

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	7 July 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 2010/11 Area Board Grants and consider the following officer recommendations

1. Minety Pre-School - award £1,508 towards the cost of providing a safe all weather play area within the pre-school garden, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Crudwell Village Hall and Recreation Ground – award £2,912 towards refurbishment of the main hall and the committee room floors.

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 Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. During 2010/2011 all applicants are being encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who is working on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.6. A decision has been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.7. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• 'How you view where you live' - Malmesbury & the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £40,593 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget was £682, resulting in a balance of £41,275. At the May meeting funding totalling £4,230 was distributed, leaving a balance of £37,045.

- 2.2. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.3. There will be 6 funding rounds during 20010/11. The second is contained in this report the remaining will take place on:
- 15 September 2010
 - 10 November 2010
 - 19 January 2011
 - 16 March 2011
- 2.4. The deadline for receipt of funding applications for consideration at 15 September 2010 Area Board is 30 July.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Community Area Grants will 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 in line with officer recommendations, Malmesbury Area Board will have a balance of £ 32,625.

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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 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	Minety Pre-School	Provision of a safe, all weather play area within the pre-school garden	£1,508

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Minety Pre-School are awarded £1,508 towards the cost of providing a safe all weather play area within the pre-school garden, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria.
- 8.1.3. The applicant has made a considerable effort to seek additional external funding to supplement the contribution from their own reserves. At the time of writing there is no indication that funding from external sources has been successful.
- 8.1.4. Links to the recently published community plan for Malmesbury and the Villages 2009-2013 include provision of play areas (although these tended to be for older children in public areas).
- 8.1.5. The Pre School currently have over 45 children on their books and take children from 18 months. The facility is open all day Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. On Thursday and Friday afternoons sessions are held for children aged 4-5 years.
- 8.1.6. The all weather surface will enhance their potential to offer, 'Stay and Play' a fundraising holiday scheme for slightly older children which has recently been trialled.
- 8.1.7. A decision to go ahead with this project arises from the current play area being too small and unusable in wet weather. The garden is currently used by children several times a day and an all weather area will prove a great asset as it will be able to be used more frequently and allow children to play outside a larger percentage of the year.
- 8.1.8. This project seeks to improve a valuable facility in a rural community, which enables pre-school children to mix with children of a similar age and could allow parents to undertake education and/or employment.
- 8.1.9. A decision not to fund this project is likely to result in the project being delayed until further funding is raised.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Crudwell Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Refurbishment of the main hall and the committee room floors.	£2,912

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Crudwell Village Hall and Recreation Ground are awarded £2,912 towards refurbishment of the main hall and the committee room floors.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria.
- 8.2.3. The application demonstrates links to the recently published community plan for Malmesbury and the Villages 2009-2013, in that it provides a venue for two active pre-school groups and also hosts a wide range of community activities for both young and older people ranging from uniform youth groups, to bowls, badminton and an over 50s fitness programme. In addition to regular weekly bookings the hall is well used at weekends. This facility is used by all sections of the local community.
- 8.2.4. The project will include filling in redundant under floor ducts which are beginning to cause the floor to collapse; as well as providing a new floor covering.
- 8.2.5. While the applicant appears to hold healthy reserves (of over £22,000), they have a number of other pressing demands on their funds which include replacement of the patio at the front of the hall, resurfacing of the car park and maintenance of the play area at the rear of the hall.
- 8.2.6. The applicant is seeking 50% of the costs of this work and has not sought funding from any other source.
- 8.2.7. A decision not to fund this application would be unlikely to result in a delay in the work being undertaken since the costs would be drawn from reserves. However this action might have an impact on the other improvements planned.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant application – Minety Pre-School Appendix 2 Grant application – Crudwell Village Hall and Recreation Ground
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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