

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

PEWSEY AREA BOARD
12 November 2012

Applications for funding to support projects for young people

Purpose of the Report

To ask Councillors to consider the details of three applications for funding from a separate Youth Funding budget of £4,494 allocated to the Board:

1. Young People from Pewsey Vale School are seeking £1,000 to purchase 6 Kindle Fire devices and 8 electronic books per kindle to improve literacy amongst reluctant readers. The Kindle Fire has background colour which can be altered to blue or yellow which has been provide to help students with dyslexia. Mentors from Year 10 will work on a one to one basis with the reluctant reader over the course of the term. This will happen once or twice a week. Each term a new set of reluctant readers will be assigned to the mentors.
2. Young people from Pewsey Vale School are seeking £1,000 towards a nature garden to increase their practical skills in landscaping through planting trees, shrubs and flower beds; to develop the pond and to develop partnerships with local people and businesses to gain their input and ideas.
3. The Great Bedwyn Youth Group is seeking £686.96 for a Graffiti Workshop as they wish to learn a different form of art. A local artist can deliver 4 weekly 2 hour sessions to teach the young people about creating a piece of art that is personal.

Background

1. Area boards have been given extra funding to engage young people who are currently unable to access existing services (e.g. by providing transport to existing provision/delivering services in rural areas/delivering services that target specific groups.)
2. Pewsey Area Board has £4,494 allocated to these youth funding projects, which is in addition to the Community Area Grant budget.
3. It has been agreed that a Participatory Budgeting process can be used as a method of allocating Area Board's youth funding in accordance with the principles of local governance. The Participatory Budgeting Unit defines PB as: 'Participatory Budgeting is a method where local people decide how to allocate part of a public budget. It directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget and aims to increase transparency, accountability, understanding and social inclusion in local government affairs.'

Main Considerations

4. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
5. The Youth Funding item will adopt the principles of participatory budgeting process with decisions made by those present in the room, that is, Board members and members of the public present on the day.
6. The process followed will be:
 - Each applicant/s present their project to the meeting, this might be a verbal or power point presentation, a video or other means of communicating the salient points of the project followed by
 - a question and answer session. Questions can come from Members of the Board or Members of the Public
 - Once all applicants have presented and answered any questions, voting will take place using voting handsets. Voters will be advised to bear in mind the following criteria when voting:
 - Does the project demonstrate value for money
 - Will the project leave a legacy for the area
 - Are there demonstrable benefits for young people
7. Success will be measured by votes cast
8. Unsuccessful projects will be advised to discuss other means of funding their projects with the Community Area Manager.

Implications

9. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

Youth 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.

10. Financial Implication

Awards must fall within the £4,494 budget allocated to the Pewsey Area Board.

11. Legal Implications

There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

12. HR Implications

There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no specific Equality & Diversity implications related to this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Area Board:

- Adopt the participatory budgeting process as indicated in sections 4, 5 and 6 above as a method of distributing Pewsey's youth initiatives funding.
- Agrees to support the enclosed applications for the participatory budgeting process, and allocates the budget of £4,494 to take the three applications selected through the process.

Report Author: Caroline Brailey, Community Area Manager

Tel No: 01225 718609

E-Mail: caroline.brailey@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Youth Funding Proposal: Kindle e-Readers

Appendix 2: Youth Funding Proposal: Nature Garden

Appendix 3: Youth Funding Proposal: Graffiti workshop