

Report to :	Amesbury Area Board - 21 November 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. St Thomas a Becket Primary School, Tilshead – award £1,500 for fencing and ground work for new playing field (subject to confirmation of lease agreement)
2. Amesbury & Boscombe Down Link Scheme - award £5,000 for a new accessible vehicle
3. Shrewton Shines – award £2,125 as a contribution to the marquee and trail booklet for Shrewton’s WWI Commemoration event in 2014
4. Woodford Parish Council – award £1,000 as a contribution to the costs of repairs to the play equipment, fencing and gate at Woodford Recreation Ground
5. Steeple Langford Parish Council – award £203.40 as a contribution to the rubber matting required to surround the equipment in the village play park
6. St Michael’s Primary School, Figheldean – award £480 to fund a new outside play shelter (den)
7. Bourne Valley Day Centre – award £346 to fund a Christmas coach trip
8. Woodford Village Hall Committee – award £500 to fund new audio visual equipment
9. Woodford Village Hall Committee – award £480 to fund new broadband facility
10. Smiley Face Nursery, Amesbury – award £500 to fund new outdoor equipment
11. Durrington Walls Wind Band – award £500 to fund new percussion instruments
12. Bourne Valley Historical Society – award £298 to fund the digital archiving project
13. Bourne Valley Link Scheme – award £480 to fund refresher training for volunteers
14. Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees – award £429 for a new mower for the allotments

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.
- 1.5. Amesbury of Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£82,361** 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. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2013/14 the Amesbury 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.

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>Amesbury Area's Community Plan Priorities</u> <u>Amesbury Area Joint Strategic Assessment</u>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£82,361** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and funding support for community planning activities.
- 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 now 2 funding rounds remaining during 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
- 19 December 2013 for consideration on 30 January 2014
 - 13 February 2014 for consideration on 27 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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Amesbury area board will have a balance of £26,712.54.

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.	St Thomas Â Becket School, Tilshead	Fencing and ground work for new playing field	£1,500

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that St Thomas Â Becket School, is awarded £1,500 as a contribution to the costs of works to a new playing field, to put on fencing, gates and to carry out preparatory ground works.

- 8.1.2. Currently, the school only has a small sloping to play sport, and the new area will be sufficiently flat to set out a full pitch for team sports such as hockey, and football, and to play athletics, golf etc. The school is very keen to improve the offer of physical education to its pupils and will be able to modify its current small sloping to teach the younger pupils improved balance, co-ordination etc.
- 8.1.3. Whilst the community area grants scheme is not permitted to fund the services of statutory partners - including schools, where a partner is looking to provide a service that exceeds the standard required, the board has discretion and can offer support. In this case, the school would like to provide an area that will facilitate sports not usually offered by the national curriculum, to inspire pupils to engage in different activities that they can then practise outside school.
- 8.1.4. The land in question is MOD property, and the school is securing a lease agreement, the cost of which will be met by the school. Planning permission has been agreed for the land's change of use.
- 8.1.5. The board is being asked to fund 50% of the initial fencing and groundwork on the basis that the field will not just be used by the school, but also the local nursery. The school does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to cover the full cost of the fencing and groundwork. Its current level of reserves are required for staffing contingencies.
- 8.1.6. The board might like to request that the school endeavour to make every effort to make the field accessible to as many groups in the village as possible to maximise the community benefit.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Amesbury & Boscombe Down Link Scheme	New fully accessible vehicle	£5,000

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that the Amesbury & Boscombe Link Scheme is awarded a grant of £5,000, as a contribution to the purchase of a new fully accessible vehicle.
- 8.2.2. Amesbury Link has identified a need for a wheelchair accessible vehicle to transport clients that can no longer use a normal car to get to hospital and other medical appointments. The vehicle will also be made available to other surrounding link schemes, but driven by one of the Amesbury Link's trained drivers.
- 8.2.3. Between 80 to 100 clients will benefit from this new vehicle in the

first year of its operation, and the Scheme estimates that this figure will increase with the rising age of the local population.

8.2.4. The Scheme is contributing £3,000 in the form of a bequest, but does not have sufficient funds remaining in its reserves to fully fund the vehicle and associated costs. Just under £600 has been raised locally from Amesbury Town Council, Waitrose and from a private donation, leaving the Scheme a funding shortfall of £6,300.

