

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	21 September 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

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

1. Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

The officer recommendation is that £ 1000 is awarded to Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for a walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon

2. Bradford on Avon Rowing Club

The officer recommendation is that a reduced sum of £ 1, 116 is awarded to the Bradford on Avon Rowing Club to purchase a new boat for recreational rowing to reflect the resources held and potential income generation to the club of the new boat

3. Winsley Village Hall Management Committee

The officer recommendation is that £ 2, 028 is awarded to Winsley Village Hall Management Committee for the installation of new heaters

4. Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship – deferred application

The officer recommendation is that £ 600 is awarded to the Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship for directional signage

5. Councillor-led application by Councillor Carbin

The officer recommendation is that £ 5, 000 is awarded for a zebra crossing at the Common, Holt as matched funding to an application to the Substantive Highways Scheme. **Should the bid be unsuccessful the funding offer will be revoked.**

1. Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community 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 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 as to 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2011/2012 of £47,110 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £12,142. This gives a total budget of £59,252 for the 2011/2012 financial year. It will not be possible for unspent monies at 31/03/12 to be rolled forward into the budget for the 2012/13 financial year.
- 1.5 It has been decided that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council website and hard copies will be available upon request.
- 1.6 The 2011/2012 funding criteria and application forms are available on the Council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and 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 2011/12• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement
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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 will be 6 rounds of funding during 2011/12, this being the third round.

3 Environmental & Community Implications

3.1 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of £ 44, 956 remaining in the grants budget for the 2011/12 financial year.

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 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	Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon	A walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon	£ 1, 000

8.1.1 The application meets the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria for 2011/12.

8.1.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and to the Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its aims to promote sustainable transport, reduce carbon emissions and to stimulate tourism and spending in the local economy. It also supports the aims of the BOA2026 strategic plan.

8.1.4 Members of the Grants Advisory Group would have liked to have seen financial contributions from the Town Council, CFBOA's own reserves or from sponsorship (although applications for under £ 1,000 in fact do not require this). The community benefit is questioned and the project is felt to be 'a luxury, not a necessity in the current financial climate'. The GAG recommend refusal of the application.

8.1.5 The project will highlight footpaths, cycle routes and bus routes with the aim of encouraging residents when travelling within the town to use alternatives to the car. The map will complement the Walkers are Welcome initiative, which is aimed more towards visitors, and will show the proposed Bradford on Avon cycle network and designated rights of way. The map will be free of charge with an initial print run of 3000 copies. It is hoped to make this available through the Tourist Information Centre. A survey will be carried out after 6 months to measure changes in travel behaviour.

The officer recommendation is that £ 1000 is awarded to Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for a walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Bradford on Avon Rowing Club	Purchase of new boat for recreational rowing	£ 3, 528

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2011/12.

8.2.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its contribution to improved leisure provision, to activities for young people and to healthy lifestyles.

8.2.4 Members of the Grants Advisory Group consider that the project can readily be met from the club's own financial reserves. They note there is no contribution sought or offered from the Town Council and that Sport England and Cash 4 Clubs have refused to support the project. They estimate significant income generation which will repay the costs of investment in the new boat in only 2 years. The GAG note that the Area Board has previously given a substantial grant to the club and recommend approval of the application on a reduced basis to reflect these concerns.

8.2.5 The Rowing Club is small but successful with a large number of beginners wishing to row recreationally. Recreational rowing provides a wide range of benefits to individuals, including improved physical and mental health, as well as providing a valuable resource to bring together the local community. The club owns only one stable single scull which is more than 40 years old and they wish to purchase a new stable boat for recreational members to use. The club has identified the 'Rossiter Grebe' as the boat most suitable to requirements given its flexibility of use, longevity and its ability to be used coxed or coxless. In order to cope with the level of interest from adult beginners the club has run 'learn to row' courses for the last 2 years and there is a waiting list for the course. The new boat will increase the capacity of the club to meet its demand for an estimated 10 year life span. The club will monitor the satisfaction of recreational rowers, will promote the new boat to the wider community and will try to manage downwards the length of the waiting list. The club has reserves but has other structural liabilities and last year made an operational losses due to repairs needed at the boathouse, which is in need of replacement.

The officer recommendation is that a reduced sum of £ 1, 116 is awarded to the Bradford on Avon Rowing Club for recreational rowing to reflect the resources held and potential income generation to the club of the new boat

Ref	Applicant	Project Proposal	Funding Requested
8.3	Winsley Village Hall Management Committee	Installation of new heaters	£ 2, 028

8.3.1 The application meets the community grant criteria for 2011/12.

8.3.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its contribution to village services and to culture, leisure and sporting provision in the community.

8.3.3 The Grants Advisory Group note that the committee has free reserves of over £ 8, 500 but that only £ 1,000 is being contributed by them. The applicant confirms that maintenance and repair costs are very high and last year the roof alone cost £ 2, 000 to repair. The Parish Council is contributing £ 1,000 as the owner of the building. Four new 'Drugasar ART 8' gas wall heaters are to be installed (following three quotations being received) but the GAG suggest that further information is sought on the comparisons between different types of heaters.

