

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	7 November 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 a councillor led project:

1. Luckington Village Hall – award £2,172 towards health and safety and maintenance works to the village hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Lea Village Hall – award £558 towards permanent ramped access the side entrance to the hall.
3. To consider a councillor led project towards Malmesbury's indoor skate park requesting £15,000 to complete the 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. A decision was 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.
- 1.16. 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 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. Minety Village Hall relinquished their award of £811 made on 4 July and re-submitted their application in September, leaving a balance of £27,474.
- 2.4. At the 5 September area board £7,816 was distributed, leaving a balance of **£19,658**.
- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. There are now 2 funding rounds remaining during 2012/13. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:

- **25 November 2012 for consideration on 16 January 2013**

- 25 January 2013 for consideration on 6 March 2013

2.8. Malmesbury Area Board also has a 2012/13 budget of **£4,929** for youth related projects.

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 **£1,928**.

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.	Luckington Village Hall	Health and Safety and maintenance projects	£ 2,172

8.1.1. Officers recommend that Luckington Village Hall is awarded £2,172 towards health and safety and maintenance work, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application is border-line, since the majority of the work could be classified as running costs, which are not eligible for funding. In future the village hall committee should put funding aside on an annual basis to cover maintenance costs.
- 8.1.3. It is regrettable that the applicant has not contacted Charities Information Bureau; however they have received funding from the parish council and are requesting 50% of the total cost of this work from the area board.
- 8.1.4. The application links to the current Community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it identifies the need to improve village halls facilities.
- 8.1.5. The applicant hopes that improvements to the hall will encourage greater usage.
- 8.1.6. The hall is used regularly by a range of groups in the village including bingo, keep fit and children's parties. Fundraising is undertaken via a 100 club.
- 8.1.7. A decision not to help fund this application or to the level requested would lead to delays in the work being completed. Funding could either be found from reserves (although this is earmarked for further works and to maintain financial probity) or sought from elsewhere.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Lea Village Hall	Permanent ramped access to the side entrance to the hall.	£558

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Lea Village Hall is awarded up to £558 towards permanent ramped access to the side entrance to the hall.
- 8.2.2. The application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria and links to the current Community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages in that it will improve village hall facilities.
- 8.2.3. The village hall already has access at the front of the building but this is a temporary ramp which means that wheelchair users can access the hall independently. There is insufficient space at the front entrance to place a permanent ramp.
- 8.2.4. The hall is well used, including a keep fit group, Brownies, WI, a judo club and bowls and caters for a number of wheelchairs users.
- 8.2.5. The applicant is requesting a modest grant to undertake this work. Should they be unsuccessful they will fundraise to cover the costs.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Councillor Killane	Malmesbury skate park project	Up to 15,000

- 8.3.1. A request has been received from Councillor Killane to contribute up to £15,000 towards Malmesbury's indoor skate park behind Malmesbury Youth Development Centre.
- 8.3.2. The purpose of councillor led projects is to enable an area board to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities; the skate park fits both.
- 8.3.3. Providing Malmesbury with a skate park has been long held aspiration and it is now hoped that with this last contribution from the area board that the project can proceed.
- 8.3.4. One of the most common themes in the current Community Plan for Malmesbury & the Villages is the desire from young people to have a skate park provided, with most people suggesting Malmesbury as the right place.
- 8.3.5. Funding has come from a range of sources over the years with contributions from Wiltshire councils, central government and the young people.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Luckington Village Hall Appendix 2 Grant Application – Minety Village Hall Appendix 3 Councillor led project – Malmesbury skate park project
-------------------	---

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
----------------------	---