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| Report to | Amesbury Area Board |
| Date of Meeting | 18 July 2013 |
| Title of Report | Area Board Funding |

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees - award £1,449 for a new Community Orchard Project.
2. The Stonehenge School (Amesbury School Cluster) – award £2,500 for a counselling service.
3. Steeple Langford Parish Council – award £3,000 towards the cost of refurbishment and replacement works to the village play area.
4. Amesbury Community Players – award £500 for a new Lighting Control System.
5. Brambles Pre School – award £500 for the setting up of a new after school club.

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 (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 (CAGs) 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.
- 1.5. Amesbury of Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£82,361** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core 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 CAGs 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. 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.
- 1.7. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2013/14 the Amesbury 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 (CAG) 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 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.
- 1.11. 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 up-load information and photographs about their project on to their area board [blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

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| <p>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</p> | <p><u>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</u></p> <p>Amesbury Area's Community Plan Priorities</p> <p><u>Amesbury Area Joint Strategic Assessment.</u></p> |
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£82,361** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and funding support for community planning activities.
- 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 2013/2014 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:

- 6 June 2013 for consideration on 18 July 2013
- 8 August 2013 for consideration on 19 September 2013
- 10 October 2013 for consideration on 21 November 2013
- 19 December 2013 for consideration on 30 January 2014
- 13 February 2014 for consideration on 27 March 2014

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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Amesbury area board will have a balance of £48,081.

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. | Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees | A new Community Orchard | £1,449 |

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees are awarded £1,449 towards the costs of setting up a new community orchard.

- 8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria 2013/14, and cannot be funded by the Allotment Trust's reserves, as it currently does not have any reserves.
- 8.1.3. A community orchard is part of a new thrust in the village to renovate the allotments, encouraging greater community involvement and local food production. Thirty apple, pear and plum trees, using traditional varieties, will be planted on 0.5 hectares on the lower slopes of the allotments, this autumn. Voluntary wardens will carry out on-going maintenance, including watering, weeding and pruning. The orchard will be laid out with mown paths and a wooden bench to provide a facility for all.
- 8.1.4. Some of the fruit trees will be commemorative, creating a place of tranquillity and retreat. The orchard will be used for occasional events such as Apple Days and barbecues; and be available as a training and activity resource for the local school and Youth Club.
- 8.1.5. Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees and other local people will be actively involved in the planting of the orchard, on-going maintenance and, after five years, harvesting and distributing the fruit. Skills will be gained in tree care e.g. pruning. A central aim of the Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees is to help the less advantaged in the Parish, and the orchard will help by generating income and passing this on as small grants, from the sale of fruit at pick-your-own days or a village.

| Ref | Applicant | Project proposal | Funding requested |
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| 8.2. | The Stonehenge School | Counselling Service for the 7 schools in the Amesbury Cluster | £2,500 |

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that The Stonehenge School is awarded £2,500 as a contribution to the costs of providing a counselling service to the 7 schools in the Amesbury Cluster in 2013/14.
- 8.2.2. Whilst this application cannot be funded as a Community Area Grant because it is essentially a revenue project, it is recommended for approval on the basis that the board has the discretion to prioritise its funding for:
- (a) projects of community wide benefit (the impact of well counselled children, increases the educational, health and wellbeing of all involved)
 - (b) children and young people (this is both a local and corporate priority)

(c) whilst this grant is to be awarded to a school (and therefore a statutory service provider), the Counselling Service is not a core curriculum activity, but an additional service which can significantly aid teaching and learning.

8.2.3. The 7 schools are The Stonehenge School, Amesbury Primary, Amesbury Archer, Christ the King, Woodford Valley, Shrewton and Newton Toney.

8.2.4. 1567 pupils on roll in the cluster will benefit from this project. A recent evaluation shows that out of the 35 children seen for counselling at one primary school over the past year, 42% have an MOD connection. Several children have had to cope with bereavement and family deployment. The counselling has provided emotional support thus creating a positive environment to facilitate strategies for both teaching and learning.

8.2.5. All the schools are aware of the rising needs of young people to help with mental health issues, dysfunctional family problems, domestic violence and abuse whilst other available services are decreasing.

8.2.6. Young people who have used the existing counselling service highly rate it as something which provides them with a safe ear, impartial advice, and a means for gaining better self esteem and confidence.

8.2.7. The existing project is funded by the Extended Schools Initiative, and runs for 3 days a week across the 7 schools in the cluster and ends 31st July 2013. The area board's support will assist it to run for a further year. Each of the schools have confirmed that due to a reduction in school funding in 2012, they do not have capacity within their reserves to contribute anymore than a total of £4,478 to the counselling service in 13/14.

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| 8.3. | Steeple Langford Parish Council | Replacement of Children's Play Park | £3,000 |

8.3.1. Officers recommend that Steeple Langford Parish Council is awarded a grant of £3,000, as a contribution to the costs of replacing the play park in the village.

8.3.2. This application meets the grant criteria 2013/14, and cannot be funded in total by the parish council's reserves. The parish council maintains that it would be imprudent to offer any more than £3,000

from its current reserves of £9,888.13. These reserves have been built up over a number of years and in any one year the requests for financial support from worthy causes are greater than the total reserve funds.

- 8.3.3. The current play park has reached the end of its safe life. It is a well used park, central to the village and adjacent to the cricket pitch, but ROSPA reports have found the need for work to be done. The project will see the removal of old play park units and the installation of new equipment.
- 8.3.4. The play park is a key village amenity and a great place for all ages to meet, play and relax.
- 8.3.5. The total cost of the project is £11,012. The parish council is contributing £3,000, and has secured a donation of £75. This leaves a fundraising target of just under £5,000, as the board is only able to contribute the same amount as the parish council.

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| 8.4. | Amesbury Community Players | New Lighting Control System | £500 |

- 8.4.1. Officers recommend that Amesbury Community Players is awarded £500 for the purchase of a new lighting control system.
- 8.4.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and the project cannot be funded from the organisation's reserves. The reserves are £1,400, and this is needed to fund the hire of halls, and the cost of future productions.
- 8.4.3. Amesbury Community Players has been in existence for 3 years and provides a popular community service. To enhance the quality of its productions, the Players need a new lighting control box that is sufficiently portable to take to outside venues, when productions are not based in the Wyndham Hall, which is the usual venue.

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| 8.5. | Brambles Pre School | A new after school club | £500 |

- 8.5.1. Officers recommend that Brambles Pre School is awarded £500 to pay for the setting up of a new after school club.

- 8.5.2. This application cannot be funded by the school's reserves of £1,000, as this is required for staffing matters.
- 8.5.3. The preschool has identified a need for a new (affordable) after school club to serve families living in Durrington, Larkhill, Figheldean, Amesbury and Bulford. The grant will help to set up the new club and make it meet Ofsted's standards. It will then become self-funding from club fees.
- 8.5.4. The costs incurred in setting up this new club is a new footway to the church (where the club will be held) required to meet Ofsted/health and safety standards for the children attending the club, a partition to section off the club from the rest of the church, storage and materials for club activities.

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| Appendices | Appendix 1 Grant Application – Steeple Langford Allotments Appendix 2 Grant Application – The Stonehenge School Appendix 3 Grant Application- Steeple Langford Parish Council Appendix 4 Grant Application – Amesbury Community Players Appendix 5 Grant Application – Brambles Pre School |
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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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