

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider three applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding

1. **Bishops Cannings Cricket Club** – Funding to replace their old cricket pavilion. They are seeking £5,000

Recommended for consideration for approval

2. **Sheep Street Baptist Church 'Lunch at One' club** – Funding towards new chairs and trucks. They are seeking £1,525

Recommended for consideration for approval

3. **Friends of Bishops Cannings School** – This is a small grants application for high visibility vests for a walking bus. They are seeking £200

Recommended for consideration for approval

## **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. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £58,192 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 - £5000 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 whilst funding remains.
- 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. 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.
- 1.13. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.14. 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.
- 1.15. 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.
- 1.16. Devizes Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £15,751 for 2012/13. £5,779 has also been carried forward from 2011/12. There is also an additional budget for youth activities of £5,819

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision</li> <li>• Devizes Community Area Plan</li> </ul>
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## 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 5 rounds of funding during 2012/2013. Applications and supporting documents should be with the Community Area Manager at least 4 weeks before the meeting date. There is only one more round of funding as there is no meeting in March 2013 due to the elections. This will take place at the following area board meeting:

- January 28<sup>th</sup> 2012

### **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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £22,069. However a request by DCAP for £5,819 will be made at the January area board meeting. If granted, the balance will be £16,250

### **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 are outlined within section 8 – "Officer Recommendations".

### **8. Officer recommendations**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	1. Bishops Cannings Cricket Club	Replace cricket pavilion	£5k towards a project costing £61k

8.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval

8.1.2. The grants criteria for 2012/13 is met by this grant. 2 years ago, Bishops Cannings Cricket Club were awarded a grant of £3,415 towards sight screens and re-surfacing work. However, as this was in a previous financial year, it does not prevent another application being made.

8.1.3. Bishops Cannings Cricket Club is very well used and supported by about 200 people including a large youth academy. The current pavilion is in a very poor condition. It is made up of a wooden shed and mobile home and is over 50 years old.

8.1.4. The application contributes to the community plan as it contributes towards improving leisure and recreational activities as well as helping with health and traffic issues

8.1.5. Match funding has been obtained from various sources including Landfill tax. The Parish Council has also shown its support providing £20k

8.1.6. If the award is not made then unless funding is found from an alternative source, the current pavilion will not be replaced.

## 9. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	Sheep Street Baptist Church – ‘Lunch at One’	To purchase new chairs and trucks	£1,525 towards a project £3,050

9.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval. Whilst it is affiliated to the Church, it is the officer’s opinion having talked to the applicant that this is a service to the community and that the award of a grant does not help propagate or support a religion.

9.1.2. The project aims to provide a nourishing meal for older people in the community at a reasonable price. It promotes a luncheon club atmosphere, where people can arrive before the meal to chat. It aims to reduce the isolation that many people

experience and to support them where there is a need

- 9.1.3. The current chairs are in a bad state, unhygienic and in some cases dangerous.
- 9.1.4. The club has very few funds of its own. Match funding is being provided by a benefactor.
- 9.1.5. The application addresses the community plan as it provides support for those who are more vulnerable in our society and helps create stronger communities
- 9.1.6. If the award is not agreed, then the club will have to continue to use chairs that are unsuitable for this activity.

## 10. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9.1	Friends of Bishops Cannings School	To purchase 80 high visibility vests	£200 through the small grants

- 10.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval. There is support for school travel plans but this is for larger capital investment. The area board grant system is set up to support small revenue projects such as this which promotes volunteering
- 10.1.2. The project wishes to purchase an additional 80 high visibility vests so that a walking bus which has proved very popular with parents and children can continue.
- 10.1.3. The initiative helps to address both the concern of high levels of childhood obesity in the area and issues of road safety and congestion.
- 10.1.4. If the award is not agreed, then unless funding can be found elsewhere, the walking bus could not continue.

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

<b>Report Author</b>	Richard Rogers, Community Area Manager E-mail <a href="mailto:Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk">Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
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