

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Devizes Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Grants</b>

**Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **St John and St Mary Church** are seeking £5k towards the refurbishment of the kitchens in their parish rooms

Recommended for consideration for approval

2. **Wiltshire Museum** are seeking £5k towards the Wiltshire Museum Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries

Recommended for consideration for approval

3. **Bromham Parish Council** are seeking £5k towards the creation of a new BMX track

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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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 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.
- 1.4. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £83,375 for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £500 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle 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.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.10. 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.

- 1.11. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website  
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. 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.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Devizes Community Area Plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document</a></li> </ul>
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 4 further rounds of funding during 2013/2014. The first is contained in this report. The remaining will take place on;
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013
  - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013
  - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014
  - 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will have a balance of £62,936
- 4.3. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other funding has been confirmed.

**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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

**8. Officer recommendations**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	<b>Refurbishment of St John and St Mary Parish Room</b>	Refurbishment of the existing kitchen units and appliances	£5k towards a project costing £15k

- 8.1.1. It is the officer’s recommendation that an award of £5k toward the refurbishment of the existing kitchen is considered for approval.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- 8.1.3. Although the Parish rooms belong to and are used by the Church, their primarily use is by a range of voluntary and community groups including Mother and Toddler Group, Townswomen Guild, Tai Quando, Yoga, U3A Art Group, Regency Dancers, local social activities, coffee mornings, jumble sales, birthday and other parties,

Devizes Food Festival, Devizes, Eisteddfod, and Church run lunches.

- 8.1.4. The impetus for upgrading the Parish rooms is that they are increasingly used to prepare meals three times a week for homeless and vulnerable people via Devizes Opendoor. Currently the facilities are struggling to cope.
- 8.1.5. The Church has recently installed facilities including showers, washing and drying machines. These are particularly important for those using the Opendoor project as they would otherwise not have access to these services
- 8.1.6. If the grant is not awarded, the Church will struggle to find match funding in order to upgrade the facilities and make them suitable for the organisations that use them.
- 8.1.7. This group is a not for profit group.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
<b>9.1.0</b>	<b>Wiltshire Museum</b>	Wiltshire Museum Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries	£5k towards a project costing £13,126

- 9.1.1. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k to help support for the production of display blocks within showcases, specialist wire mounts for objects and 2 display cases is considered for approval
- 9.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- 9.1.3. Wiltshire Museum has the best Bronze Age collection in Britain. They want to inspire visitors to the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site with the stories of the people who built and used these iconic monuments. The project features the unique gold and amber finds that define the Bronze Age 'Wessex' culture. The opening of the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre in 2013 will change the dynamics of the way that people visit Stonehenge, and they want to be ready to bring more people into the heart of Wiltshire.
- 9.1.4. The project has 3 main aims. These are to triple the visitor numbers, increase the use of the museum by schools by 25% and increase the number of volunteers engaging with volunteers by 100%. Other benefits to the local area include:
  - Encourage tourists to travel between Stonehenge and Avebury
  - To encourage them to see more in the local area, adding bed nights and increasing spend on food and drink Social
  - Inspire local residents to become engaged and informed about the prehistoric landscapes in which they live, work and study – whether they are schoolchildren, families or retired
  - Provide learning and outreach opportunities for primary and secondary

schools

- Create learning resources to support the National Curriculum
- Enable volunteers to become engaged in the interpretation of our collections through a training programme Environmental Encouraging people to walk, cycle and to use public transport

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10.1	Bromham Parish Council	Creation of a BMX track	£5k towards a project costing £20k

10.1.1. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £5k toward the creation of a BMX bike track in Bromham is considered for approval.

10.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project

10.1.3. This project is to construct a BMX track, approximately 40m x 20m, built from 600-1000 tonnes of subsoil, 20 tonnes of crushed rock and clean stone/flex coil for drainage. It would take an estimated 3 weeks build time. The edges would have concrete and the track a gravel surface. With periodic maintenance, this would be expected to last 20 years.

10.1.4. The aim of the project is to fulfil a local need for recreational facilities that is in the main targeted at the young people of Bromham. However, the facility will have no restrictions and will be available at no cost for all the community to use

10.1.5. Application to provide activities for young people, such as a BMX tracks have been encouraged by the area board.

10.1.6. It should be noted that the Parish Council did not feel that they could increase the precept to pay for this facility. However £2k has been raised through local fund raising.

10.1.7. The rest of the funding is from the landfill and community fund (£5k) as well as Sports England (£8k).

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

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