

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	4 July 2012
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to 2 Community Area Grant applications:

1. Charlton Recreation Centre - award £4,000 towards the kitchen refurbishment, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Minety Village Hall – award £811 towards driveway, height limiting barrier, hearing loop and flooring, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Note that a request for £8,119 core funding for Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership for 2012/13 can be found elsewhere on this agenda.

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. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£40,593** 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 - £5,000 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13. Report and Appendices for delegated decision by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing
--	--

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£40,593** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and core funding for Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership.
- 2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2012/2013 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are now 4 funding rounds remaining during 2012/13. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
 - **20 July 2012 for consideration on 5 September 2012**
 - 21 September 2012 for consideration on 7 November 2012
 - 25 November 2012 for consideration on 16 January 2013
 - 25 January 2013 for consideration on 6 March 2013

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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance of **£27,663**.

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 will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Charlton Recreation Centre	Kitchen refurbishment	£5,000

8.1.1. Officers recommend that Charlton Recreation Centre is awarded £4,000 towards a kitchen refurbishment, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application does meet the 2012/13 grant criteria, although the applicant has not contacted Charities Information Bureau or looked for sources of other funding for this project, which is strongly recommended in the funding pack.

8.1.3. The application does link to the current community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it is, 'improving village hall facilities'.

8.1.4. No specific fundraising by the applicant is evident in the information provided, which is a pity when it is obviously the central meeting place for the Charlton community as well as some of its neighbouring villages. The parish council apparently did not wish to contribute towards this project, although they do contribute towards the insurance for the hall.

8.1.5. Charlton Recreation Centre last came to the area board for funding in January 2010 when an award of £1,500 was given towards a gang mower.

8.1.6. The applicant is requesting £5,000 towards the hall the maximum amount normally available from the area board. The applicant is asking for under 50% of the total cost of the project

8.1.7. While officers welcome applications for funding, they feel that applicants should be making some effort to seek funding from other sources in addition to that requested from the area board. A financial contribution from a local authority can often act as an effective lever to obtain funding from other sources in to Wiltshire schemes, which in turn allows the modest area board budget to go further.

- 8.1.8. A decision not to help fund this application or to the level requested would lead to fund being sought from other charitable organisations or possibly taken from their reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Minety Village Hall	Village hall refurbishment including driveway, height limiting barrier, hearing loop and flooring	£811

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Minety Village Hall is awarded £811 towards refurbishment of driveway, height limiting barrier, flooring and the purchase of a hearing loop, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria.
- 8.2.3. The application does link to the current community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it is, 'improving village hall facilities'.
- 8.2.4. Minety village hall committee have been undertaking a phased approach to improvements to the hall, having undertaken local consultation to help determine their priorities.
- 8.2.5. The area board contributed £1,162 towards fascia work in 2011/12 and £1,504 towards toilets in 2010/11. The village hall is seeking a grant from Landfill Tax Credits for the majority of this work and is requesting a small contribution from the area board.
- 8.2.6. A decision not to help fund this application could jeopardise their Landfill tax application as a third party contribution is required.
- 8.2.7. If the applicant is unsuccessful in receiving funding from Landfill, they will look for other sources.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Charlton Recreation Centre Appendix 2 Grant Application – Minety Village Hall
-------------------	---

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

Report Author	Miranda Gilmour, Community Area Manager Tel: 01672 515742 Mobile:07990 505882 E-mail: miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	---