

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	4 September 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Little Somerford Short Mat Bowls Club – award £418 towards a new bowls mat, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. That revenue funding of £3,154 allocated in 2012/13 towards filming equipment for a youth media project (connected with the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan consultation) be retained by the area board, as the project is no longer taking place.
3. To encourage applications for Community Area Grants.

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 wish 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. In 2013/14 Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of **£53,138** 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. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do 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.
- 1.8. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital 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 provide recommendations, however the decision to support applications is made by Malmesbury area board councillors.
- 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 the [Malmesbury & Villages – Our Community Matters blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</p>	<p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Area Board Grants Scheme 2013/14 – information and criteria</p> <p>Digital Literacy Grants 2013/14</p> <p>Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Plan 2009-2013</p> <p>Minutes of the 3 July 2013 Malmesbury area board</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. At the 3 July 2013 area board £8,118 revenue funding was allocated to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership and £5,000 capital awarded to Minety Village hall, leaving a balance of **£40,020** to be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives.
- 2.2. Councillors must 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 3 funding rounds remaining in 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
 - **20 September 2013 for consideration at 6 November 2013**
 - 22 November 2013 for consideration at 15 January 2014
 - 24 January 2014 for consideration at 5 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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded and retained in accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance **£42,756**

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

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Little Somerford Short Mat Bowls Club	New bowls mat	£418

8.1.1. Officers recommend that Little Somerford Short Mat Bowls Club is awarded £418 towards the cost of a new bowls mat, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

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

8.1.3. The applicant is contributing 50% of the cost of this project from their own funds

8.1.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 lists the need to have more community events and activities and use of village halls.

8.1.5. The bowls club now plays in the Upper Seagry rather than Little Somerford village hall. With more space the club wishes to expand, hence the request for help to fund a second mat. With a second mat, members will be able to spend more time playing.

8.1.6. The intention is to use their reserves for more equipment and storage for the new mat. They will also be promoting their club and encouraging greater take up of the game amongst all age groups.

8.2. In January 2013, £3,359 was allocated by the area board to enable young

people to undertake a media project associated with the final consultation on the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan. Due to unforeseen delays this project has not progressed and as a result a decision has been made not to draw down this funding.

- 8.3. This funding will be returned to the area board funding pot for distribution during 2013/14.
- 8.4. Community groups are encouraged to make funding applications to the area board for support. The Community Area Manager, Miranda Gilmour is happy to help potential applicants.

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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