

## Item 15

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Pewsey Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>5 September 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider four applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Wiltshire Geology Group, Fact Sheets, two guided walks, and widening understanding of the nature of chalk habitats, seeking £500 officer recommendation – approval with a condition that the match funding from AONB is confirmed before monies are released.
2. Milton Lilbourne Village Hall, Resurfacing of concrete entrance to village hall seeking £3,875, officer recommendation – approval.
3. Sunflowers Preschool (East Grafton), works to school buildings and marketing activities, seeking £3,987. At the time of producing this report there is information outstanding (detailed at 8.3.1) – therefore the officer recommendation will be given at the meeting.
4. Wootton Rivers Village Hall, repairs to roof, seeking £1,976, officer recommendation – approval with a condition that the match funding is in place before it the grant is claimed.

**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. 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. 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.
- 1.4. 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/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.
- 1.5. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, although the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 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 available upon request.
- 1.9. The 2011/2012 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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12</li><li>• Pewsey Community Area Plan</li></ul>
--	--

## **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 will be six rounds of funding during 2011/12. The third is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;
  - 7 November 2011
  - 9 January 2012
  - 12 March 2012

## **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 Pewsey Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Pewsey Area Board will have a balance of £24,312.

## **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 (pew.11.009)	Wiltshire Geology Group	The production of fact sheets, two guided walks, and widening understanding of nature and chalk habitats	£500

8.1.1. The Officer recommendation is for approval as the application meets the grant criteria 2011/12, with a condition that the match funding from AONB is confirmed before monies are released.

8.1.2. The project demonstrates links to the Community Plan Community Plan on page 36 – preservation of landscape.

8.1.3. The applicant is the Wiltshire Geology Group which is a not for profit organisation. The group is contributing £400 in kind contributions and £525 is expected from the North Wessex Downs AONB. This is part of a wider project which includes Berkshire Oxford and Hampshire to broaden knowledge across the North Wessex Downs AONB. It is expected that the AONB will be contributing £5000 across its area, with £525 directly attributed to the Wiltshire project. The total project cost for the Wiltshire element of this project is £1,425.

8.1.4. The project is:-

1. To produce two fact sheets for distribution and use in schools, museums, visitor centres and libraries to enable residents and visitors across the AONB to understand the link between the underlying geology and hydrology, biodiversity, archaeology, building stone etc.

2. To lead two guided walks to help people to appreciate and value the diverse character and unifying nature of the chalk across the AONB and how it has influenced the livelihoods of people working here, both historically and to the present day.

3. To widen understanding of the nature and range of chalk habitats.

The project takes place mainly in Pewsey but fact sheets will also include Marlborough and Devizes areas. Field excursions will take place around Crofton and Alton.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2 (Pew.11.08)	Milton Lilbourne Village Hall	Resurfacing of concrete entrance to village hall	£3,875

8.2.1 The Officer recommendation is for approval as the application meets the grant criteria 2011/12

8.2.3 The application demonstrates links to the Community Plan as follows:-

- 2.11 Support for voluntary organisations, community groups and small businesses.
- 3.1 Lack of appropriate facilities and opportunities for people who are socially isolated.
- 6.7 Improving sports, play and leisure facilities.
- 6.8 Diversionary activities for young people.

8.2.5 The applicant is the village hall committee, a not for profit organisation with 10 volunteers.

8.2.6 The project is for the resurfacing of the concrete entrance to the village hall due to a breakdown of the surface which places the committee at risk of civil litigation.

8.2.7 The total cost of the project is £7,750. The village hall committee is contributing £3,875.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3 (pew.11.011)	Sunflowers Preschool Grafton	Works to school buildings and marketing activities to expand provision to full day care for 0-5 years and offer after school/holiday club for primary age children	£4,976

8.3.1 The Officer recommendation will be given at the area board meeting as at the time of publishing this report there is information outstanding – as follows:-

- Officers are waiting for confirmation of the agreement between the Salisbury Diocese and the Preschool for the use of the building.

- Officers have not yet received an evaluation which shows actual spend against funding awarded to the group in September 2010 – it is a condition of all grants that these are completed before another grant is awarded.

