

Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 September 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 2 application seeking 2011/2012 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **Poulshot Village Trust** have applied for **£739.33** for the restoration of a Poulshot pond which has an active breeding population of Great Crested Newts. The recommendation is to award **£672** the funding which is the full amount minus the 10% contingency.
2. **Seend PC** have applied for **£288** for the restoration of the Seend war memorial. The recommendation is to award the funding.

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 would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 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. EXAMPLE Two applicants withdrew their applications and hope to reapply at a future date. One application did not meet the funding criteria and was referred to Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. CIB work 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.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every other Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Melksham Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of £49,762 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £3687. This leaves a total budget of £53,449 for the 2011/2012 budget.
- 1.7. 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 volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.8. The 2010/2011 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Melksham Community Strategy• Grant applications
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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.
- 2.2. This will be the final round of funding during 2010/11.

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 Melksham Area Board.
- 4.2. If Melksham CAP core funding and these community grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Melksham Area Board will have a balance of **£35,641**.

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
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8.1	Poulshot Village Trust	Undertake restoration of Middle Green pond in Poulshot	£739.33
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- 8.1.1. Recommendation is to award £672, which is total amount requested minus the contingency funding of 10%.
- 8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan in terms of 'landscape management and improving green and open spaces'.
- 8.1.4. Locally agreed priority in the Poulshot conservation area statement, August 2004.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.1.6. The pond on Poulshot Green has a breeding population of rare and protected Great Crested Newt. The pond is potentially ideal for Great Crested Newts but it is becoming choked by aquatic vegetation. This forms a dense carpet in the shallow eastern end of the pond which stretches across the pond and threatens to reduce and shade the deeper water in the western end. The Project is targeted towards the restoration of this major pond on Poulshot Green which is accessible to the local and wider community. The project was instigated by Village Trust members who saw that some of the most beautiful rural prospects and valuable habitats for wild plants and animals in the village were being lost after years of neglect. Local people who pass the pond when taking a leisurely walk, or when walking their dogs, have expressed interest in seeing the pond managed better and to protect the habitat of the Great Crested newts by removing the excessive growth of aquatic vegetation. Pond restoration will significantly contribute to wildlife habitats and biodiversity and preserve for future generations part of Poulshot's farming heritage.
- 8.1.7. Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- 8.1.8. If the area board does not grant funding the members would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Seend PC	Restoration of Seend war memorial	£288

- 8.1.9. Recommendation is to award the funding.

- 8.1.10. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.11. This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.
- 8.1.12. No locally agreed priority.
- 8.1.13. The applicant is a parish council.
- 8.1.14. This project is to repair damage caused by age and weather and clean the stone using eco-friendly methods. This will provide a renewed focus for village Armistice services. The War Memorial is located in the grounds of the village parish church. The War Memorial can be used to educate future generations about the sacrifices made by British troops in two World Wars, and still being made today in current conflicts.
- 8.1.15. Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- 8.1.16. If the area board does not grant funding the parish council would have to fund from next year's precept.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Poulshot Village Trust Appendix 2 Grant application – Seend Parish Council
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Abbi Gutierrez, Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718443 E-mail: abbi.gutierrez@wiltshire.gov.uk
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