

Melksham Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

1. 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
2. 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	£ 3,725.40	£ 11,805.56	£ 2,474.78
Current Balance	£ 18,583.60	£ 6,543.44	£ 5,225.22
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ -9,158.89	£ 1,373.01	£ 225.22

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG1653	Area Board Initiative	Melksham area board	skate event at Melksham skate park	£500.00	£500.00
<p>Project Summary: Event run by ATBShop Skate Warehouse in collaboration with 4youth, other skateboard/scooter associated companies to run stalls, local supermarket for refreshments. Event to include Free scooter / skate workshop Demos & music Games & prizes to be won Free scooter & skateboard hire or Bring your own board or scooter From attending events in Westbury and BOA we know that young people come together at such events and that it is a community event for young people in a place young people are already at. These events are great for engaging with young people. Skateboarding is popular with young people and has some great benefits for their mental health and wellbeing as well as benefits to the environment. Benefits of skateboarding – Relieves stress, Social, affordable especially in todays cost of living crisis, mode of transport, physical activity not only coordination but a cardio workout and improves patience.</p>					
ABG1492	Community Area Grant	Riverside Centre	Acoustic Sound Project	£6850.00	£3425.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: The Riverside Centre was built 1970 with no sound proofing on the ceiling - this makes the hall difficult to have conversation with older people due to the echo. The project is to attach acoustic tiles to the ceiling which will absorb the echo sounds in the hall and in addition, to provide a suitable small modern sound system and loop facility, for speaking and musical events for general community use.</p>					
ABG1544	Community Area Grant	Friends of Shurnhold Fields	New tractor mower	£8674.00	£4337.00
<p>Project Summary: The Friends have been using a volunteer's own mower for a number of years for both grass cutting but more importantly to provide transport for the trailer for moving all sorts of equipment, plants, tree saplings, clearance of vegetation etc. This mower is no longer functioning due to old age and the Friends are looking to purchase a new fit for purpose tractor mower to aid all of their maintenance working parties, and to provide all of the cut grass walkways between the features (rare species orchard, WW1 memorial trees, wildflower meadow, picnic benches, access to the stream).</p>					
ABG1553	Community Area Grant	Bowerhill Baby and Toddler Group	BBTG New Racking Storage System and 2 X Water Trays	£1960.98	£980.49
<p>Project Summary: Bowerhill Baby & Toddler Group have recently had to remove their racking system in their storage cupboard which is 15 + years old. It became a health and safety hazard and not fit for purpose. It almost fell apart and after a near miss with a Grandma and a toddler it needed to be removed immediately. We are therefore seeking funding for a new bespoke storage & racking system to store all our Baby & Toddler toys and equipment. Secondly, we are also applying for funding to purchase a 2 X water/activity table for our toddlers. We are currently limited on the type of the activities we can offer because we only have tuff trays which aren't deep enough to put water and activities that would over spill onto the floor becoming a trip/slip hazard. During the summer we also hope to offer lots of activities outside with water play and with these 2 stations we could offer much more to enhance their sensory skills and development. We understand that sensory skills are so important at this early stage in their development and this would really allow us to broaden the range of activity that we can offer. We are asking for 2 water trays due to the number of toddlers we have attending on average 40 every week. By having 2 water trays this would allow for more of them to be involved in the activity.</p>					
ABG1554	Community Area Grant	Shaw and Whitley Community Hub	Whitley Stores Community Shop	£42091.00	£5000.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: Shaw and Whitley Community Hub is a Community Benefit Society that exists to develop and operate a community shop to serve the villages of Shaw and Whitley in Wiltshire. The Society has 175 members. The community shop will provide access to the only convenience store within these rural villages, but will also provide a place to volunteer and a meeting place for the village. The benefit of the project include reducing social isolation, particularly amongst older members of the community and improving the overall sustainability of village life. The Society successfully ran a community shop from August 2021 to December 2022 from a rented space within the village. Following the unplanned closure of this space, the group has worked to gain planning permission for a new site within the village. In September 2023 planning permission was granted to site the shop in the car park of the Pear Tree Inn, Whitley. The group have installed a cabin on the site which is currently being developed into the new shop. The Society has recruited approximately 50 volunteers to staff the shop. The Society is self funding the majority of the project utilising resources raised through its membership, but is supplementing this with accessing grant funding. Full online details of our proposal available here: https://whitleystores.org/</p>					
ABG1606	Community Area Grant	Melksham Cricket Club	Extension to outdoor space for spectators and community	£10749.84	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary: We wish to extend the patio area out the front of the pavilion incorporating fencing, furniture, parasols and sunshades. As the club has grown so has the number of users who now not only play but watch and use the club. The patio area is not a big area once two teams and their families are using it. We have a new ladies team of 20 ladies and growing and they play soft ball festivals. There are 28 teams in the softball festival and the club can host maybe 8 to 10 clubs at a time.</p>					
ABG1620	Community Area Grant	Berryfield Village Hall Trust	Berryfield Village Hall Air Conditioning	£14020.00	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary: The hall has been in use for it's first year and over the summer, we had feedback from users of excessive temperatures in the hall spaces. Although there is an air ventilation/circulation system, this does not cool the air temperature and as windows are sealed (due to planning requirements) the heat soars. On a number of occasions we recorded that the room temperature reached in excess of 30+ degrees and some booked activities were unable to run. Therefore, we wish to install air conditioning units to improve user comfort in all seasons.</p>					
ABG1632	Community Area Grant	Bowerhill Village Hall Trust	Bowerhill Village Hall replacement kitchen	£12746.00	£4000.00

