

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Calne Community Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grants</b>

## Purpose of Report

- To ask Councillors to consider 7 applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding, 1 Area Board Project/Councillor led initiative and to note 2 devolved decisions made through the Area Board Co-ordinating group:

- 1. Friends of Abberd Brook** - requesting £1414 towards an interpretation board at Doctors Pond.

*Officers recommend that a grant of £1414 is awarded, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and relevant permissions being granted.*

- 2. Wilts and Berks Canal Trust** – requesting £596 to improve the footpath along the Marden Valley (at the stile near the canal).

*Officers recommend that a grant of £596 is awarded.*

- 3. Calne Environmental Network** – requesting £720 towards creating and promoting a new community group to address environmental issues in the Calne Community Area.

*Officers recommend that a grant of £720 is awarded*

- 4. Derry Hill & Studley Safety Watch Assoc.** – requesting £1104 towards traffic calming 'white gates' at Studley/Derry Hill.

*Officers recommend that a grant of £1104 is awarded, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.*

- 5. Calne Area Transport** – requesting £4,800 towards design and production of a series of boards promoting safer cycling/pedestrian routes in the town.

*Officers recommend that a grant of £4,800 is awarded, conditional upon the balance of funding and relevant permissions being in place and also upon the final designs for the boards including an acknowledgement to the area board and being approved by the CATG Highways working group.*

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- 6. Calne Partnership of Churches** – requesting £3,000 towards the hire of the Blue bus for 33 youth drop in sessions.

*Officers recommend this request is rejected as the application represents provision of running costs for an existing project.*

- 7. CAYPIG (Community Area Young People's Issues Group) Skate sub group** – requesting £5,000 towards the extension and renovation of the Calne Skate Bowl.

*Officers recommend that a grant of £5,000 is awarded, conditional upon the balance of funding and relevant permission being in place.*

- 8. Area Board Project - CATG (Highways working group)** – requesting £11,970 to be allocated for the construction of an extension to the footpath on the Lake View side of the A4 at Quemerford.

*Officers recommend that £11,970 is allocated to this Councillor initiative.*

- To report that, at its meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the Area Board Co-ordinating group used its delegated authority:
  - To allocate the sum of £100.00 to the Calne Community Campus Working Group. This was to provide a venue for the equalities workshop consultation.
  - To allocate £170.00 to the Skate park working group to facilitate submission of planning application

## 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. 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 for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. Area boards will not consider applications from town and parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from town/parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the town/parish council.
- 1.5. In addition to Community Area Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board Project which differs from Community Area Grants in that they do not require match funding. Area Board Projects should not be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria.
- 1.6. Area Board Projects are designed to enable the Area Board to address community issues or projects identified in the Community Plan/Local Agreement for Wiltshire. An application form is used and quotes for project work have to be provided in a similar manner to the Community Area Grant Scheme.
- 1.7. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, although the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.8. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.9. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.10. 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.

- 1.11. The 2011/2012 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 2011/12</li><li>• Calne Community Area Plan – 2004-14 (incl. 2006/2010 update)</li><li>• Local Agreement for Wiltshire</li><li>• Area Board Grants Guidance 2011/12</li></ul>
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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. The funding contained within this report forms the last round of funding during 2011/12.
- 2.3. Information about future Area Board funding is not yet available, but will be posted on the Area Boards website as soon as possible.

## **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 Calne Community Area Board.
- 4.2. Following the last grants awarded at the Calne Area Board meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011, the balance of funding remaining was £27,315.83.
- 4.3. In accordance with decision making authority delegated to the Area Board, at the ABC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Councillor Alan Hill proposed and it was agreed that the sum of £100.00, should be allocated to the Calne Community Area Campus working group in order to provide venues for the equalities workshop consultation.

- 4.4. In accordance with decision making authority delegated to the Area Board, at the ABC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Councillor Howard Marshall proposed and it was agreed that £170.00 should be allocated to the Skate Park working group in order to facilitate the submission of a planning application.
- 4.5. The total budget available to the Area Board for this round of community area grants is therefore £27,045.83
- 4.6. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Calne Community Area Board will have a balance of £1,441.83.

