working 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.
- 1.8. 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 are available upon request
- 1.9. The 2011/12 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
- 1.10. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2011/12 budget of £58,192 (plus £114 carried forward from 2010/2011) making a total of £58,306 to use for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. No grants have been approved so far this financial year. Up to 20% of the budget can be

applied for by Devizes Community Area Partnership for running costs.

- 1.11. Should the Board approve the applications before it at this meeting, a balance of £53,832 will remain.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12• Devizes Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There are six rounds of funding during 2011/12.

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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. Should the applications in this agenda be awarded, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £53,832

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 (Grant Register ref no)	Devizes Carnival	Funding to expand the Carnival's activities further	£2,200

8.1.1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval.

8.1.2. Devizes Carnival approached the Area Board at it's previous meeting in May 2011 to seek funding for this project. That application was turned down as the Members felt that a strong enough case had not been made for the additional community benefit in order to agree to the amount requested

8.1.3. Devizes Carnival have listened to the comments made and are now asking for a lesser amount. They have also provided additional evidence to support their application

8.1.4. The Devizes Carnival is a reoccurring event and the request should be seen as providing start up costs for this additional work. If awarded, this funding will be used to add value to what is already provided by offering more workshops and opportunities for participation from the villages around Devizes. This would include greater opportunity for communities and schools to benefit from events such as workshops led by professional artists.

8.1.5. The project is now also looking at targeting those culturally and socially disadvantaged communities

8.1.6. There are economic benefits to all within the area of having successful large scale events such as this.

8.1.7. The application meets grant criteria 2011/12

8.1.8. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Encourage community involvement and supporting the voluntary sector).

8.1.9. Match funding is being provided from the Town Council, business sponsorship and the group's own fundraising.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2 (Grant Register ref no)	White Horse Opera	Funding to provide mobile lighting	£999

8.2.1. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval.

8.2.2. The funding is required so that White Horse Opera can purchase mobile lighting and are therefore able to visit more venues and reach a wider audience. They are particularly targeting young people.

8.2.3. White Horse Opera are looking to the Area Board to provide all the funding. While this is within the grants criteria, we like to see evidence of the group also trying to raise their own funds. The group did contact the Charities Information Bureau and applied for a grant but they were unsuccessful. They also run events to raise funds and these supplement their income for overall running costs.

8.2.4. The application meets grant criteria 2011/12

8.2.5. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Improve quality of life and cultural enrichment)

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3 (Grant Register ref no)	Market Lavington Parish Council	Match funding to run a pilot project to provide youth work within the village	£1,275

8.2.6. Officer recommendation is that this application be considered for approval.

8.2.7. Market Lavington have recognised that there is a need to provide positive activities for the young people (aged 11 to 14) to do. The project is innovative as they wish to work with their neighbouring parish of West Lavington and use their youth workers, who have local knowledge, to run a 6 month pilot project.

8.2.8. The funding is to provide equipment, and pay for the youth workers.

8.2.9. The application meets grant criteria 2011/12

8.2.10. The project is not one that the Parish Council should necessarily have to precept

for as it is in addition to its normal activities.

8.2.11. The Parish Council are providing 50% of the funding

8.2.12. The application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan as it is to work with young people.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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