

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	10 January 2013
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following 4 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant funding.

1. Deverills Players; A request for £581

Officer recommendation: Approve

2. Job Club; A request for £2,500

This is a Councillor Led Initiative

Please see 1.8 and 1.9 below

3. Maiden Bradley Village Hall; A request for £984

Officer recommendation: Approve

4. Deverills Cricket Club; A request for £4,000

Officer recommendation: Approve

Total request if all applications are approved: **£8,065**

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. Warminster area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £47,714 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. 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. 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. In Warminster, the Area Board chose to allocate this via a Participatory Budgeting event.
- 1.17. Warminster Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £15,226 for 2012/13.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2012 / 13 • Small Grants Application Pack 2012 / 13 • Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan • Councillor and Area Board projects checklist
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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 6 rounds of funding during 2012/2013. The final round will take place on the following date:

Board meeting	Deadline for applications
7 March 2013	25 January 2013

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area 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.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Warminster Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Warminster Area Board will have a balance of **£5,395.93**

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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

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	Deverills Players	Entertaining Angels – dramatic production	£581

8.1.1 Officer Recommendation – Approve

8.1.2 The application meets the 2012/13 grants criteria.

8.1.3 The application demonstrates a link to the community plan through culture and leisure and calls for increased cultural activities.

8.1.4 The Deverills Players had an outstanding success last year supported by a grant from the Warminster Area Board – Alice in Wyleland. This was the first pantomime in the valley for a considerable time. This group is the only dramatic group in the valley. The production will again take place in the Barn at Manor Farm and will be open to everyone in the Deverill Valley and Crockerton and the surrounding villages. The show will be produced, directed and performed by local people.

8.1.5 The overall cost of the project will be £2,529 with match funding already committed of £1,948. The shortfall is £581 requested of the Area Board grants.

8.1.6 The local residents are keen to see another production this year following the success of last year and have expressed a preference for a play rather than a pantomime.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Cllr led project – Pip Ridout for Job Club	Warminster and surrounding villages Job Club	£2,500

8.2.1 The application has been verified against the “Area Board led project triage checklist”.

8.2.3 If awarded, the funding would be used to provide a Job Club in Warminster each alternate Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 6pm. The Job Club would provide support and assistance to NEETs, JSA claimants, school leavers and all those seeking work. Guidance and small group seminars would be provided and also one to one counselling. Guidance would include writing CVs, interview skills and specific industry / service seminars.

Funding would cover the cost of advertising, a lap top for job searches, refreshments, stationary, postage, newspapers, contribution towards overheads (start up only), group work, coaching and mock interviews

8.2.5 A successful Job Fair was held at the Civic Centre in October 2012 and a survey conducted at the fair indicated that around 1/3 would attend a regular job club. Many people in the Warminster area and the villages have expressed a desire for a local service in Warminster.

There is a need for such a club in Warminster as the nearest job centre is now in Trowbridge. Transport is not always easy and the costs of looking for a job can be substantial and prohibitive. The club would provide local access to job seeking support including those from the surrounding villages.

Those aged 18 – 25 would be particularly targeted along with school leavers as statistics show that in Warminster, this group of job seekers is higher than the national average.

8.2.6 The project demonstrates a link to the community plan through economy and is linked to community issues of NEETs, unemployment, underemployment and low income.

8.2.7. The club will cost up to £5,000 for six months and match funding has been committed by the Town Council (Enterprise Warminster) (£1,500) and the Integrated Youth Service (£1,000).

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Maiden Bradley Village Hall	Foody fundraiser Maiden Bradley Village Hall	£984

8.3.1 **Officer Recommendation: Approve**

8.3.2 The application meets the criteria of the grants scheme 2012/13

8.3.3 The funding would be used to purchase security lighting and tables to enable the village hall to increase its fundraising for the Halls refurbishment project. The equipment will be used to help further fund raising events for repairs.

8.3.4 As the request is for under £1,000, no match funding is required.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Deverills Cricket Club	Replace cutting equipment	£4,000

8.4.1 **Officer Recommendation: Approve on the condition that a further £2,000 match funding is identified.**

8.4.2 The application meets the criteria of the grants scheme 2012/13

8.4.3 the funding will be used to replace grass cutting equipment which is necessary to produce a suitable open playing area for the cricket team and for more general social, sporting and recreational use by the inhabitants of the Upper Deverills. The aim is to replace the tractor and gang mowers with a more modern and lighter triple mower system, likely bought second hand, that will allow reliable, efficient and effective cutting of the grass.

8.4.4 A link to the Warminster Area Community plan is demonstrated through “cherish and protect our sporting and recreational facilities (p6) and “support improved play and leisure facilities in the villages” (p13)

8.4.5 The need for the project has been voiced by the villagers who want to continue with the sporting, social, recreational and cultural events that this open area allows.

8.4.6. It is estimated that the equipment will cost £8,000 and match funding of £2,000 has already been identified with £2,000 to be found (see 8.4.1 above).

Documents used in the production of this report	Completed Community Area Grant Application forms Community Area Grants criteria 2012 /13 Area Board / Councillor led initiative criteria
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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