

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	5 September 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 and 1 councillor led project:

1. Ashton Keynes pre-school – award £2,316 towards new flooring for an outdoor play area, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Minety Village Hall – award up to £5,000 towards driveway, height limiting barrier, hearing loop and flooring, conditional on their Awards for All funding application being unsuccessful and the balance of funding being in place. The sum should be negotiated in consultation with the Chairman of the area board.
3. To endorse officer delegated authority of £500 awarded to a councillor led project towards Malmesbury Town benchmarking project.

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. Malmesbury area board would like to see funding applicants to seek funding from other sources in addition to coming to the area board, especially when larger amounts of funding are being sought.
- 1.13. The area board delegated authority to the Community Area Manager (in consultation with the area board councillors) on 10 November 2010 to approve expenditure up to £500 where it was necessary between meetings. Any such expenditure would be reported at the next area board.

- 1.14. 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.
- 1.15. 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.
- 1.16. 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.
- 1.17. 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	<p>Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13.</p> <p>Report and Appendices for delegated decision by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of **£40,593** in 2012/13, to be allocated to Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and core funding for Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership.
- 2.2. At the 4 July 2012 area board £13,930 was distributed, leaving a balance of **£26,663**.
- 2.3. Following receipt of information from another funder, Minety Village Hall wish to relinquish the award of £811 made on 4 July and have re-submitted their application. As a result the funding balance held by the area board is **£27,474**.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. There are now 3 funding rounds remaining during 2012/13. Deadlines for

receipt of funding applications are as follows:

- **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 **£19,658**

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.	Ashton Keynes pre-school	Outdoor play area	£2,316

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Ashton Keynes pre-school is awarded £2,316 towards new flooring for their outdoor play area, 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, they are contributing 50% of the cost of the project.
- 8.1.3. The application clearly links to the current Community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it supports early years, toddler groups and pre-schools in villages and improves village hall facilities.
- 8.1.4. The pre-school have been undertaking some phased work to improve the outdoor play area as a result of local consultation and to ensure they meet the curriculum needs for outdoor play.
- 8.1.5. The council's Play Development Adviser for Early Years has worked with the pre-school to help them come up with a suitable design and surface material to be used. This all weather surface will enable the area to be used most of the year and is easy to maintain.
- 8.1.6. A decision not to help fund this application or to the level requested would possibly lead to delays. Funding could either be found from pre-school reserves or sought from elsewhere.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Minety Village Hall	Village hall refurbishment including driveway, height limiting barrier, hearing loop and flooring	£5,000

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Minety Village Hall is awarded up to £5,000 towards refurbishment of driveway, height limiting barrier, flooring and the purchase of a hearing loop, conditional their Awards for All funding application being unsuccessful and the balance of funding being in place. The sum should be negotiated in consultation with the Chairman of the area board.
- 8.2.2. This application was considered in July when the area board approved £811(which has since been relinquished). At that time the applicant had not received confirmation of their bid to the Landfill Communities Fund for £14,617. The Landfill Communities Fund awarded the sum of £9,500 on the basis that the balance of funding was found before 16 October 2012.
- 8.2.3. Following the advice from the area board in July, especially to those seeking larger sums, that they should make an effort and look for funding from other sources as well as the area board, Minety Village Hall committee have done just that. In addition to obtaining £1,000 from the parish council they have applied for £5,000 from Awards for All.
- 8.2.4. Councillors are asked to consider contributing up to £5,000 towards this project to ensure that the contribution from Landfill is ensured and the project can proceed. Should their application to Awards for All be successful then

the applicant should withdraw their application to the area board. Should Awards for All part fund, then the area board could make up the difference.

- 8.2.5. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria.
- 8.2.6. The application does link to the current community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it is, 'improving village hall facilities'.
- 8.2.7. Minety village hall committee have been undertaking a phased approach to improvements to the hall, having undertaken local consultation to help determine their priorities.
- 8.2.8. 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.
- 8.2.9. A decision not to help fund this application could jeopardise their Landfill tax funding which could result in the project not proceeding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Councillor Killane	Malmesbury town benchmarking project	£500

- 8.3.1. A request was made in early August for a contribution of £500 towards a benchmarking exercise within the town. The purpose of this work was to undertake survey work to ascertain the state of the economy within the town through a variety of means including retail comparison and convenience, car park availability and usage, business confidence etc.
- 8.3.2. As the project needed to get underway during August the request was made that this application should be considered under officer delegated authority, in consultation with the area board Chairman. The sum of £500 was agreed and comes to the area board for endorsement.
- 8.3.3. This work will not only enhance the neighbourhood planning process within the town, but should enable the council, Town Council and Chamber of Commerce have a greater understanding of the current situation and enable them to plan for the future.
- 8.3.4. This work if being carried out by a consultant, however it is important for the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Planning Group to build in learning into this process to ensure they can undertake comparative survey work in future years. Without this element the investment will be short-lived.
- 8.3.5. The current Community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages identifies the need for regenerating Malmesbury High Street and providing a better range of

shops; looking to provide more local produce through shops and markets and the provision of another supermarket in the town selling cheaper food.

8.3.6. Funding is coming from a range of sources to undertake this work including the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Ashton Keynes Pre-school Appendix 2 Grant Application – Minety Village Hall Appendix 3 Councillor led project – Malmesbury Town Benchmarking
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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