

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	16 October 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to:

1. Mere Bowls Club - award £1,500 towards new changing rooms, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. The Chris Brown Day Centre – award £2,000 towards club events, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Fovant Youth Club – award £500 towards a start-up costs for a cookery project, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
4. Seeds4Success – award £5,000 towards South West Wiltshire footpath improvement programme, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

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. An update on South West Wiltshire Area Board's priorities can be [viewed here](#).
- 1.5. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** 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 South West Wiltshire 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.

<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>South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities Action Log</p> <p>Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and 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 3 further funding rounds planned for 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are:
 - 13 November for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 11 December 2013.
 - 8 January 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 5 February 2014.
 - ADDITIONAL DATE - 26 February 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 26 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 South West Wiltshire Area Board.
- 4.2. At the time of writing this report South West Wiltshire Area Board has a balance of **£81,471**. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance of **£72,471**.

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.	Mere Bowls Club	New changing rooms	£1,500

- 8.1.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place and planning approval being granted.
- 8.1.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.3. This project is to purchase and install a log cabin that would be subdivided to provide male and female changing facilities at the club. The building would also provide secure storage for personal items while members and guests are playing bowls.
- 8.1.4. The club has increased in membership over recent years and aims for this to continue with improved facilities available.
- 8.1.5. Wiltshire Council Property Services support this application, whilst raising the issue of disabled access. The applicant has provided a response on measures being taken to ensure disabled access is satisfactory.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	The Chris Brown Day Centre	Club events	£2,000

- 8.2.1. The Area Boards grant scheme criteria for 2013/14 states that ‘the council will not consider grant applications for ‘recurring revenue or ongoing running costs.’ Officers are, therefore, of the opinion that this application does not meet the 2013/14 grant criteria.
- 8.2.2. This application has not been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department. Any funding awarded would be taken from the Area Board’s revenue allocation.
- 8.2.3. This project is to contribute towards running costs of the day centre, which includes providing lunch, running activities and trips and having guest speakers to give lectures. The group is supported by a paid organiser.
- 8.2.4. The Day Centre already receives funding support from Wiltshire Council towards its running costs totalling £3,173 for 2013/14.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Fovant Youth Club	Start-up costs for a cookery project	£500

8.3.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria. No matched funding is required as the application is for £500 or less.

8.3.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.3.3. This project is to purchase a cooker and cooking equipment so that the children attending Fovant youth club can learn basic cooking skills through the experience of making and eating healthy snacks.

8.3.4. The youth club have successfully recruited a paid worker, who is due to start in November 2013. It is hoped that in the future the children will be able to hold events in the community where people can sample and buy what is produced.

8.4.	Seeds4Success	South West Wiltshire footpath improvement programme	£5,000
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8.4.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.4.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.4.3. This project is to restore local footpaths in partnership with parish councils and supporting the work of the AONB's sustainable rural tourism programme in the Nadder Valley. The project also intends to run 3 community volunteering days (in Tisbury, Mere and Wilton areas) to enable adult volunteers to take part during the project.

8.4.4. Over 60 local young people will take part in the project as well as at least 6 adult volunteers, in 25 sessions over a 6 month period. Young people who volunteer will benefit as part of the 'Leisure Credits' scheme, where they build up credits that can be exchanged for trips/activities.

Appendices:	Grant application 1 – Mere Bowls Club Grant application 2 – The Chris Brown Day Centre Grant application 3 – Fovant Youth Club Grant application 4 – Seeds4Success
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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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