

Devizes Area Board Project

1. What is the project?

Proposal for supporting Devizes outdoor celebratory arts that

- I. Meets the 2012/13 Area Board grants criteria
- II. Makes it transparent which groups are befitting from the funding
- III. Allows other carnivals in the area to also benefit
- IV. Encourages involvement of Parish Councils and new groups
- V. Minimises additional administration

2. Background

Over the past 3 years, there have been 6 request made to the Devizes Area Board for outdoor celebratory arts such as Devizes Carnival. The Area Board agreed these awards and wishes to continue to support these types of events as it recognises the benefit they bring to the community. However this situation has caused some difficulties including:

- The applications can be seen as running costs and funding for this type of activity is against the criteria and council policy. Funding is already awarded by WC towards running costs for Devizes Carnival
- It is difficult for Members and the public to see exactly where the funding is going. Whilst the application does mention areas where the funding will be directed, the connection with the groups who will benefit has not been strong.
- The larger events such as Devizes carnival cost considerable amount of money and it is hard from an accounting perspective to fully understand where the Area Boards funding is being used.
- Communication between the Area Board, the carnival and Wiltshire Council Arts Development Officers needs to be strengthened to encourage greater and wider community participation particularly from new groups.

This proposal is the result of discussion between the area board, Dave Buxton and the arts development officer.

3. What is the proposal

The basic proposal is that £5k per year is ring fenced to support the Devizes Carnival and related events. The first point of contact for community groups wishing to access the ring-fenced money will be Dave Buxton and the Arts Development Officer. They will collate requests and identify as a priority those groups who have not benefited from taking part previously. The standard grant application form will then be completed outlining the groups who are looking for support. This will be presented to the Area Board for consideration in the normal way.

The proposed process for applying is:

- Dave Buxton (Artistic director, Devizes Outdoor Celebrity Arts) and Faye Perkins (Arts Development Officer, WC) to work with community groups, schools and Parish Councils and encourage them to take part in the workshops and other events. Those wishing to participate will be asked to complete a very simple one page application form.
- Dave Buxton with support from Faye Perkins will bring together all the requests and select those that they wish to request funding from the Area Board. Both Dave and Faye should sign the application to show that they support it.
- If there are more requests than funding available, it is the responsibility of Dave Buxton and Faye Perkins to decide which ones are to be put forward. However, priority should be placed upon new groups wishing to participate.
- No more applications can be made once the £5k budget has been allocated.
- If an award is made by the area board, this will then be paid to the Devizes International Street Festival & Devizes Carnival (Dave Buxton) to administer
- This process does not prevent other arts related groups applying for grants using the existing area board grant system.

This process would only be for those activities that fall within the remit of Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts, notably Devizes Carnival and the Christmas Festival.

4. When will the project take place

If agreed, the project will commence immediately. £5k will be available up until March 31st 2013. An additional £5k of funding will continue to be available each financial year until a decision is made to alter this arrangement.

5. Who will manage/be responsible for this project?

The artistic director (currently Dave Buxton) is responsible for bringing the application to the area board. This will be agreed by the arts development officer at Wiltshire Council. The ultimate decision for funding will remain with the area board Members

6. Other information

During 2011/12, funding was set aside to support smaller carnivals and events. Very little of this was actually used and demand was low. It is proposed that if another carnival did wish to approach the Area Board for support then this would be considered under the normal grant procedures. If the area board wishes to make an award, it can do so as a one off award and state the reason for the exception to the criteria as being 'community benefit'