

Marlborough Area Board: Four Years of Accomplishments

Working for the community

Since 2009, local people have submitted 70 issues to the Area Board for action. 59 of these have now been resolved and the remainder are under active consideration at the time of going to press.

Supporting Communities

Over the four years of being in place, Marlborough Area Board has supported a wide range of groups, clubs and communities from the local area. Over £160,000 has been awarded in this time, often helping to lever valuable additional funding into the area. The year 2011/12 exemplifies this: Marlborough Area Board awarded just over £69,000 of funding it held (from both Community Area Grant and Discretionary Youth Budget schemes). This level of support encouraged nearly £220,000 of projects and activities to take place in the community area over this time – a three-fold increase in the value of the Board's grants.

Examples of the projects funded by Marlborough Area Board over these three years include:

- Funding for village First Responder and defibrillator groups to provide life saving assistance
- Different forms of refurbishment work to village halls and scout huts around the area to make them more suitable and attractive for wider community use
- The re-instatement of a 16th century fireplace in one of Marlborough's most historic buildings
- Events and activities for young people including programmes of activities, supporting skateboarding competitions and building of skateparks
- Support to a community-run shop by providing equipment
- Providing equipment to local sports clubs to provide better facilities and to help train their Junior Academies
- Helping refurbish stables at a local Riding for the Disabled group

Community Area Transport Group

Over the two years of CATG, the group has delivered a number of schemes in the area that have benefited the community. This includes a successful bid to the Highways Substantive Fund for additional contributions to a traffic management scheme in Winterbourne Monkton which otherwise would not have been affordable from the CATG budget. Other successful projects include:

- A pedestrian refuge on the A4 to allow people to cross safely to enjoy Savernake Forest
- Traffic management scheme on Ermin Street, Baydon near a children's playground
- A rota of locations receiving frequent visits by Speed Indicator Devices encouraging safer driving
- Improved street lighting at Chantry Lane, Marlborough
- An experimental one-way system at the west end of Marlborough High Street by St Peter's church
- A selection of C-class roads chosen for a speed limit review
- An extension to the existing footway at Oxford Street, Aldbourne
- Establishing successful Community Speedwatch groups



Marlborough's tent at the Jubilee event in Salisbury

A year of celebration

As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations held in Salisbury, Marlborough Area Board was asked to provide a jousting tent showcasing what makes the area so special. With so much high quality landscape, heritage, culture and produce in the community area, it was difficult to narrow this down. Marlborough Area Board also funded 13 very successful local jubilee celebrations.

Working with Partners

Marlborough Area Board was instrumental in encouraging the establishment of the community area's Parish Forum. This group, made up of all the parish councils from the area has developed a strong presence in the area and makes a valuable contribution to both ABC meetings and full Area Board meetings.

Looking to the Future

Marlborough Area Board is now engaged in the development of the local Youth Advisory Group. The Area Board is also working with young people to provide floodlighting to the popular Skatepark in Marlborough so that this popular facility can continue to be used throughout the dark winter months.

The Area Board is at the heart of creating and encouraging local networks. The voluntary sector "market place" held on 25 September 2012 was the start of this, with 20 local clubs, groups and organisations coming together, facilitating networking opportunities where the "assets" and "needs" are made known and shared.

Feedback from Community Area Grant Recipients:

The Social Centre, Avebury: awarded £1,950 to improve stage lighting equipment

Our newly-installed stage lighting has already transformed performances at the Social Centre in Avebury, and opened up exciting possibilities for future events. We could not have afforded this versatile lighting without the generous grant from the Marlborough Area Board (covering half of the total cost), and we are enormously grateful for its support.

The lighting was installed in September 2012 in readiness for our second village pantomime in November - "Wendy's Wishing Tree". Having permanently installed ceiling lighting made a tremendous impact on this year's panto performances, eliminating previous awkward stage shadowing and enabling use of the entire stage area. We received many positive comments on the vastly improved presentation due to the more professional lighting arrangement. The total audience over four performances numbered approximately 225 people, representing a large part of our local community as well as guests from further afield. The pantomime programme acknowledged the Marlborough Area Board's financial support with thanks.

The lighting has also been used more recently for an 'Open Mike Night', with excellent feedback received on the great atmosphere generated by the quality stage lighting. Rural Arts Wiltshire will be performing in the Social Centre again shortly, and we can be confident that our adaptable lighting system will enhance the performance. As our confidence grows, so the lighting can be available for more varied functions.

As a result of having this superb new equipment, four young people have expressed an interest in learning how to operate the lighting system. We are delighted to be arranging a training session with the lighting installation company for them. This will be a wonderful youthful boost to our Social Centre team and is precisely what we had hoped would result from this investment.

The Social Centre, Avebury is delighted to have benefitted from the support of the Marlborough Area Board, and we thank the members of the Board for enabling this splendid improvement to our facilities.

JAN RENDLE,
On behalf of Avebury Social Centre



Aldbourn Dabchicks Cricket Club: awarded £932 towards new training facilities

Aldbourn Cricket Club was able to erect a cricket net in the village due to the Marlborough area Board Grant. The club was able to fund the concrete base and a small part of the net cost but the balance of the frame, net and matting was covered by the grant.

Although the cricket club has been in existence since it reformed in the mid 90's all games are played away as there were no cricket facilities at all in the village. Therefore the fact that we were able to erect a net in the village has greatly helped to raise the profile of the club locally in addition to providing a practice facility for the team. We are now able to hold regular evening practice sessions during the season which should help us attract new players and in particular encourage youngsters (both boys and girls) to join the club or simply use the nets just to have a practice. The nets are available for use by the village youth at any time.

In August during the Wiltshire national play day the cricket nets were used to provide cricket training for those in attendance and this will be repeated in 2013.

The club are very grateful to the Board for this grant which has really improved the sport facilities for the cricket club and for the village generally.

Martin Bennett
Treasurer
Aldbourn Cricket Club