

Report to	Name of Area Board
Date of Meeting	Date of Area Board meeting
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider six applications seeking 20012/13 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **DCAP** – Funding to improve or replace the signage in Devizes. They are seeking £2,098.

Recommended for consideration for approval.

2. **Kennet Furniture Project** – Funding to employ a volunteer manager. They are seeking £4,500.

Recommended for consideration for approval conditional on all other funding being secured.

3. **Devizes Carnival** – Funding to expand the community outreach work of the project. They are seeking £4,000.

The officer's recommendation is that this application should be considered for approval, but that the applicant should not see the Area Board grant system as a continuous source of funding for this project as it contravenes Council guidance.

4. **Devizes Rugby Football Club** – Funding to purchase additional flood lights. They are seeking £4,710.

Recommended for consideration for approval.

5. **Old School Day Centre, Market Lavington** – Funding to replace or purchase computer and photographic equipment. They are seeking £874.

Recommended for consideration for approval.

6. **Sustainable Devizes Network** – Funding to run an Energy Fair in Devizes. They are seeking £456.

Recommended for consideration for approval.

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 Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 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 and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £58,192 for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Small Grants, new for this year will fund up to £350, where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.7. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) 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.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.9. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in

the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.

- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.11. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB 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.
- 1.12. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.13. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.14. A decision was 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.
- 1.15. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.16. A budget ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/2013. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the area board.
- 1.17. Devizes Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £15,751 for 2012/13. £5,779 has also been carried forward from 2011/12. There is also an additional budget for youth activities of £5,819

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision• Devizes Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 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 2012/2013. Applications and supporting documents should be with the Community Area Manager at least 4 weeks before the meeting date. Future rounds of funding will take place at the following area board meetings:
 - July 23rd 2012
 - September 24th 2012
 - November 26th 2012
 - January 28th 2012
 - March 25th 2012

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £41,544

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 and Small Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, town and parish council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.
- 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	1. DCAP	Devizes signage	£2,098

- 8.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.
- 8.1.2. The grants criteria for 2012/13 is met apart from that it does not directly provide match funding. However a considerable amount of volunteer time has been put into this project which more than matches the award being sought.
- 8.1.3. The application comes directly from DCAP whom are responsible for putting together the community plan. It address key issues such as increasing tourism and the economy as well as improving the town centre environment.
- 8.1.4. This project is in response to an issue raised by local people and tourism providers. Many of the tourist maps and signs are out of date and are not being maintained. DCAP have worked with the Area Board and the Town Council to reach an agreement that if the award is made, the Town Council will take on responsibility for them in the future. This is an excellent sustainable solution.
- 8.1.5. If the award is not made then the signage will remain out of date and in poor condition. In addition there will be no ownership of the signs and little prospect of any future maintenance.

9. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	Kennet Furniture Project	Kennet Volunteer Programme	£4,500 towards a project costing £12,741

- 9.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval with the condition that all other funding required is secured.
- 9.1.2. The grants criteria for 2012/13 is met.
- 9.1.3. The application addresses the community plan as it helps increase volunteering and employment.

- 9.1.4. Kennet Furniture Project collects unwanted furniture and white goods and sells it to low income families in Kennet. They wish to develop the project by recruiting a volunteer manager who will be responsible for running a volunteer programme aimed at recruiting and training people who are long term unemployed. Expenses will be paid to the volunteers and accredited courses will be offered through Devizes Transport and Training Ltd.
- 9.1.5. Funding towards the project has already been secured from Odin Charitable Trust (£2k) and there is an application in with the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation for £5,520.
- 9.1.6. The funding will be used to provide costs for employing a part time manager for the first year. Funding is not in place for future years but any award that the Area Board makes will be used to help lever in additional funds from trusts and external funders.
- 9.1.7. If the award is not made then unless other funding can be found the project will not take place.

10. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10.1	Devizes Carnival	Carnival Arts Engagement Project	£4k towards a project cost of £8,115

- 10.1.1. The officer's recommendation is that this application should be considered for approval this time due to the additional community benefit. It is a well liked and supported event that the Area Board wishes to be associated with. However the applicant should not see the Area Board as a continuous source of funding for this work as it contravenes Council guidance. Greater emphasis this year has been placed upon Area Board grants not being used to support the running costs of organisations and annual events.
- 10.1.2. The project aims to expand the community outreach to Devizes and the surrounding areas by offering workshops to provide training in contemporary costume design, street theatre/circus and dance. Most of the funding will be used to pay artists fees and tutors.
- 10.1.3. The application addresses the community plan by contributing to a sense of belonging.
- 10.1.4. If the award is not made then fewer workshops can be run unless other funding can be secured.

11. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Devizes Rugby Football Club	Flood lights at RFC	£4,710

11.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.

11.1.2. The grants criteria for 2012/13 is met.

11.1.3. The application addresses the community plan as it adds to the cultural and leisure activities of the area as well as improving people's health.

11.1.4. The Devizes RFC has over 350 adult members and 300 junior members. The membership at junior level increased significantly during last season which has resulted in a lack of floodlit space for training.

11.1.5. The application is to provide 50% funding towards two new RAM mobile floodlights.

11.1.6. If the award is not made then the club will not be able to accommodate those young people who wish to take up the sport and join the club.

12. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Old School Day Centre, Market Lavington	Entertainment enhancement project	£874

12.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.

12.1.2. The application has met the grants criteria for 2012/13.

12.1.3. The organisation's purpose is to provide day care to offer help and support for the elderly and those with poor mobility living in Market Lavington and the surrounding villages.

12.1.4. The members of the organisation have asked for support in learning and using computer and photographic equipment in a non threatening environment. As a result they wish to purchase some equipment to enable weekly sessions to be run

and for the members to use.

12.1.5. The application addresses the community plan by supporting older people to play a fuller and more active part in the community.

12.1.6. An application was made to the Gannet Foundation but was unsuccessful.

12.1.7. If the award is not made the project can't be run.

13. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Sustainable Devizes Network	Sustainable Devizes Network	£456

13.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.

13.1.2. The application meets the grants criteria for 2012/13. The project is a single event so future funding is not required.

13.1.3. The application addresses the community plan by helping to promote sustainable solutions.

13.1.4. Sustainable Devizes Network who are a community group will be running the event on September 29th 2012 in the Corn Exchange in Devizes. Local companies will attend and there will be a focus on fuel poverty, highlighting simple activities to address them as well as high tech solutions. There is a recognition that less has been done to address these issues In Devizes than in other areas of Wiltshire as well as a desire to try and help low income families.

13.1.5. The group will provide £410 towards the project costing £866. If the award is not made then the event can probably not be run.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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