

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	24 September 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. **MADT Community Wi-Fi continued roll-out** – requested £2,500 towards the installation of a further 16 Wi-Fi nodes throughout Marlborough High Street and a number of rural locations throughout the community area. Recommendation: Meets Criteria
2. **Innov8 Sportz Equipment for All** – requested £500 towards a range of sports equipment that will be used to provide sporting opportunities for school age children in after-school clubs throughout the community area. Recommendation: Meets Criteria
3. **Refurbishment of Broad Hinton village hall floor** – requested £350 towards maintenance of the flooring and keeping it at a good standard to be used by hirers of the hall. Recommendation: Meets Criteria
4. **Ladies' Rounders Club, Marlborough** – requested £500 towards establishing this new rounders club, including purchase of new equipment and initial hire costs during set-up phase. Recommendation: Meets Criteria
5. **Marlborough Boxing Club** – requested £5,000 towards purchasing new sports equipment to kit out the new gym and sparring ring. This forms a small part of a much larger project to establish a new boxing club in Marlborough. Recommendation: Meets Criteria
6. **Natural Access on-line collaboration tool** – requested £1,500 towards establishing a brand new web-based method for local (and regional and national) countryside, environmental and heritage groups to collaborate and share information more easily and to provide easier access for the public to these groups and ultimately the countryside. Recommendation: Meets Criteria

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. Links to these electronic documents can be found below.
- 1.5. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£55,422** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 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 Marlborough 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. Recipients of grants are also asked to come back to future area board meetings to provide a verbal update on their project to spread good practice and encourage other applicants. Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	<u>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</u>
	<u>Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17</u>
	<u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2011</u>

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£55,422** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, Area Board / Councillor Led Initiatives.
- 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 four funding rounds remaining during 2013/14, including this meeting. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:

- **15 October 2013 for consideration on 26 November 2013**
- **17 December 2013 for consideration on 28 January 2014**
- **11 February 2014 for consideration on 25 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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of **£42,129**

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	Recommendation
8.1.	Marlborough Area Development Trust	Continued roll-out of free Community Wi-Fi	£2,500	Meets Criteria

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Marlborough Area Development Trust (MADT) is awarded £2,500 towards the purchase equipment that enables the further roll-out of free community Wi-Fi.

- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a

capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

- 8.1.3. Over the past 2 years, MADT has successfully developed a freely accessible community Wi-Fi system based along Marlborough High Street in locations such as the Town Hall and The Food Gallery. There is also a hub located in Aldbourne's Post Office. This allows local people to access the internet for free using their own laptops, tablets or smartphones. Coverage of the entire High Street is not yet complete and there are no other access points in other rural parishes.
- 8.1.4. MADT plans to install a further 16 Wi-Fi hubs throughout the community area. This aims to complete coverage of the High Street, whilst half the planned number of new hubs will be for rural locations. There has already been interest from several rural communities in hosting a Wi-Fi hub including a further site in Aldbourne, Avebury and Ramsbury.
- 8.1.5. As part of the match funding towards this project, MADT plan to contribute a significant amount of in-kind support through the technical work involved in developing this project and the installation of the new equipment.
- 8.1.6. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including its potential to provide a tourist and local information service, support new and small businesses, support rural enterprise and provide support for tourism businesses (p. 8-9).

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	Innov8 Sportz community interest company	New sporting equipment for use with after-school groups	£500	Meets Criteria

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Innov8 Sportz is awarded £500 towards the purchase new sports equipment.
- 8.2.2. This application meets grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.2.3. Innov8 Sportz works with many groups of young people throughout the Marlborough Community Area providing opportunities to participate in a number of different sports. This can be through existing sports groups, helping to establish new groups or by providing after-school activities at local primary schools.
- 8.2.4. Innov8 Sportz wishes to increase this work with after-school groups and needs a range of new equipment to do this. Having the new sporting equipment will allow the range of different sport and different groups to be widened helping to give more people the opportunity to participate in sporting activities.
- 8.2.5. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan concerning access to recreation amenities and facilities, particularly for young

people and those from rural areas (p.10-11, 18). It also meets the Council's aims of supporting the Olympic and Paralympic legacy by encouraging young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports and outdoor activities.

8.2.6. This application has the support of Sports Development Officers based at Wiltshire Council's Sports & Physical Activity Department, who are working with Innov8 Sportz on developing sports participation.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.3.	Broad Hinton Village Hall	Refurbishment of hall floor	£350	Meets Criteria

8.3.1. Officers recommend that Broad Hinton Village Hall is awarded £350 towards the refurbishment of the hall floor.

8.3.2. This application meets grant criteria for 2013/14.

8.3.3. Broad Hinton Village Hall has a wooden floor which needs to be kept clean and smooth for safety and ensuring the hall appearance is maintained to a good standard. The main hall floor is used by a number of clubs and it is vital that the floor is maintained to a safe and clean standard.