## 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	Friends of the Abberd Brook	Interpretation board at Doctors Pond.	£1414

- 8.1.1. **It is recommended that Friends of the Abberd Brook is awarded a grant of £1414 towards a project that will provide an interpretation board at Doctors Pond, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and the Area Board Coordinating group being able to view the pre-production draft design.**
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grants criteria.
- 8.1.3. The Abberd Brook has been a significant issue for the Calne Area Board having

been raised formally through the issues process and conversations with local Councillors and the Community Area Manager. A working group was set up in October 2009, made up of various agencies, organisations and local residents; it was tasked with looking at local people's concerns and aspirations for the maintenance and management of the Abberd Brook.

- 8.1.4. In 2010 the Area Board working group was replaced by a community group called Friends of the Abberd Brook, this continues to sit under the umbrella of the Calne Community Area Partnership and the regeneration and enhancement of the area remains a feature of the ongoing review of the Community Plan.
- 8.1.5. A previous grant application from the Friends of Abberd Brook was awarded in December 2010. This was for £5,000 and enabled the group to carry out a whole range of work with local volunteers including clean up days, renovation of the stepping stones, a community art project at the Prince Charles Way underpass, clearing and planting schemes and work on the refurbishment of Doctors Pond.
- 8.1.6. An interpretation board is designed to provide easy to read information about points of wildlife and historic interest in the area and feeds into wider aims to promote the area as a 'green corridor' into the town centre providing opportunities of more environment friendly and traffic free methods of accessing the town centre.
- 8.1.7. Work that has been undertaken by the Area Board working with people with learning difficulties and autism (Calne Voices) has recognised and highlighted the need for this kind of information to be presented in an easy read format.
- 8.1.8. Members may wish to request that the Area Board Coordinating group are able to view and discuss the draft design with the Calne Voices group before it goes to final production.
- 8.1.9. The application also links to Local Agreement for Wiltshire priorities through encouraging lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of participants and their families, improving adult participation and young people's participation in positive activities.
- 8.1.10. If an award is made in line with officer recommendations it will represent 50% of the total project costs.
- 8.1.11. A decision not to fund this application will result in a delay while the organisation seeks other funding sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Wilts and Berks Canal Trust	Improvements to the footpath along the Marden Valley (at the stile near the canal).	£596

- 8.2.1 **It is recommended that £596 is allocated to the improvement of the Marden Valley footpath.**
- 8.2.2 This is an area which is well used by local people for access to the countryside and recreation.
- 8.2.3 The project addresses issues in the Calne Community Area Plan encouraging a sense of community cohesion, pride and well being.
- 8.2.4 The project may also increase local volunteering as the Trust actively encourages volunteers from the local community and provides development opportunities for those volunteers to extend their skills through involvement in training programmes.
- 8.2.5 If an award is made in line with officer recommendations it will represent all of the project costs
- 8.2.6 Failure to receive an award from the Area Board is likely to mean that the project would be delayed while alternative funding is sought.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Calne Environmental Network	Creation and promotion of a new community group addressing environmental issues in the Calne Community Area.	£720

- 8.3.1 **It is recommended that the Calne Environmental Network is awarded a grant of £720 towards forming and promoting a community group to raise the profile and seek to address environmental issues in the Calne Community Area.**
- 8.3.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 grants criteria.
- 8.3.3 There are many community groups in the area that focus on specific environmental projects/geographical localities.
- 8.3.4 The Calne Environmental Network will take a broader focus on environmental issues and engagement with the community to promote awareness and action.
- 8.3.5 This group is likely to form the Community Area Partnership's environment theme group.
- 8.3.6 The group has engaged with Wiltshire Councils Climate Change Officer and is planning to run an environmental awareness event later in the year to link in with the Community Area Partnership 2012 community cycle ride event.

8.3.7 A decision not to fund this project would mean that the group would have to identify alternative sources of funding in order to start work.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Derry Hill & Studley Safety Watch Association	Providing traffic calming 'white gates' in the vicinity of Studley Crossroads.	£1104

**8.4.1 It is recommended that £1104 is allocated towards the provision of 'white gates' at Studley Crossroads.**

8.4.2 This application meets the 2011/12 funding criteria and represents the local community taking action on an issue that has been a high priority for the Calne (CATG) Area Board Highways Working Group (increased measures to further reduce traffic speed and increase road safety measures).

