

Report to	Melksham Area Board	Agenda Item. No.11
Date of Meeting	26 October 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. **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust** have applied for **£497** for replacement of signs along former route of Wilts & Berks canal in Melksham. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **The Golden Fleece Cricket Club** have applied for **£3700** for creation of a new cricket pitch in Whitley. The recommendation is to award the funding subject to the match funding being obtained from the other grant schemes that have been applied for.

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 these community grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Melksham Area Board will have a balance of **£31,911**.

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
8.1	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Replacement of signs along former route of Wilts & Berks canal in Melksham	£497

- 8.1.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.
- 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 encouraging tourism.
- 8.1.4. No locally agreed priorities.
- 8.1.5. The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- 8.1.6. About 15 years ago, the Trust prepared a leaflet for public information, 'The Lost Waterway of Melksham,' showing where walkers could see evidence of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal that ran through Melksham. We also set up directional signs, with Council permission, at various points along the route to enable walkers to follow the route more easily. These signs have faded badly over the years and some are missing. The project is to replace these signs with new signs. The aim is to improve the experience of those who may wish to follow the route or identify where the canal ran.
- 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 , seek alternative funding sources or fund from their reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Golden Fleece Cricket Club	Creation of a new cricket pitch	£3700

- 8.1.9. Recommendation is to award the funding subject to the match funding being obtained from the other grant schemes that have been applied for.
- 8.1.10. Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- 8.1.11. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan by ensuring that playing fields are not lost when the lease at the current Golden Fleece cricket club finishes.
- 8.1.12. No locally agreed priority.
- 8.1.13. The applicant is a non for profit organisation.
- 8.1.14. The project is to create a replacement cricket field. The lease on the club's current field behind the Golden Fleece Public House, Shaw, expires in 2012

with no possibility of renewal. Specifically, the group is asking for funding for the construction of the cricket square. With these new facilities the club will be able to continue to provide playing and practicing facilities under the umbrella of friendly village cricket.

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 group would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Appendix 2 Grant application – Golden Fleece Cricket Club
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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