

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	5 December 2012
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

- To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding.

Application	Amount
Artificial surface for cricket net Applicant: Chilmark Cricket Club	£2,500
Bench seating for playground Applicant: Chilmark Playground Management Committee	£346 – SMALL GRANT
Storage Shed for Village Hall Applicant: Bowerchalke Village Hall	£1,214

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. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £121,048 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.
- 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) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.14. 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.
- 1.15. South West Wiltshire Area Board agreed to delegate powers to the Community Area Manager to make decisions on expenditure of up to £750 in the financial year, 2012/13. This was agreed at the Area Board meeting on 13 June 2012.
- 1.16. A budget ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/2013. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the area board.
- 1.17. South West Wiltshire Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £17,079 for 2012/13.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision • Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026
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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 are due to be 6 rounds of funding during 2012/13, including this meeting. The deadline for submitting applications to the Community Area Manager is 4 weeks prior to the meeting. More information is available at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/southwestwiltshireareaboard.htm

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 South West Wiltshire Area Board. Grant applications totalling **£4,060** have been received for this meeting.
- 4.2. At the time of writing this report, South West Wiltshire Area Board currently has a balance of **£96,162** remaining for 2012/13.

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
tis/12/014	Chilmark Cricket Club	Artificial surface for cricket net	£2,500

- 8.1.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria.
- 8.1.2. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10); this will assist in fostering strong communities by drawing together members of the community through engaging in sport.
- 8.1.3. This project is to install an artificial cricket surface that will guarantee the availability of practice and coaching sessions to residents of Chilmark and surrounding parishes.
- 8.1.4. The cricket club provides an important sporting and social focus for the local community. The success of their junior cricket programme has been emphasised by the club, and poor weather in recent summers has caused some disruption to some of the activities planned.

8.1.5. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local facilities for all the community.

8.1.6. If the Board does not fund this project then the community would continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
tis/12/012	Chilmark Playground Management Committee	Bench seating for playground	£346 – SMALL GRANT

8.1.7. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria.

8.1.8. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10), as the playground potentially helps to build a stronger and more resilient community, fit for the future.

8.1.9. This project is to install new bench seating within the existing playground area.

8.1.10. At present there is no seating area for those accompanying children to the playground, resulting in adults resting on the equipment instead. New seating will solve this issue, and it is also hoped that it will encourage social interaction between members of the community.

8.1.11. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local facilities for all the community.

8.1.12. If the Board does not fund this project then the community would continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
wil/12/007	Bowerchalke Village Hall	Storage Shed	£1,214

8.1.13. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2012/13 grant criteria.

8.1.14. The application demonstrates a link to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 (p10), as the work of the Village Hall potentially helps to build a stronger and more resilient community, fit for the future.

8.1.15. This project is to construct a large, freestanding, wooden storage shed which will be used to store tables, chairs, modular stage sections and other equipment used at the hall.

8.1.16. The use of the village hall has expanded over the last 2 years, allowing a range of community activities and events to take place, and a new shed will enable future use to be more efficient.

8.1.17. The Area Board recognises the need to support and enhance local facilities for all the community.

8.1.18. If the Area Board does not fund this project then the local community will continue to fundraise.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Chilmark Cricket Club Appendix 2 Small grant application – Chilmark Playground Management Committee Appendix 3 Grant application – Bowerchalke Village Hall
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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