Project Summary:

The kitchen is 19 years old and is showing its age. The kitchen has always been well used but, since reopening after the pandemic, is now used more than ever. Recent investigations have revealed that the kitchen was installed by builders not professional kitchen fitters and, due to financial constraints at the time (2005), was built down to a price, with many corners cut both literally and figuratively. We therefore feel that the time has come to have a modern kitchen supplied and installed by a professional kitchen fitting company.

ABG1488	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Arts Together	Arts Together Projects for Isolated and Vulnerable Older People in Melksham	£8562.00	£2500.00
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Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
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Project Summary:

Arts Together is a Wiltshire charity that has been running creative support groups for isolated and vulnerable older people in six areas of Wiltshire for 23 years. We provide regular, meaningful activities that build trust, confidence and friendship, supporting group members within their community to combat the damage caused by isolation. From April 2024 to March 2025 we will run 6 art projects in Melksham, led by local artists and supported by a team of local volunteers. Projects are stimulating and challenging and adapted specifically so that they are accessible to all. Recent projects have included making stained glass panels and writing, creating models and filming a performance piece. Each project takes place over a 5-week block, at the Rowley Place Community Hall in Melksham. This venue is provided as an in-kind donation, free of charge, by Selwood Housing Association. Assisted transport is arranged for the group members, the majority of whom would be unable to attend otherwise. We also provide refreshments, a hot lunch and a warm accessible place to be at each weekly project session, increasingly important for frail older people during this cost-of-living crisis. Our art tutors are professional artists fully insured and with DBS checks and our group manager and volunteers (also DBS checked) are trained in supporting members who might have barriers to taking part, be it through poor health, disability or mental health issues. An accredited carer is at each group session for any personal support needs. The group manager has extensive experience and offers wellbeing support to each beneficiary beyond the weekly sessions to enable them to keep attending the group. This year our transport, food, carer and materials costs have increased due to the cost-of-living crisis. We have increased the number of members per group from 12 to 16 in response to increased need and referrals which has also increased our costs. We are constantly fundraising and request £2500 from Melksham Area Board towards the cost of running three of these engaging, confidence building and life enhancing 5-week projects for some of the most vulnerable older members of our community.

ABG1650	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Age UK Wiltshire	Melksham Information and Advice for Older People	£22500.00	£2500.00
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Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
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Project Summary:

Age UK Wiltshire will provide a monthly Information and Advice outreach service at locations around the Melksham area, including the Community Campus, to provide residents with comprehensive information and advice on a wide range of issues affecting older people, including welfare benefits and money; arranging care and support; housing options; finding local services and later life planning. Where people are eligible for further support, through the Melksham Community Support service, arrangements will be made for our Senior Project Worker to visit them at home. This project will also enable us to more widely promote the Melksham Community Support service, in the villages around Melksham, by making sure information is available in these areas. Many older people could be claiming benefits which would really help improve their independence and quality of life but are often unaware these benefits are available to them. Other than the state pension, all other benefits have to be applied for, often a complicated and confusing process. Last year our Information & Advice service supported people across Wiltshire and Swindon to claim £2.15 million per year in previously unclaimed benefits, and since April 2023 we have helped people living in the Melksham area to claim over £90k per year in previously unclaimed benefits, putting extra money into people's pockets, much of which will be spent locally. "Wanted to let you know that thanks to your amazing help I've been awarded higher rate Attendance Allowance. This will make my life so much easier. I really can't thank you enough for your help, I'm certain I would not have been successful without you." "You've been so helpful and really put my mind at rest with all these complicated forms and support routes." "I did not understand the system so the help received was tremendous." "Without Age UK I don't know what I would have done." "I think the service was absolutely excellent, thank you. I didn't know about any of this help! I was very down as I was refused Attendance Allowance when I initially applied and this really put me off. The help was great and I've been able to look after myself better now I have AA. I feel happier overall." We provide a service that is quality assured, trusted, delivers tangible results and enables older people to have peace of mind that they do not have to make tough choices such as whether to eat or put the heating on. Making the service available face to face in Melksham and the surrounding villages will mean that more people can access information and advice. Outreach sessions will be held at a range of locations, in addition to the Community Campus, such as sheltered housing schemes and places where older people gather (clubs, etc.).

ABG1602	Youth Grant	Melksham Cricket Club	Youth Cricket Equipment	£4361.07	£2170.00
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Project Summary:

We wish to update our cricket equipment due to the continued growth of our youth section. We wish to upgrade and improve several items of kit including Bats, Pads, Helmets, Gloves, Wicket keeping equipment, balls and apparatus. Our kit has become worn through continued used and now split/cracked/ damaged. The kit is at a point of replacement, to ensure the continued safety of our young players. We provide kit to our youth to ensure the sport is accessible to all and therefore parents do not necessarily have to keep buying the kit as their child grows.

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG1609	Youth Grant	AfcMelksham	Afc Melksham Disabled youth football coaching	£1700.00	£500.00

Project Summary:

Coaching disabled people on a NO cost basis weekly with trained FAQualified coaches These 11 to 19 youths are keen to play football and engage in sport ,they feel excluded from normal clubs and coaching as they require specially trained FA coaches and often more coaches per head to provide a safe environment for enjoying playing with like minded peers. We also have parents and carers present at each session optional but encouraged) to improve spirit and club family atmosphere, Winning Wiltshire council most inclusive club some years ago underlined we are getting it right as a formula we follow with each seasons intake of players.

ABG1619	Youth Grant	Saxon Group Riding for the Disabled Association	Saxon Group RDA Engagement Melksham	£2100.00	£1050.00
<p>Project Summary: We have identified a need to make the best use of our finances in order to future proof and grow our much needed services. Our aim is to continue to provide the opportunities available to our current participants and opening up opportunities into the Melksham Community for all children and young people, whilst reducing the need to pass on increased costs to them. This includes expanding our Tea with a Pony and Proficiency sessions. We will be able to continue to provide improvement both physically, through therapy, and mentally, by educational improvement and self achievement and enjoyment. We will also be able to generate funds to help us fulfill our plans to reduce our waiting list and open up the potential for more riders to join us. We can achieve this by using monies saved and further income and planned fundraising to purchase our seventh horse. Saxon Group RDA is open to all ages and disabilities and serves to improve health and well being, improve opportunities to reduce loneliness, support low income families and reduce barriers to participants to keep them active. We work with and support other groups and charities. We would like to print and distribute leaflets in the Melksham community to raise awareness of our group and increase participation from children and young adults from Melksham. We then hope to increase our sessions as we firmly believe that our horses help change peoples lives.</p>					
ABG1640	Youth Grant	The Steeple Ashton Recreation and Community Development Group	Steeple Ashton St Marys playing field development Football	£1900.86	£950.43
<p>Project Summary: As part of a much larger project to improve a vastly under-utilised piece of land in the village, we plan to install a 5-a-side football pitch. This application seeks funding for goals and a line painting machine so that this pitch can be created. The area currently has a full sized football pitch on it, but this does not allow for any other activities to take place due to the space it takes up. By installing a smaller (5-a-side) pitch, we will free-up space to provide a much better community space which ultimately aims to have nature areas, Petanque courts, play equipment, a Pump Track and various other smaller facilities. The current application seeks to kick-start this project and begin the process of upgrading this community area with hte installation of a 5-a-side football pitch. Whilst this area will predominantly appeal to the younger members of the village, there will in future be projects to bring aspects to the field for all ages.</p>					

Background

- 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 persons 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.

- Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

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