

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	22 March 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding.

Application	Amount
Artificial cricket pitch Applicant: Donhead St Mary Parish Council	£2,500
Renewal of playing mats Applicant: Dinton and District Short Mat Bowling Club	£1,476
Purchase of covers for cricket ground wicket Applicant: Chalke Valley Cricket Club.	£2,579
Mere Town FC stadia improvement project Applicant: Mere Town Football Club	£4,000
Mere skate park Applicant: Mere Parish Council	£20,000

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 (15 April 2011). 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. 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.
- 1.7. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.8. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau which is working 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.
- 1.9. Paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.10. The 2011/2012 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.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12 • Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of **£121,048** for Community Area Grants, Community Partnership Core Funding and Area Board Projects.
- 2.2. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is **£40,188**. This gives a **total budget of £161,236** for the 2011/2012 budget.
- 2.3. The amount of funding remaining for 2011/2012 is currently **£16,778.43**.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. There will be no more rounds of funding during 2011/12 after this meeting. The deadline for submitting applications to the Community Area Manager is 4 weeks prior to the meeting. For the actual dates see: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/southwestwiltshireareaboard.htm

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 budget allocated to the South West Wiltshire Area Board. Grant applications totalling **£30,555** have been received for this meeting.

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
Tis/11/039	Donhead St Mary Parish Council	Artificial cricket pitch	£2,500

- 8.1.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria.
- 8.1.2. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10); this will assist in fostering strong communities by drawing together members of the community through engaging in sport.
- 8.1.3. This project is to fund the cost of an artificial cricket pitch to replace the current grass pitch. A new pitch will save on repair work costs, requiring minimal maintenance, and ensure that fewer games are called off due to the state of the pitch.
- 8.1.4. The sports club cricket team consists of many players under the age of 21, and draws participants from surrounding villages in parishes such as Donhead St Andrew, Berwick St John and Donhead St Mary. The sports club is a draw for many local people and families due to the range of facilities that it has; an improved cricket pitch will assist in the process of encouraging adults and children to watch and take an interest.
- 8.1.5. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local facilities for all the community.
- 8.1.6. If the Board does not fund this project then the community would continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
wil/11/038	Dinton and District Short Mat Bowling Club	Renewal of playing mats	£1,476

- 8.1.7. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria.
- 8.1.8. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10); this will assist in fostering strong communities by drawing together members of the community through engaging in sport.
- 8.1.9. This project is to fund the purchase of four new playing mats, to replace the current mats that have been used for the past ten years. This will enable the club to maintain its ability to provide opportunities for both recreation and competition into the future.

8.1.10. The bowls club has a membership of 37, with age ranges between 45 – 85, as well as attracting visitors. The activity helps to provide a healthy lifestyle.

8.1.11. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local activities for all the community.

8.1.12. If the Board does not fund this project then the community would continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
wil/11/040	Chalke Valley Cricket Club	Purchase of covers for cricket ground wicket	£2,579

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

8.1.14. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10); this will assist in fostering strong communities by drawing together members of the community through engaging in sport.

8.1.15. This project is to purchase covers to protect the new cricket wicket from bad weather in order to ensure a good standard of cricket can be played.

8.1.16. Chalke Valley Cricket Club has a thriving junior section, involving approximately 50-60 young people (girls and boys) in training sessions and matches from the surrounding parishes. The club also runs three adult teams of varying ability, and in the last five years has put eight members through UKCC coaching course. Three Level 2 coaches now volunteer in supporting the junior training.

8.1.17. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local facilities for all the community.

8.1.18. If the Board does not fund this project then the community would continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
Mer/11/042	Mere Town FC	Stadia improvement project	£4,000

8.1.19. At the time of writing this report, officers are still making enquiries in order to establish whether this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria. These enquiries are listed below:

- Due to the total cost of the project exceeding £5,000, three quotes/estimates for the works planned have been requested.
- Clarification has been sought on Project Income figures in Section 5 of the application.
- A copy of the accounts has been requested.
- Confirmation of when planning permission was awarded has been requested.
- A copy of Mere Town FC's constitution or terms of reference has been

requested.

A full report will be provided at the Area Board meeting on 22 March 2012.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
mer/11/044	Mere Parish Council	Skate park	£20,000

8.1.20. At the time of writing this report, officers are still making enquiries in order to establish whether this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria. These enquiries are listed below:

- Due to the total cost of the project exceeding £5,000, three quotes/estimates for the works planned have been requested.
- Due to the total project cost exceeding £50,000, a copy of a business plan has been requested.
- A Town or Parish Council will not normally receive more funding than contributed by the Town or Parish Council themselves; clarification has been sought from the applicant as this would limit the funding application to £18,389.
- A copy of Mere Parish Council's constitution or terms of reference has been requested.

A full report will be provided at the Area Board meeting on 22 March 2012.

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