

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	28th January 2012
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider five applications seeking 20012/13 Community Area Grant Funding

1. **Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts** – Seeking the remaining £2.900 of the £5k that was ring fenced for their work during this financial year

Recommended for consideration for approval

2. **Friends of Erlestoke Prison** – Funding towards a mosaic project with the offenders to help them think about their victims. They are seeking £1,500

Recommended for consideration for approval on condition that the project is shared with the local community

3. **Market Lavington Parish Council** – Seeking £275 towards equipment for the Friday night youth club

Recommended for consideration for approval

4. **Rowde Community Village Shop** – Seeking £999 to make alterations to the shop in order to meet safety regulations and increase storage capacity

Recommended for consideration for approval

5. **Cycle Devizes** – Seeking £1000 towards an event to celebrate national bike week in June 2013.

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) 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

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• Devizes Community Area Plan
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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. This is the last round of funding as there is no meeting in March 2013 due to the election. However the area board Members will be voting on whether they can have delegated power to make financial decisions during this period.

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. £152 of the area board budget has also been used on room bookings for meetings such as the CATG and air quality steering group.
- 4.3. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £18,393. However a request by DCAP for £5,819 will be made at this area board meeting. If granted, the balance will be £12,574
- 4.4. The area board members are to decide during this meeting whether they agree to the following recommendation.

That in respect of urgent matters that may arise from time to time between meetings of an Area Board, the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the unitary councillors on the Area Board, be granted delegated authority to make any necessary financial decisions. A report explaining the decision and the reasons why it was considered to be urgent shall be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the area board to ensure that such decisions are subject to public examination.

There are several projects that the area board are looking to support and this additional time will allow an informed decision to be made on where financial support should be directed. Any decision that is made will be reported back at the May 2013 area board meeting.

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. Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts	To expand the community outreach during the carnival through the running of workshops	£2,900

8.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval

8.1.2. In September 2012, a member initiative to support outdoor celebratory arts was approved which ring fenced £5k for Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts events

8.1.3. £2,100 was awarded at the September 2012 area board meeting and this application is for the remaining £2,900

8.1.4. The application addresses the community plan as it helps increase cultural activities

8.1.5. Artist-led workshops will provide training for hundreds of people in contemporary carnival costume design,

8.1.6. The application has been reviewed by the arts officer at Wiltshire Council and she is supporting the request.

9. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
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9.1	Friends of Erlestoke Prison	To run a mosaic project with offenders to help them think about their victims	£1,500 towards a project costing £3,000
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9.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval on condition that the project is shared with the local community

9.1.2. Whilst this is a project to be run within a prison, it is the officer's opinion that this is still a community within the Devizes area. However it is recognised that interaction is obviously very difficult. For this reason, the friends of Erlestoke Prison have offered to take photographs, frame them and put them on display in the local community if the grant is awarded.

9.1.3. The purpose of the project is to encourage offenders to think about their victims and the impact of their crimes. It will be a joint venture with local Victim Support with the aim of reducing reoffending. Lack of victim empathy amongst offenders is known to be a central reason for re-offending. The project will involve facilitation of a group of prisoners, who will design and make large mosaic "footprints" to reflect their thoughts about their victims and their families. The mosaics will be installed in a prison area accessed by prisoners, staff, and visitors. Although victim empathy work is a central part of many offending behaviour courses, there is no visual representation of the impact of crime in the prison.

9.1.4. One of the key benefits to the wider community is the prevention of crime which is a priority within the community plan.

9.1.5. The Friends of Erlestoke Prison have raised themselves £1,500 to match fund the grant sought.

9.1.6. If the award is not agreed, then it would be unlikely that the project could take place.

10. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10.1	Market Lavington Parish Council	To buy equipment for the Friday Youth Club	£275 towards a projects costing £550

10.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.

10.1.2. The youth group was set up in 2011 and has proved to be very successful. Numbers attending have been good with on average about 17 at each session. The area board previously provided a grant for £1,275 to help the club be set up.

- 10.1.3. The parish council wish to build upon the success and encourage new members to come along. In order to do this, further equipment is required to be purchased. Following advice from the youth workers, they wish to purchase another laptop, arts and crafts material, a white board and a secure cupboard.
- 10.1.4. The initiative helps to address both concerns around ASB which inspired the setting up of the group as well as offering more positive things for young people to do.
- 10.1.5. The Parish Council is providing 50% match funding.
- 10.1.6. If the award is not agreed, then unless funding can be found elsewhere, the youth club would struggle to increase the number of people that it reaches.

11. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11.1	Cycle Devizes	To run an event during June in Devizes as part of National Bike Week	£1k towards a project costing £3,300

- 11.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.
- 11.1.2. National Bike Week promotes cycling across the country encouraging local towns to participate. This will be the first time Devizes has been able to take part
- 11.1.3. The event will take place on the Green in June 2013 and hopefully celebrate the new cycle path across it as part of the developing cycle network. There will also be information, stalls and taster sessions.
- 11.1.4. Cycling is one of the key priorities for the area board both to reduce reliance upon car usage but also for health reasons. These ambitions are also strongly supported by DCAP and its community plan.
- 11.1.5. The area board did grant fund Cycle Devizes for a launch event in the autumn which was a great success. However this is a different event and therefore meets the grants criteria
- 11.1.6. Match funding will be provided from sources such as NHS Wiltshire, the Town Council and local businesses.
- 11.1.7. If the award is not agreed, then unless funding can be found elsewhere, the event can't take place

12. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12.1	Rowde Community Village Shop	To make alterations to the shop in order to meet new safety regulations and to provide better use of space.	£999

12.1.1. This application is recommended for consideration for approval.

12.1.2. Rowde Village shop is run by the community using about 30 volunteers of all ages. Currently, much of the stock is kept in the loft area and has to be transferred via a ladder. This is very difficult for the elderly volunteers and also against safety regulations.

12.1.3. The shop is highly valued by the Rowde community and allows local people to buy provisions without needing to go to Devizes. This also contributes to reducing car usage and air pollution as well as helping to build a more resilient community

12.1.4. The application to the area board is for the full cost of the project but as this is below £1k, it meets the criteria

12.1.5. Rowde Community Village Shop currently has no uncommitted reserves and in order to continue will rely upon external funding for assistance.

12.1.6. Devizes area board provided £4,420 in 2009 towards setting up the village shop

12.1.7. If the award is not agreed, then unless funding can be found elsewhere, the shop may not be able to continue.

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

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