8.2.5. The board is therefore asked to contribute £5,000, and the remaining outstanding funds are to be sourced from other local businesses and organisations, and by the Scheme's own fundraising campaign.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Shrewton Shines	WWI Commemoration Event	£2,125

8.3.1. Officers recommend that this application be approved on the basis that the £2,125 is a contribution to the main capital elements of this project – the Trail Booklet and the marquee.

8.3.2. The main objectives of Shrewton's WWI commemoration event is to highlight and further understand the affects of the war on the local community and surrounding area, to honour those who lost their lives, to educate local young people, and to create a lasting legacy.

8.3.3. Included in the range of activities taking place will be a monthly presentation on subjects relating to 1914 and the village, the production of a booklet to include a trail and history of various sites of interest (it is hoped that this will inform the possible production of a BBC Scotland documentary), and a parade and picnic tea.

8.3.4. There is an aspiration that this work and event will result in the setting up of a new historical society for Shrewton.

8.3.5. The estimated total cost of the event is £4,250, the board is asked to contribute £2,125 and the remaining funds will be raised locally.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Woodford Parish Council	Repairs to Play Area in the Recreation Ground	£1,000

- 8.4.1. Officers recommend that Woodford Parish Council is awarded £1,000 to contribute to substantial repair work needed to the swing and climbing frame in the play area, and to the fence and gate.
- 8.4.2. These repairs are required from a recent ROSPA inspection which has rendered these pieces of equipment out of use until repairs are made.
- 8.4.3. Children and families of the Woodford Valley and pupils at Middle Woodford Primary School will all benefit from this work.
- 8.4.4. The Parish Council does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to cover the total cost of these works.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Steeple Langford Parish Council	Rubber matting to surround equipment in the village play park	£203.40

- 8.5.1. Officers recommend that Steeple Langford Parish Council is awarded £203.40 to pay for new rubber matting to surround the equipment in the village play park.
- 8.5.2. This bid came to the board informally in September, and since then the parish council has clarified that the matting is required for equipment that was not the subject of an earlier bid to the board in July this year. Consequently, the concern that this application did not comply with the community area grant scheme criteria (i.e. that applicant's are not permitted to apply twice in the same financial year for the same project) no longer stands.
- 8.5.3. The parish council is unable to fund the total cost of the matting from its reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	St Michael's Primary School, Figheldean	Outdoor Shelter (Den)	£480

- 8.6.1. Officers recommend that St Michael's Primary School, Figheldean is awarded £480 to pay for materials to create a new outdoor shelter (den).
- 8.6.2. Currently the school does not have an outside area that permits it to deliver education and provide experiences to its pupils in all weathers.

8.6.3. The school is unable to fund this from its reserves, due to the level it needs to maintain for staffing contingencies and for estimated additional costs to the school in 2014/2015.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7.	Bourne Valley Day Centre	Hire of Coach for Christmas Trip	£346

8.7.1. Officers recommend that the Bourne Valley Day Centre is awarded £346 to cover the cost of hiring a specialised coach with a wheelchair lift to take 43 people on a Christmas shopping outing.

8.7.2. The Day Centre was set up in 1981 to offer companionship and help to elderly residents of the Bourne Valley. The Day Centre receives an annual grant from Wiltshire Council which covers a percentage of its running costs. Fundraising and donations help to cover the cost of entertainment or outings, but the centre need the board's assistance to fund the transport costs of this year's Christmas trip.

8.7.3. This year's trip is to Haskin's Garden Centre & Hobbycraft at Longham, Ferndown on the 29th November.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.8.	Woodford Village Hall Committee	New audio visual equipment	£500

8.8.1. Officers recommend that the Woodford Village Hall Committee is awarded £500 to fund a new projector and screen.

8.8.2. Woodford Village Hall is used by a variety of groups and organisations, including children, the elderly, businesses, and interest groups, ranging from gardening, history and art. All will benefit from the new audio visual facilities, and the committee is confident that more groups will use the hall, and more events will take place there as a consequence.

