

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	11 December 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to;

Finger Post Funding:

To allocate funding of up to £550 to Parish Councils (up to £350 towards a finger post repair/replacement and a further £200 towards the Highways element of the necessary works to take down and reinstate the posts) who have registered their requirements with Highways and/or Community Area Manager of replacing or refurbishing finger posts on the highway in their area. Information on this funding programme can be found in the [reports pack](#) from the Area Board meeting held on 5 June 2013 (item 14).

Parish Council	Amount
East Knoyle	£550
Zeals	£550
TOTAL	£1,100

Recommendation: To approve the finger post funding as set out in the table above with the condition that each Parish Council that receives funding to replace or refurbish a finger post must provide evidence of doing so within twelve months.

Community Area Grants:

1. Swallowcliffe Village Hall - award £1,433 towards a new hearing (sound) system, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Tollard Royal Parish Council – award £2,462 towards the restoration and refurbishment of the village pond, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Zeals Parish Council – award £120 towards a salt spreader, 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>AB project - finger posts report</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>
---	---

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 2 further funding rounds planned for 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are:
 - 8 January 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 5 February 2014.
 - 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 **£62,906**. If grants/finger posts are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance of **£57,791**.

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.	Swallowcliffe Village Hall	Installation of new hearing/sound system	£1,433

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.

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 hearing (sound) system in the village hall to improve the acoustics for all, with particular reference to those with impaired hearing so to enable them to better participate in village events.

8.1.4. The village hall is an important venue in the parish for local events and activities. The poor acoustics currently experienced have a negative impact on the experience of those attending, especially those with impaired hearing.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Tollard Royal Parish Council	Restoration and refurbishment of village hall	£2,462

8.2.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

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

8.2.3. This project is to restore the village pond by the following process; dig out the weed and old sub-structure, re-puddle with new clay in the traditional way and lightly plant with indigenous plant species that can be properly controlled and managed.

8.2.4. The village pond is situation next to a community orchard, which previously received funding from the Area Board. Restoration of the pond will improve the experience of residents and visitors alike.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Zeals Parish Council	Salt spreader	£120

- 8.3.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria.
- 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 salt spreader that will fit on normal domestic tow hooks and will allow nominated villagers to spread salt on access roads throughout the village.
- 8.3.4. The spreader is intended for public access roads and footpaths in the parish in accordance with a Zeals Parish Council Snow Plan.

Appendices:	Grant application 1 – Swallowcliffe Village Hall Grant application 2 – Tollard Royal Parish Council Grant application 3 – Zeals Parish Council
--------------------	--

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

Report Author	Steve Harris, Community Area Manager Tel: 01722 434211 Mobile: 07584 274055 E-mail: stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	---