8.3.4. This will not only make the hall an attractive venue for new hirers but will benefit existing users by having a safe and high quality surface.

8.3.5. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan concerning access to recreation amenities and facilities, particularly for young people and those from rural areas (p.11, 18).

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.4.	Ladies' Rounders Club, Marlborough	Establishing new Rounders club	£500	Meets Criteria

8.4.1. Officers recommend that Marlborough Ladies' Rounders Club is awarded £500 towards establishing the new club, including paying for equipment and initial hire costs of sports venue during set-up phase of the club.

8.4.2. This application meets grant criteria for 2013/14.

8.4.3. Marlborough Ladies Rounders Club has established that there are few opportunities for women to take part in informal fitness activities. Some women can be put off going to the gym or taking part in other types of exercise class because of feelings about their own current fitness or perceptions of other people there. Through social networks, it has been established that there are already over 60 women in the Marlborough area

who would be interested in playing Rounders as an informal, social and fun way of taking more exercise.

- 8.4.4. The Rounders club will be open to all women in the local area aged 16 and over, no matter what their level of fitness is or experience of playing Rounders. To start with, the club will not be competitive, but in time, may begin fielding different teams with different levels of involvement.
- 8.4.5. This grant is to allow the rounders club to pay for equipment and the hire of playing facilities without needing to charge new members high fees in the first instance. It is felt that if charges are too high to begin with, this would put off players who might not be able to afford to come or not want to pay until they have tried the sport. Once established, the club will begin charging sufficient fees that will allow it to become self-sustaining.
- 8.4.6. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan concerning access to recreation amenities and facilities, particularly for young people and those from rural areas as well as concerns around lifestyle choices and health promotion (p.11, 13, 18).
- 8.4.7. This application has the support of Sports Development Officers based at Wiltshire Council's Sports & Physical Activity Department, who are working with the applicant on developing the rounders club.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.5.	Marlborough Boxing Club	Providing equipment for gym and sparring ring	£5,000	Meets Criteria

- 8.5.1. Officers recommend that Marlborough Boxing Club is awarded £5,000 towards equipping the gym and ring with new equipment for boxing and other sports sessions.
- 8.5.2. This application meets grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.5.3. Marlborough Boxing Club has recently been established and has refurbished the old cricket pavilion at Elcott Lane into their new gym. As part of this refurbishment and getting the club up and running, they are requesting funding towards new training and fitness equipment and building a new ring for sparring sessions.
- 8.5.4. This application is the final part of the development of the new club, which has already received considerable funding from the Lottery via Sports England and other more local funders. There have been other contributions in the form of refurbishment work given free of charge.
- 8.5.5. Training will be given by fully qualified coaches, who will be giving their time free of charge for the first few months. There will also be a range of other sports and fitness classes available from the club. Membership of the club

will be open to all members of the community

8.5.6. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan concerning access to recreation amenities and facilities, particularly for young people and those from rural areas (p.10-11, 18). It also meets the Council's aims of supporting the Olympic and Paralympic legacy by encouraging young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports and outdoor activities.

8.5.7. This application has the support of Sports Development Officers based at Wiltshire Council's Sports & Physical Activity Department, who are working with the boxing club to develop membership and sports participation.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.6.	Natural Access	Creation of web-based collaboration tools for local organisations	£1,500	Meets Criteria

8.6.1. Officers recommend that Natural Access is awarded £1,500 towards creating a web-based collaboration and information sharing network.

8.6.2. This application meets grant criteria for 2013/14.

8.6.3. Marlborough Community Area contains a number of nationally and internationally recognised landscapes and designations, including the North Wessex Downs AONB, Avebury & Stonehenge World Heritage Site and the Ridgeway National Trail. There are a number of other sites of natural, ecological and heritage significance. Many of these features have an organisation which oversees them and these can range in size.

8.6.4. Natural Access is a new, not-for-profit social enterprise that has recognised that with cuts to the funding of many voluntary and community groups, including those that oversee our landscapes, there needs to be a better or more efficient way these groups can share their knowledge, information and resources. Natural Access plans to set up a range of web-based tools that will allow local groups and those from further afield to collaborate and share information better. Having a greater web-presence will allow the public to find these groups and more easily discover the landscapes they represent.

8.6.5. This project could meet several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including provision of tourist information, support for rural enterprise and access to the countryside (p. 8, 9, 24).

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – MADT Appendix 2 Grant Application – Innov8 Sports. Appendix 3 Grant Application – Broad Hinton Village Hall Appendix 4 Grant Application – Ladies' Rounders Appendix 5 Grant Application – Marlborough Boxing Club
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	Appendix 6 Grant Application – Natural Access
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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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