8.8.3. The committee does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to fund the projector and screen, due to the amount of essential maintenance work required by a recent structural survey.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.9.	Woodford Village Hall Committee	Broadband, WIFI and Mobile Phone	£480

- 8.9.1. Officers recommend that the Woodford Village Hall Committee is awarded £480 to fund a new broadband connection, WIFI and mobile phone.
- 8.9.2. All the users and groups referred to above will find the hall a safer place to meet when mobile phone access allows taxis, local Link drivers, parents, emergency services, friends and family to be called when needed.
- 8.9.3. Wireless broadband will improve the appeal of the hall for all groups, especially the young, but also businesses and the elderly, the latter of which will benefit from digital literacy drop in sessions.
- 8.9.4. The committee does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to fund the required equipment, due to the amount of essential maintenance work required by a recent structural survey.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.10.	Smiley Face Nursery, Amesbury	New outdoor equipment	£500

- 8.10.1. Officers recommend that the Smiley Face Nursery is awarded £500 to fund a new outdoor climbing structure, incorporating a bridge and tunnels.
- 8.10.2. The Nursery works with some of the most vulnerable families in the area and believes that the children in its care should have the best possible start to their learning journeys – physical development and co-ordination being a key aspect to that journey.
- 8.10.3. The Nursery is a charity and relies on the support of parents and funding from organisations such as the Area Board to continue to provide the care needed.
- 8.10.4. The total cost of this project is £1,000. The nursery is match funding this equipment from a range of fundraising events, including a sky dive by its deputy manager.
- 8.10.5. The Nursery does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to fund the required equipment, due to the amount required for contingencies and for other planned work.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.11.	Durrington Walls Wind Band	New Percussion Instruments	£500

8.11.1. Officers recommend that the Durrington Walls Wind Band is awarded £500 to purchase new percussion instruments.

8.11.2. The new instruments will improve the percussion section of the Band, representing a time of positive growth for the Band which was established in 2005. The benefits will be to the local community with improved performances, and to the adult and children in the band, helping them to learn and enhance their musicianship skills.

8.11.3. The Band does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to cover the cost of these instruments, as it needs to maintain a level of reserves to fund the younger members' tuition, instrument replacement / renewal. The Band is also needing to maintain and generate further funds to support its long term plan to acquire independent premises for storage and rehearsal purposes.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.12.	Bourne Valley Historical Society	Digital Archiving	£298

8.12.1. Officers recommend that the Bourne Valley Historical Society is awarded £298 for its digital archiving project.

8.12.2. This project will help the Society to enhance and repair many of its old photographs, publications and VHS recordings to prepare them for digital archiving, reprinting and reproduction.

8.12.3. The Society was founded in 1948 and is a very active organisation throughout the Bourne Valley. This project will benefit its members and the general public with an improved offer through the society's website, visits to schools, fetes and regular gatherings.

8.12.4. The Society does not have sufficient funds in its reserves to fund this project, due to anticipated annual expenditure and the need to preserve and maintain the archives for the future.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.13.	Bourne Valley Link Scheme	Refresher St John Ambulance First Aid Training	£480

8.13.1. Officers recommend that the Bourne Valley Link Scheme is awarded £480 to pay for refresher first aid training for 16 of its volunteers.

8.13.2. This Link Scheme was set up in 2004 to provide a “Good Neighbour” service, delivered by local volunteers, to mainly elderly residents in the Bourne Valley. It now assists over 140 clients, many of whom are frail and have mobility or other health problems. The first aid training is essential in providing the Scheme’s volunteers with the ability and confidence required to care for their clients in an emergency.

8.13.3. The costs are £30 per head, and there are insufficient funds in the Scheme’s reserves to cover these costs.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.14.	Steeple Langford Allotment Trustees	New Mower for Allotments	£429

8.14.1. Officers recommend that the Steeple Langford Allotment Trust is awarded £429 to pay for a new mower with sufficient capabilities to maintain the paths leading to the allotments on this site.

8.14.2. Currently, allotment holders attempt to maintain the site with their domestic mowers, with limited success, due to the size and hilly nature of the land.

8.14.3. The applicant has confirmed that this mower is for the allotments only and not for the Community Orchard.

8.14.4. There are insufficient available funds in the Trust’s reserves to fund the mower.

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