

ITEM 12

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	29th April 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £7,911.58

1. Langford Parish Hall Committee – seeking £743.30 to contribute towards the cost of works needed to the parish hall, including replacement of the fire door, replacement of a rotten window and the repainting of the exterior.
2. Newton Tony Parish Council – seeking £990 to contribute towards the costs of providing a hardstanding basketball/netball practice area on the recreation field.
3. Brigmerston & Milston Parish Hall Committee – seeking £2,574.78 to contribute towards the cost of works to the parish hall, including to the kitchen entrance area, window replacements and main hall flooring.
4. Durrington Town Council – seeking £2,000 to contribute towards the cost of play equipment refurbishment at the recreation ground in Durrington.
5. Shrewton United Football Club – seeking £1,603.50 to contribute towards the cost of providing a hardstanding between the recreation hall and the west end of the football pitch.

Officer Recommendation

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Refuse

NB: The Grants Review Panel's recommendation in relation to the grant request from Shrewton FC is as follows:

To approve £1,000 towards the cost of the hardstanding for the following reasons:

(a) the wider community benefit brought about by the hardstanding

(b) there are a number of funding avenues which need to be explored by the applicant to source the remaining funds required, e.g. The Football Foundation, Sport England and the Rural Development Programme for England

(c) whilst a retrospective application, the applicant may not have been fully aware of the processes, criteria and timescales involved in agreeing a grant

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. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. The Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £50,529 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £154. This leaves a total budget of £50,683 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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.

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. There will be 6 rounds of funding during 2010/11. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;
 - 1st July 2010
 - 2nd September 2010
 - 21st October 2010
 - 2nd December 2010
 - January / February 2011 (date to be confirmed)

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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Amesbury Area Board will have a remaining balance of £44,375.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific human resources 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	Langford Parish Hall Committee	Works required on the parish hall, including replacement of the fire door, replacement of a rotten window and the repainting of the exterior	£743.30

- 8.1.1. It is recommended that the Langford Parish Hall Committee is awarded a grant of £743.30 to assist with the cost of works required to the parish hall.
- 8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.
- 8.1.3. The Langford Parish Hall Committee is a registered charity with the responsibility of providing and maintaining a village hall for use by the inhabitants of the parish of Steeple Langford and the surrounding neighbourhood.
- 8.1.4. The Parish Hall Committee need to urgently replace the fire door in order to comply with fire regulations, and also consider that improvements to the exterior of the hall is required, including the replacement of rotten window and re-guttering and repainting. These improvements will help to ensure that the hall is continued to be used and will help the committee to attract new users.
- 8.1.5. The Committee will continue to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the hall through coffee mornings, jumble sales, curry suppers etc. This one off grant request

to the Amesbury Area Board will assist the committee in making urgent and important improvements to the hall.

8.1.6. Steeped Langford Parish Council supports this grant application.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Newton Tony Parish Council	The provision of a hard-standing for a basketball / netball practice area on the recreation field	£990

8.2.1. It is recommended that Newton Tony Parish Council is awarded a grant of £990 to assist with the cost of providing a hard-standing for a basketball/netball practice area on the recreation field.

8.2.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.2.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Newton Tony Parish Plan where there is an evidenced community desire for improvements to the recreation field, to facilitate team sporting activities and facilities for teenagers.

8.2.4. Currently the basket ball facility is not used as there is only grass surround which is unsuitable. The Parish Council and the Hall Committee which is responsible for the recreational facilities) have been asked to provide a hard-standing by local residents.

8.2.5. The local primary school, older children and all others in the village will benefit from a basketball/netball facility. A secondary school teacher has shown an interest in coaching and running basketball games. In addition, the hard-standing may be used for other activities, including skateboarding, a pre-school play area and the annual parish fete.

8.2.6. The Memorial Hall Committee is responsible to the Parish Council for the upkeep and maintenance of the recreational facilities, and will continue to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of this new facility as and when required.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Brigmerston & Milston Parish Hall Committee	Works required to the village hall, including to the kitchen entrance area, window replacements and main hall flooring	£2574.78

8.3.1. It is recommended that the Brigmerston & Milston Parish Hall Committee is awarded a grant of £2,574.78 to assist with the cost of works required to the village hall.

