

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	25 September 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

To ask Councillors to consider one application seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding. Officer recommendations:

1. **Marlborough Community Choir, Marlborough. Requested: £951.00.** To put on a free Christmas concert, showcasing local talent, in Marlborough Town Hall during December to benefit people who might not otherwise be able to afford to go to a similar concert. Recommendation: Meets Criteria

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 • Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17
<p>1. Background</p> <p>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 15th April 2011. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.5. 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.</p> <p>1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.</p> <p>1.7. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who 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.</p> <p>1.8. 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.</p> <p>1.9. The 2012/2013 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>	

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 further rounds of funding at each of the Area Board meeting held during 2012/13. Dates of these meetings and the deadlines for applications are available on Wiltshire Council's website:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/marlbroughareboard.htm>

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. 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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of £31,389 of its 2012/13 funding.

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	Marlborough Community Choir	To put on a free Christmas concert in Marlborough showing local talent	£951

8.1.1 Marlborough Community Choir, Marlborough – Request £951.00 to put on a free Christmas concert in Marlborough Town Hall. Half the tickets will be made available to local charities for them to distribute to people known to them who would most benefit from this event. Remaining tickets will be distributed on a 1st come, 1st serviced basis. A number of flyers and posters will be printed and distributed to advertise this event beyond Marlborough town. The evening will also include seasonal refreshments free of charge.

8.1.2 This application meets the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2012/13.

8.1.3 This application demonstrates a link to the Marlborough Community Plan, 2012-17, p17 “Lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities”. By putting on this concert, especially a free one, Marlborough Community Choir will be increasing the range of entertainment available at Christmas time, in particular to groups often socially excluded from social events like this.

8.1.4 People can find it difficult to afford what is a very uplifting seasonal experience. Marlborough Community Choir wish to have a free evening of entertainment open to everyone, including those suffering hardship, especially those with children and the elderly. A free concert, featuring multiple groups, will be a showcase for local talent and a powerful 'feel-good' event. Half the tickets will be available to local charities to distribute, and the rest will be first-come.

8.1.5 If the Area Board decides not to fund this project it might result in the concert being cancelled due to the Community Choir not being able to fund it from other sources.

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

Appendices:	Appendix 1 grant application – Marlborough Community Choir
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