

Agenda Item 12

Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider four applications seeking the following funding from 2011/12 Area Board Grants:

1. Coulston Village Hall Management Committee application for £990 to part fund the purchase of new chairs.
2. Reeves Community Orchard application for £589 to purchase a chainsaw, strimmer and associated maintenance tools.
3. Bratton Recreation Ground Committee application for £2140 to part fund the installation of modern kitchen facilities.
4. Trowbridge Tigers Football Club application for £233 to part fund host a 5 a side football tournament in Westbury to raise the profile of lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

1. Background

1.1 Area boards have authority to approve grants under powers delegated to the area boards by the leader of Wiltshire Council (13 May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation area boards must operate within the policies set by the leader and/or the council. Wiltshire Council has adopted an Area Grants Policy, with funding criteria, to which the area boards must adhere.

1.2 In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an area board that was contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the leader, the appropriate cabinet member or the Cabinet.

1.3 In 2011/12 the Westbury Area Board was allocated a budget of £40,447. At the area board meeting of February 3 2011, the decision was taken to roll over unspent totals of £7492 making a total of £47,939. Following the approval of grant funding at the area board in August, we currently have **£34,525** remaining for this financial year.

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 before 31 March 2012.

2.2 Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting until 31 March 2012.

3. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

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 Westbury Area Board.

4.2 If the grant applications are approved, there will be **£30,573** left in the Westbury area board budget for 2011/12.

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

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Coulston Village Hall Management Committee	Replacing the old wooden and metal framed chairs used in the Hall for various community events and village meetings with more up-to-date, comfortable and lighter alternatives.	£ 990

8.1.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria.

8.1.2 . The village hall is the only public meeting place apart from the church. There is no shop or pub in Coulston. The management committee of the hall organise a program of social events throughout the year which allows villagers from all parts of the community valuable regular get-togethers. The project to enhance the hall supports the development of a thriving leisure and

cultural environment and vibrant community life as identified in the Westbury Area Community Plan (P. 26). It also demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities".

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Reeves Community Orchard	This 76 year old orchard was bequeathed to Bratton Parish and contains several rare varieties of apple. This orchard needs continual maintenance and equipment is needed for tree replacement, maintenance, clearance and pruning.	£589

8.2.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria.

8.2.2 The orchard is used by schools, horticultural and interest groups, naturalists and ramblers as well as the local community. The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities" and to the protection of the countryside and wildlife habitat as identified in the Westbury Community Area Plan (P. 10).

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Bratton Recreation Ground Committee	The recreation ground pavilion has only basic kitchen facilities and the need has arisen to upgrade these and replace with a modern kitchen area for the use of all recreation ground user groups. These include cricket teams, football teams, local residents and youth groups.	£2140

8.3.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria.

8.3.2 The recreation ground is a well used community facility. The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities" and to the aims of the Westbury Community Area Plan concerning the development of a thriving leisure environment to create vibrant community life. (P. 26)

Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Trowbridge Tigers Football Club	The requested funding would be used to host a national 5 a side football tournament to raise the profile of and generate a positive attitude to lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Although the club is based in Trowbridge, the team is made up from players from Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge. The tournament will take place at Leighton sports ground during the day with an evening reception in Warminster.	£233

8.4.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grant criteria.

8.4.2 The project demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities" and to the Resilient Communities Partnership strategic aims of tackling inequalities to create stronger and more inclusive communities.

8.4.3 The applicant is asking for £233 - half of the sum mentioned on the application form. Warminster Area Board has been asked to contribute the remainder. A previous application was also submitted to Trowbridge Area Board but it refused to fund the project.