8.4.3 Derry Hill and Studley are thriving villages which straddle the A4 Chippenham to Calne Road. This is a major road where the national speed limit applies, it carries a high volume of traffic and is also on the main diversionary route for the M4 motorway.

8.4.4 This community group has arisen in direct response to the issues of road safety and has consulted widely with local residents the Parish Council and the Calne Area Board.

8.4.5 It is thought that the introduction of 'white gates' will encourage motorists to take more notice of the fact that they are entering a village environment and will be more mindful of road safety issues and the speed at which they are travelling.

8.4.6 The installation of gates is one of a series of measures that the group is trying to implement/influence – It has also been active in consulting with the Area Board (CATG) Highways working group, which has been able to undertake some relatively small signage and lighting schemes to help to make safer crossing places to access the bus stops.

8.4.7 Wiltshire Council planning officers have advised that they will not require planning permission.

8.4.8 DH&SSW representatives have liaised extensively with Wiltshire Council highways officers to ensure that their position and design will fall in line with Highways guidelines. Highways officers are assisting in arranging necessary utilities searches.

8.4.9 This project relates to Wiltshire Council priorities around engaging with local people to find their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions and will work towards increasing the number of people who feel safe in their communities and may help to reduce deaths through accidents.

8.4.10 The total cost of this project is £2,208. If Members make an award in line with Officer recommendations this will represent approx. 50% of the total project costs and will leave a shortfall of £1,104

8.4.11 The group has received provisional funding offers to cover this shortfall from Calne Without PC, Guinness Heritage Trust and through local contributions and fundraising activities.

8.4.12 Failure to fund this application will significantly delay the project from proceeding while alternative funding is identified.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Calne Area Transport	Design and production of a series of sign boards promoting safer cycling/pedestrian routes in the town.	£4,800

**8.5.1 It is recommended that £4,500 is allocated towards the production of boards promoting safer cycling/pedestrian routes in Calne, conditional upon the balance of funding and relevant permissions being in place and also upon the designs including an acknowledgement to the Area Board and being approved by the CATG Highways working group.**

8.5.2 Officers are of the opinion that this project meets 2011/12 funding criteria.

8.5.3 Calne Area Transport is the Transport theme group of the Calne Community Area Partnership its work relates fundamentally to issues of safer routes for cyclists pedestrians and users of mobility scooters in the community area.

8.5.4 Calne Area Transport has been working on a project identifying safer routes in the town which has involved local volunteers in surveying the entire town over the past year; information contained on the proposed boards will reflect these findings.

8.5.5 The Calne Area Board has recently merged a specific working group looking at safer cycling routes with the Highways working group (CATG). This group shares the aspiration of Calne Area Transport to develop a co-ordinated network of safer routes.

8.5.6 Members may be concerned about the ‘future proofing’ of information that will be displayed on these boards and may wish to clarify how information boards will be

updated to reflect work that will be done in the future to increase safer routes in the area.

- 8.5.7 Work that has been undertaken by the Area Board working with people with learning difficulties (Calne Voices) has recognised and highlighted the need for this kind of information to be presented in an easy to read format.
- 8.5.8 With regards to the previous 2 points, Members may wish to request that the draft designs of the information boards are reviewed and approved by the Highways working group/Calne Voices group to ensure that they will reach the maximum audience and relevance.
- 8.5.9 If the Area Board decides to make an award in line with officer recommendations this will represent 49% of the total project costs and will leave a shortfall of £4848.
- 8.5.10 If the Area Board does not make an award in line with officer recommendations the project will be seriously delayed as other sources of funding are sought and prices of production are re-negotiated.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Calne Partnership of Churches	Open Blue Bus youth drop in sessions.	£3,000

