

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Melksham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>8 February 2011</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2011/2012 Community Area Grant Funding. This is the last round of funding for 2011/12.

1. **Semington Village Hall** have applied for **£2443** toward the replacement of the village hall ceiling. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **Splitz** have applied for **£4075** towards support group for children affected by domestic violence. The recommendation is to award the funding.
3. **Shaw Village Hall** have applied for **£4378** towards the installation of a disabled access WC. The recommendation is to award the funding.
4. **Keevil Parish Council** have applied for **£444** towards the replacement village signs. The recommendation is decline the funding.
5. **Melksham ComicCon** have applied for **£1320** towards running the first comic convention in Melksham. The recommendation is to award the funding.

# 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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11</li><li>• Melksham Community Strategy</li><li>• Grant applications</li></ul>
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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 **£2920**.

## 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	<b>Semington Village Hall</b>	Replacement of the village hall ceiling.	<b>£2443</b>

- Recommendation is to award the funding.
- Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.
- No locally agreed priorities.
- The applicant is a not for profit organisation.
- The project is to replace the village hall ceiling with a new suspended ceiling and new lights. The current ceiling is 30 years old and in a poor condition.
- Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- If the area board does not grant funding the members would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	<b>Splitz</b>	One to one and group support for children affected by domestic violence	<b>£4075</b>

- Recommendation is to award the funding.
- Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan which prioritised domestic violence as a concern.
- Domestic Violence was highlighted as an issue in the Melksham JSA and prioritised at Melksham Forward.
- The applicant is a non for profit organisation.
- The project is to offer one to one and group support for children in Melksham and the surrounding area who has witnessed or been exposed to domestic violence. The one to one support helps the children build up their confidence and self-esteem. The group work, with other children who have experienced similar feelings, learn coping strategies and become buddies for other young people who need support. Splitz works closely with Melksham schools to run this project.
- Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: this project will help vulnerable children and young people.

- If the area board does not grant funding the organisation would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Shaw Village Hall</b>	Installation of a disabled access WC	<b>£4378</b>

- Recommendation is to award the funding.
- Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.
- Many letters of local support for this project have been received.
- The applicant is a non for profit organisation.
- The project is to improve the disabled facilities of the village hall by relocating the female WC and creating a new unisex wheelchair access WC in the old female toilets. Several groups that use the hall on a regular basis have disabled members.
- Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: this project will improve facilities for disabled people.
- If the area board does not grant funding the organisation would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Keevil Parish Council</b>	<b>Replacement of village signs</b>	<b>£444</b>

- Recommendation is decline the funding. This is because the signs have been replaced at regular intervals and it is expected that parish councils set a precept for regular maintenance expenditure.
- Application does not meet the grant criteria 2011/12.
- This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.

- Local requests for new signs have been made by Keevil residents.
- The applicant is a parish council.
- The project is to replace two village signs with graphics depicting activities in and around the village which were commissioned to celebrate the millennium. Weather, road and cleaning have meant that the signs have been replaced twice in the last 11 years. The new signs will be made of moulded metal and should be more robust and last longer.
- Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- If the area board does not grant funding the organisation would have to plan for this expenditure in their precept.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Melksham ComicCon</b>	<b>Running the first comic convention in Melksham</b>	<b>£1320</b>

- Recommendation is to award the funding.
- Application meets grant criteria 2011/12.
- This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan which prioritised promoting the local economy and attracting people to Melksham as a concern.
- Shoppers in Melksham have expressed an interest in supporting a new modern event tailored for the current generation of Melksham. Evidence from the community plan shows there is a demand for more events for young people.
- The applicant is a community group.
- The project is to run an event in Melksham to showcase arts in their 21<sup>st</sup> century form (television, cinema and modern literature). Get ready for a day of comic books, games, sci-fi and pop culture madness in the heart of Wiltshire! Five key guests will be attending and many exhibitor stalls have already been booked. The event will take place on Sat 26 May at Melksham Assembly Hall. The aim is for this to be an annual event to benefit the town culturally and economically. After the first year they aim to be entirely self sufficient, but they need support funding support for the first year to get started. See website for more details: [www.melkshamcomiccon.co.uk](http://www.melkshamcomiccon.co.uk)

- Equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project: none.
- If the area board does not grant funding the organisation would have to fundraise or seek alternative funding.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 Grant application – Semington Village Hall Appendix 2 Grant application – Splitz Appendix 3 Grant application – Shaw Village Hall Appendix 4 Grant application – Keevil Parish Council Appendix 5 Grant application – Melksham ComicCon
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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