8.3.1 The project demonstrates links to the Community Plan on page 22 – 5.6 – need to support parents in their parenting, page 23 5.8 – small primary schools under pressure and page 28, 6.13 – the need for more people in communities to engage in volunteering.

8.3.2 The applicant is the Sunflowers Preschool which is a not for profit organisation managed by a voluntary committee. The total project cost is £7,987 - £4,000 has been received in donations to the Preschool.

8.3.3 The primary school has now closed and the project is to expand the provision from the current term time only school hours pre school arrangements for 2-5 year olds to full day care for 0-5s throughout the year and then from January 2012 offer after school and holiday clubs for primary age children which will address a lack of after school care in the area.

- 8.3.4 The maximum number of children currently able to use Sunflowers at the moment is 12, aged between 2 and 5 years only.
- 8.3.5 Sunflowers is currently a term time only, school hours pre school for children aged 2 1/2 to starting school. Children attend on a sessional basis (mornings/afternoons etc.) and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Syllabus.
- 8.3.6 The plan is to expand Sunflowers to offer current full nursery day care as well as pre school. From October 31 it will open all year round from 8-6 and take children from 2 months to 5 years. Children will still attend on a sessional basis - ranging from 5 days per week for children of working parents to say 2 mornings a week. Term time only attendance will also be available. It is hoped to attract working parents as well as part time/non working parents. In addition it will offer after school and holiday clubs for children in nearby primary schools, for which there is no nearby provision, currently.
- 8.3.7 In terms of numbers of children benefiting - currently Sunflowers is registered with Ofsted to take 12 children at any one time (session). As children attend on a sessional basis (i.e. 2, 3, or 4 etc. sessions) then the total number of children who benefit is considerably more. Sunflowers are working through the numbers with Ofsted but anticipate that they will be registered for 9 babies, 14 toddlers, 12 pre school and 10 after school, so potentially 45 children at any one time, but obviously as children can attend four sessions then the number on roll could easily be double this.
- 8.3.8 Officers have checked the relationship between Sunflowers and Grafton Goslings which is held at the village hall - Goslings is a baby and toddler group (0 - 5s) for accompanied children. Children are usually accompanied by a parent, grandparent or carer. It takes place 10 - 11.30 each Thursday during term time and children enjoy play, craft and singing whilst parents have a cup of coffee and some adult company. Parents are responsible for their children at all times and therefore baby and toddler groups are not Ofsted registered.
- 8.3.9 Sunflowers will maintain an educational establishment in the parish around which a sense of community will be fostered, provide employment opportunities and facilitate the return to work of parents with young children. The Parish Council are supportive of this project.
- 8.3.10 Sunflowers Preschool extends the range of children's services available in Grafton parish and ensures that Grafton is a thriving and resilient community in its own right, rather than merely being a dormitory community to neighbouring towns and village.
- 8.3.11 The project is for works to the school building, upgrading of the car park, improving the gardens, the creation of a new website and a marketing plan including launch media.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4 (pew.11.10)	Wootton Rivers Village Hall	New Roof	£4,976

- 8.4.2 The Officer recommendation is for approval as the application meets the grant criteria 2011/12 with a condition that the match funding is in place before it the grant is claimed.
- 8.3.2 The project demonstrates links to the Community Plan on pages 25-28 Culture & Leisure – a thriving and cultural environment brings the community together.
- 8.4.3 The applicant is the Wootton Rivers Village Hall which is managed by a voluntary committee. The total project cost is £11,976 – an application has been made for £7,000 from the Community landfill fund.
- 8.4.4 The village hall was built in 1962 and the original roofing is still in place. The roofing sheets are made of asbestos (low grade) cement. There is a leak in the main roof on the north side.
- 8.4.5 Apart from the church and public house the village hall is the only indoor community facility and is located in the centre of the village. A range of activities are provided throughout the year to appeal to the young and old. It is felt in the current economic climate that it is even more urgent to maintain local facilities for the benefit of the immediate and nearby community.

Appendices – Grant application forms

(available to view online at <http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=5359&Ver=4>)

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

<b>Report Author</b>	Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718609 E-mail <a href="mailto:caroline.brailey@wiltshire.gov.uk">caroline.brailey@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
----------------------	---