8.3.4 The existing heaters in the hall were condemned following the annual inspection in May 2011. The installation of new heaters will enable the hall to be open through the coming winter as has always been the case in previous years. The application is for the capital investment. The Management Committee have the funds to maintain the heaters after installation. Records will be kept of lettings and numbers attending events in the hall during the winter to measure the value of this investment.

The officer recommendation is that £ 2, 028 is awarded to Winsley Village Hall Management Committee for the installation of new heaters

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship – deferred application	Directional signage	£ 600

8.4.1 The application meets the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria for 2011/12. Highways Officers comment that the ownership of the current signs at Barton Farm is unclear, but likely to be in the ownership of the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, English Heritage or British Waterways. The Council is not in a position to undertake the renewal of these signs anytime soon and because the signs are not on the highway the Council does not need to be involved in erecting the refurbished signs.

8.4.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and to the Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its aim to protect local heritage and to stimulate tourism and spending in the local economy.

8.4.3 Members of the Grants Advisory Group consider that the project is ineligible for support because they take the view that the renewal of signage is the responsibility of the local authorities. The financial reserves of the applicant body are healthy. The GAG recommend refusal of this application, their full comments are available in an appendix to this report.

8.4.4 The signs are currently in a poor state and need attention either because they are unreadable or because of disintegration. Clear signage is important as these two

churches are of great value to the town and bring in hundreds of tourists and visitors. The maintenance costs of the churches are high and although the trust has reserves it does rely on donations for the upkeep.

8.4.5 The application was originally considered at the Area Board meeting on 20 July 2011 and was deferred pending a site visit and discussions with the Town Council and the applicant. The visit was held on 12 August, attended by Councillor Gwen Allison and Mrs Anna Tanfield, and the Town Council at its meeting on 30 August gave the proposal its full support:

“I have been asked to write to you by Councillor Leach on behalf of the Town Council to pass on our full endorsement of the Community Area Grant requested by the Trustees of the Saxon Church and St Mary Tory. The Town Council is very appreciative of the good work the Trustees do in maintaining our Ancient Monument and Grade 2 Listed building of St Mary Tory. We understand the need to have adequate financial reserves for unforeseen repairs. The current signage appears to be old and in some places is missing causing difficulties for tourists. Having new appropriate signs will improve the look of the street scene for both residents and tourists alike. Tourism is of great benefit to the commerce of the town. The Town Council hopes the Area Board will support this grant application.”

The officer recommendation is that £ 600 is awarded to the Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship to remove and renovate or renew 3 directive signs to both churches

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Councillor Carbin	Zebra Crossing at the Common, Holt	£ 5, 000

8.5.1 The application meets the community grant criteria for 2011/12. Funding through the Community Area Transport Group is highly constrained at current levels of £ 10, 062 per annum and ‘cross funding’ with the Community Area Grant Scheme has been supported by councillors.

8.5.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its contribution to community safety, pedestrian priority and community cohesion.

8.5.3 The Grants Advisory Group are concerned that the Community Area Grant Scheme is being used for highways infrastructure projects, rather than the highways budget, and the potential to ‘crowd out’ smaller bids from community groups. They are concerned whether the community will use the crossing (confirmed in surveys) and who will install and maintain the crossing (Wiltshire Highways).

8.5.4 A feasibility study was carried out in response to a request raised by Holt Parish Council that they would like to see the provision of a pedestrian crossing made in the vicinity of the Station Road junction with The Street / The Common. The reason for this request was that changes are being made to the advised walking route to the local junior school and to the drop off and pick up point for those car transported children. There is a perception in the village of community severance brought about by traffic using the B3107 and it is considered that a crossing will reduce this severance, make crossing the road safer, and encourage greater numbers of children to walk to school. A 145 signatory petition from local residents was received by Wiltshire Council in May 2011. The feasibility report, published in May 2011, recommended the implementation of a zebra crossing adjacent to the boundary of numbers 152 and 153 The Common. The Parish Council with the support of their Wiltshire Councillor, Trevor Carbin, have held public meetings in the village to discuss the need for the crossing and in order to raise funding towards it. There is widespread goodwill towards the project evidenced in the funding package which includes contributions from Holt Parish Council and local residents. The Bradford on Avon Community Area Transport Group at its meeting on 8 July discussed the project, which is identified as one of its priority transport issues. It recommended that a bid be put forward to the Substantive Highways Scheme. Should this bid be unsuccessful the funding offer will be revoked. Funding through CAT-G is highly constrained at current levels of £ 10, 062 per annum and 'cross funding' with the Community Area Grant Scheme has been supported by councillors.

The officer recommendation is that £ 5, 000 is awarded for a zebra crossing at the Common, Holt as matched funding to an application to the Substantive Highways Scheme. Should the bid be unsuccessful the funding offer will be revoked.

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>Grant applications from:</p> <p>Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon Bradford on Avon Rowing Club Winsley Village Hall Management Committee Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship Councillor Carbin</p> <p>The Grants Advisory Group was unable to meet to consider these applications but comments from individual members have been received by email</p>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 713060 E-mail peter.dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk</p>
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