- 8.6.1 **It is recommended that this application is rejected. The application represents provision of running costs for an existing project. This is contrary to Area Board Community Area Grants Criteria.**
- 8.6.2 Calne Area Board recognised this as a valuable project for young people in the community area when it awarded a grant to hiring the Open Blue Bus for youth drop in sessions in April 2010.
- 8.6.3 This award represented start up costs for a new project and, as such constituted a relevant application for consideration under the Community Area Grants Scheme.
- 8.6.4 The Community Area Grants criteria states that: **‘The council will not consider grant applications for: ...**
- f) costs – e.g. rent, rates, utilities, printing, stationery, salaries etc (other than one-time only start-up costs) e.g. we will not fund room hire for a scout group to cover the cost of their regular meetings, however if the group wanted to have a special weekend of activities for a one off celebration, we will consider funding for this special event, as this is a project cost, and not part of the day to day activities.’
- 8.6.5 Officers have made unsuccessful attempts to contact the applicant by telephone to discuss the application but have emailed with information about other sources of

funding and a suggestion to contact the Charities Information Bureau for support.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7	CAYPIG – Skate sub-group	Extension and upgrading of Calne Skate Bowl.	£5,000

**8.7.1 It is recommended that £5,000 is allocated towards the extension and upgrading of Calne Skate Bowl.**

8.7.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2011/12 funding criteria.

8.7.3 The issue of the Skate bowl was identified as a significant issue for the area by the Calne Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group (CAYPIG) in 2010.

8.7.4 In February 2010 young people attended the Area Board as representatives of the CAYPIG to outline their issues relating to facilities in the area. In addition the Area Board received 12 formal issues sheets highlighting local support for improvements to the existing skate bowl.

8.7.5 In April 2010 the Calne Area Board formed a working group comprising representatives of the CAYPIG, the Community Area Partnership, Calne Town Council, Area Board Councillors and Wiltshire Council Officers in order to advance ideas about improving local facilities.

8.7.6 Since that time young people have been consistently involved in planning and progressing the project.

8.7.7 If the Area Board decides to make an award in line with officer recommendations this will represent 3.5% of the total project costs

8.7.8 The project has received significant financial support from the Town Council and provisional support from the Landfill community fund.

8.7.9 Young people from the area have committed to fundraising £7,000

8.7.10 A decision not to award funding to this project would represent a major blow to the group, the project plan would need to be reassessed Fixed prices quoted by suppliers would not be able to be held and an increase in quoted prices may mean that the project could not be undertaken at this time.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.8	Area Board Project	Footpath at Lake View, Quemerford.	£11,970

**8.8.1 It is recommended that £11,970 is allocated to the provision of a footpath at Lakeview, Quemerford.**

8.8.2 The issue of road safety at Lake View/Quemerford has been a significant issue for the Calne Area Board since it was raised by local people in April 2010.

8.8.3 Attempts to find an acceptable pedestrian crossing scheme have, so far been unsuccessful.

8.8.4 In September 2011 the Area Board hosted a community discussion at which local people, Councillors and Wiltshire Council Officers met to discuss the issue. Finding a safer route for children to get to school was the most significant area of concern and the group came up with a number of alternative approaches to investigate.

8.8.5 All of these approaches were fed into the CATG (Highways working group) and so far have resulted in the creation of a Community Speedwatch scheme (currently being implemented) and the area being added to the SID (Speed Indicator Device) deployment rota (subject to meeting the necessary deployment requirements).

8.8.6 This Area Board project represents a further and more significant scheme, which will provide a new footpath from Lake View towards the town via a link with River view or by continuing on the unmade up footway to Stockley Lane where there are safer crossing places and footpath links to John Bentley School and Holy Trinity School.

8.8.7 The completion of this scheme would represent a major step forward in addressing this issue and would also promote the value of Area Boards working with the community to find and deliver suitable solutions for community issues.

8.8.8 If this project is not awarded funding at this time. The issue will remain a priority for the CATG. If funding is allocated to the CATG it will be considered alongside other priority issues in the next financial year.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Grant application – Friends of Abberd Brook</b> <b>Appendix 2 Grant application – Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust</b> <b>Appendix 3 Grant application – Calne Environmental Network</b> <b>Appendix 4 Grant application – DH&amp;SSW Association</b> <b>Appendix 5 Grant application – Calne Area Transport</b> <b>Appendix 6 Grant application – Calne Partnership of Churches</b> <b>Appendix 7 Grant application – CAYPIG – Skate sub-group</b> <b>Appendix 8 Area Board Project – Lake View footpath project</b> <b>Appendix 9 Area Board Project – Lake View footpath plan</b>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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