8.3.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.3.3. The Parish Hall Committee is a not for profit organisation whose aims are to enhance

the village hall and surrounding grounds and to improve the facilities for the welfare of the people of the villages of Brigmerston and Milston.

- 8.3.4. The works required to the hall include new flooring for the kitchen entrance area and main hall, and the supply/fit of new windows. The works will help to ensure the continued use of the hall by a number of local groups and will also help to attract new users and reduce energy bills.
- 8.3.5. Approximately 250 people use the hall each year, including exercise groups, cubs, scouts and beavers. The hall is also used for the annual village fete which helps to raise approximately £800 each for the upkeep of the hall.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Durrington Town Council	Refurbishment of play equipment at the recreation ground in Durrington	£2000

- 8.4.1. It is recommended that Durrington Town Council is awarded a grant of £2,000 to assist with the cost refurbishing the play equipment at the recreation ground in Durrington.
- 8.4.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.
- 8.4.3. The works required include the replacement of well used and worn out play equipment, repairs to ensure equipment is brought up to the recommended standards of play equipment inspectors, and repainting.
- 8.4.4. Approximately 200 children up to the age of 12 years regularly use this play equipment, including children with learning disabilities and school classes. The repainting of the equipment will be assisted by the Community Payback Scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Shrewton United Football Club	The laying of a 50m concrete hard standing between the recreation hall and the west end (goal end) of the football pitch.	£1,603.50

- 8.5.1 It is recommended that Shrewton United Football Club is refused a grant of £1,603.50 for the project outlined above, because the application does not meet the Community Area Grants Scheme criteria.
- 8.5.2 The reason for the officer's recommendation of refusal is that the project was completed on the 20th March 2010, and the Community Area Grants criteria states that:
- (a) "no projects will be awarded funding retrospectively" and
 - (b) "the council will not consider grant applications for a project that has already started. This includes projects where orders/instructions have been agreed and

resources committed.”

- 8.5.3 The football club was informed by the Toolstation (Western) League that the hardstanding needed to be completed by the 31st March 2010, along with other works, for Shrewton United to remain in the league and to continue to play senior football at this level. Risking the loss of ‘top level’ football from Shrewton would have resulted in the loss of the club’s primary income stream, including entrance fees, sponsorship and bar takings. The loss of this income would have made it very difficult for the Reserve, Under 18 and Under 10 teams to continue, as they rely on the funds raised through playing in the league. This would have impacted on the opportunities for local children and young adults to play football in the village and to be part of a club with all the benefits that brings. The supporters of the club would also lose a key local facility.
- 8.5.4 The hard-standing runs the length of the recreation hall between the existing veranda and pitch which is a notoriously muddy area. All users of the recreation hall and ground now have a dry and firm path.
- 8.5.5 Financing the club is a constant struggle and having to bear the complete cost of this project will impact significantly on the club’s limited resources. This could make it difficult for the club to manage financially and therefore continue to operate in the next season.
- 8.5.6 In exceptional circumstances, the Area Board may be justified in approving a grant for a project which does not meet the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria, on the basis that the project is able to demonstrate a wide community benefit. The applicant has been advised that the application does not comply with the criteria, but considers that the Area Board should approve this project on the basis that it demonstrates a wide community benefit. The applicant’s justification for this is that all who use the recreation ground (up to 500 people) will benefit from the hard-standing, not just the football club and its supporters. The path now provides a dry and firm surface for dog walkers, and mothers with prams who pass through the recreation field. Also, as detailed above, without the hard-standing, the club may have struggled to remain viable, leading to the loss of a local facility that benefits people of all ages and provides valuable recreational activities to the young people of Shrewton.
- 8.5.7 Shrewton Parish Council supports this grant application.

Appendices (available online only)	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Langford Parish Hall Appendix 2 Grant Application – Newton Tony Parish Council Appendix 3 Grant Application – Briggerston & Milston Parish Hall Appendix 4 Grant Application – Durrington Town Council Appendix 5 Grant Application – Shrewton United Football Club
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Report Author	Karen Linaker, Community Area Manager Tel: 01722 434697 E-mail karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
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