

Report to	Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 22 May 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to the following applications for funding from the Community Area Grant Scheme 2013/14:

1. Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club – to award £4,750 towards the creation of a footpath around the sports ground, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

To ask councillors to consider the following amendment to the Community Area Grant that was awarded to Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity at the meeting on 27 February 2013:

2. Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity – to approve that the funding previously awarded be used for the replacement of 1 window and the repair of 3 windows, instead of the original proposal to replace all 4 windows, conditional upon the difference in funding being returned to Wiltshire Council.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Community Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (5 April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation, Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014](#).
- 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 Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. The Area Board may want to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work. [Northern Community Area Plan 2005 - 2015](#)
[Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment](#)
- 1.5. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a 2013/14 budget of **£74,180** for Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy grants, Community-Led Planning funding, Area Board operational funding and Area Board/Councillor-Led initiatives. In 2013/14 only capital funding is available for Community Area and Digital Literacy grants.
- 1.6. In addition to Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor-Led initiative. This enables Area Boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. The Cabinet has emphasised that it does not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls.
- 1.7. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy, in 2013/14 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board invites applications that encourage young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports, outdoor activities, recreation, arts and volunteering.
- 1.8. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The Area Board will rarely award more than £5,000. Grants of up to

£500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.

- 1.9. New for 2013/14 is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step-by-step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.10. Area Boards will not consider Community Area Grant 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.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. All recipients of Area Board funding are expected to complete an evaluation form as soon as the project has been completed and provide receipts if requested. Groups are encouraged to upload information and photographs about their project on to their [blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision Northern Community Area Plan 2005-2015 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Joint Strategic Assessment
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a 2013/14 budget of **£74,180** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy grants, Area Board/Councillor-Led Initiatives and Community-Led Planning funding.

2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.

2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2013/14 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

2.4. There are now 5 funding rounds remaining during 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:

12 June 2013 to be considered at 24 July 2013 meeting

14 August 2013 to be considered at 25 September 2013 meeting

16 October 2013 to be considered at 27 November 2013 meeting

11 December 2013 to be considered at 22 January 2014 meeting

5 February 2014 to be considered at 19 March 2014 meeting.

2.5. On 6 July 2011 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board, to approve expenditure of up to £250 between meetings of the Area Board for the purpose of booking public meeting rooms for Area Board purposes. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported back to the Area Board at the next public meeting.

2.6. A budget of £5,000 was accrued from 2012/13 for the purpose of supporting projects that seek to ensure a Legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Jubilee celebrations. This funding is being awarded under separate criteria and details are available [here](#).

2.7. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget for 2013/14. At the time of writing this budget is yet to be confirmed.

2.8. Funding awarded to date during 2013/14 totals £0.00. This leaves a balance of **£74,180**.

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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.

4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board will have a balance of **£69,430**.

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 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 will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club	Footpath around sports ground	£4,750

8.1.1. Officers recommend that the Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club is awarded £4,750 towards the creation of a new footpath around the sports ground, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council's finance department.

8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure. The application also links to Wiltshire Council and Area Board priorities to create a Legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

8.1.4. The main aim of this project is to increase accessibility to the sporting pitches from the changing rooms and car park by creating a new footpath around the grounds. This will benefit everyone who uses the club, particularly the elderly, disabled and people with

pushchairs.

- 8.1.5. The Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club is an all-inclusive club that is committed to meeting the needs of everyone. This project will improve accessibility for spectators and players alike, and will also increase the number of people who are able to access the site comfortably.
- 8.1.6. The Club is currently exploring options for the provision of rugby coaching for disabled people. These plans are in the early stages but the Club is considering making an application to the Area Board's Legacy grant fund to support this work.
- 8.1.7. Wiltshire Council's Senior Sports Development Officer has given support for this project, particularly with encouragement for the Club to progress its plans to provide sporting opportunities for disabled people.
- 8.1.8. The necessary planning permissions for the footpath are in place.
- 8.1.9. Costs for the ongoing maintenance of the footpath would be met by the Club via fundraising, local support and reserves, as appropriate.
- 8.1.10. The Club is contributing to this project via its reserves, but its current financial position does not allow for the Club to make a significant contribution. A funding bid has been made to the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon and a decision is expected mid-May.
- 8.1.11. If the Area Board decides not to fund this project then the project would experience significant delays whilst other funding options are explored, which would result in a missed opportunity to get the works completed for this summer's season.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity	Amendment to grant awarded at previous Area Board meeting on 27 February 2013	£1,921 (already committed from 2012/13 budget)

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that the requested amendment to the grant awarded to the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity on 27 February 2013 is approved to allow the replacement of 1 window

and the repair of the remaining 3 windows to the hall.

- 8.2.2. The original grant application was approved for the replacement of all 4 windows to the building; however, since then, listed building consent has been refused on the grounds that there is no evidence of significant rot to the windows.
- 8.2.3. The replacement of the 1 window to the gent's toilet does not require listed building consent and so can proceed under the permission granted for the original application.
- 8.2.4. It is now proposed that the remaining 3 windows of the listed building will be repaired instead of replaced, and the Area Board's support for this is being sought.
- 8.2.5. The original grant awarded on 27 February 2013 for the replacement of all 4 windows was £3,554. The cost to replace the window to the gent's toilets is £1,076. The cost to carry out the proposed repairs to the remaining 3 listed windows is a maximum of £1,921. Therefore, if approved, this would result in the sum of £557 minimum, being returned to Wiltshire Council. Please note that the quote to repair the 3 windows includes some contingency to allow for the glass panes to break during the repair, which is a possibility due to the nature of the works. Should this not happen, then the amount returned to Wiltshire Council would be greater.
- 8.2.6. Please note that this funding was committed from the 2012/13 budget, so to approve these amendments would have no negative impact on the Area Board's 2013/14 budget.

Appendices	Appendix 1 – grant application details
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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