

Wiltshire Council

Melksham Area Board

12 September 2023

Melksham Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

- To provide details of the grant applications made to the Melksham Area Board. These could include:
 - community area grants
 - youth grants
 - older and vulnerable people grants
 - area board initiatives
- To document any recommendations provided through sub-groups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2023-24	£ 22,309.00	£ 18,349.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 2,000.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Current Balance	£ 20,309.00	£ 18,349.00	£ 7,700.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 16,834.00	£ 8,349.00	£ 6,200.00

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG1308	Community Area Grant	West Wilts Radio	WWR DAB Project	£10320.00	£1875.00

Project Summary:

To transition to digital audio broadcasting (DAB) so that West Wilts Radio (WWR) can deliver the benefits of entertainment and information to a wider proportion of the West Wiltshire Community. Ofcom's figures show that three quarters of people have a preference for DAB, so DAB is an imperative for WWR which is currently an internet only broadcaster.

ABG1309	Community Area Grant	Meadowbrook CIC	Improve entrance track and car park area at Meadowbrook CIC	£3200.00	£1600.00
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Project Summary:

Meadowbrook CIC is a nurturing 2 ½ acre outdoors space located at the edge of Melksham at SN12 7RD. People living with mental and physical challenges (who often find themselves isolated and marginalized, particularly in rural areas) can enjoy community and connection by participating in a variety of therapeutic activities.

Meadowbrook will offer specific supported sessions along with more 'drop-in' style open sessions in horticulture, green crafts, creative arts, yoga and fitness. These will take place outdoors in the meadow and in the communal growing area as well as within various shelters. We are working hard to ensure the whole site will be fit for purpose for all beneficiaries. The Meadowbrook site is made up of ex-agricultural land - a small front field and much larger back field, as well as a substantial brook and a small storage barn next to an area of hard standing for parking on. It is owned outright by the CIC's co-founders and was bought specifically for the purpose of creating this setting for the community. Meadowbrook has an entrance track consisting of crushed stone that goes through the small front field and leads into a sizable area of hard standing which is used by everyone as the parking area. We urgently need to get both the entrance track and hard standing parking area addressed. When we get any periods of prolonged heavy rain, the sunken stone track and hard standing become waterlogged, churned up and unsafe. This spring, several of our regular volunteers got their cars stuck in the churned-up mud. Before this winter, we urgently need to get a digger (with driver) to scrape off the existing grass/mud in the hard standing area used for parking. We need a geotextile terram laid down in the parking area before new crushed stone is then added to top up the whole of the main parking area. We also need crushed stone to top up the entrance track coming in. The digger will then need to level out and compact down all of the replacement crushed stone. The footprint of both the track and the parking area would remain the same and we would replace/ top up the surfaces with like-for-like material. The new crushed stone will enable better drainage. It is vital we address this issue before the winter sets in. Without safe access and stable, level parking, we simply cannot provide all of the great activities on site for our beneficiaries and the wider community. Meadowbrook CIC will struggle to be an accessible year-round setting and certainly will not be able to help as many local Melksham residents.

ABG1261	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Wiltshire Music Centre	Celebrating Age Wiltshire	£10455.00	£1500.00
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Project Summary:

Celebrating Age Wiltshire (CAW) will use arts & heritage activities to reach the most isolated older people in the Melksham area, helping to tackle loneliness and aiming to improve their health and wellbeing through creative and artistic engagement. In particular CAW will target those people who are vulnerable and socially isolated due to frailty, ill health, dementia, poor mobility or caring responsibilities. Our programme has developed four different strands of both live and online activity to meet the needs of this group. CAW is a partnership of community organisations across the county with Wiltshire Music Centre as lead organization.

ABG1317	Youth Grant	4 Youth South West	Remote Villages Street based Youth Work	£17726.80	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>In addition to the challenges that all young people face, those living in remote rural areas experience additional challenges due to lesser opportunities for positive social and developmental activities, reduced transport links and isolation; this means they can often be even more at risk of engaging in negative activity which can be damaging for them, their families and their communities. Our project aims to alleviate this by delivering detached, street-based youth work within the remote villages of Broughton Gifford, Great Hinton, Keevil, Semington and Steeple Ashton. We will build positive, trusting relationships with young people in these areas and use our engagement with them to better understand their needs, challenges, and their aspirations, gathering information to understand what they would ideally like to see in the way of accessible and engaging youth work provision. To respond to the feedback we gather, we will aim to work closely with the Area Board, Parish Councils and local communities to see how we can best support young people living in these areas.</p>					

ABG1319	Youth Grant	4 Youth South West	Detached Youth Work Melksham	£16226.80	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>To provide detached youth work in Melksham and Melksham Without to get to know the young people in our community. To ascertain what they would like from the youth work provision within the town and how this information can be shared with the Area Board, the Hub and other professional agencies to work towards a joined-up plan for youth work provision. The detached youth work will provide a link to the centre based youth work we carry out to compliment and be a part of the overall youth services for the area. This will help young people navigate the opportunities available to them while engaging in projects and activities of informal education to help them become positive members of the community.</p>					

Background

3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
 - Community Area Grants (capital)
 - Youth Grants (revenue)
 - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

Main Considerations

6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young person's funding guidelines have been adhered to.
7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

Safeguarding Implications

9. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Public Health Implications

10. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

11. Grant funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

Financial Implications

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

Legal Implications

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

Workforce Implications

14. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

Equalities Implications

15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community-based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

Proposals

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

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

