

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	8 January 2014
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 6 applications seeking 2013/14 Community Area Grant funding:

- i) Made in Bradford on Avon Community Interest Company requesting £5,000 towards the costs of expansion into the Vaults at Lamb Yard**
- ii) Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust requesting £5,000 towards the enhancement of facilities at Barton Farm**
- iii) West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle requesting £346 towards the installation of a new roof in new clubroom and exhibition area at Holt Tannery**
- iv) Bradford on Avon Cricket Club requesting £480 towards a Mini Cricket Start Up project**
- v) Staverton Parish Council requesting £1,500 towards a replacement bus shelter in the village**

1. Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community 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 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 as to why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2013/2014 of £ 51, 075 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5 It has been decided that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council website and hard copies will be available upon request.
- 1.6 The funding criteria and application forms are available on the Council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and 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 2011/12• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement
--	--

2 Main Considerations

- 2.1 Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2 There will be 5 rounds of funding during 2013/14, this being the fourth.

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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If grants are awarded in line with recommendations, Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of £ 9,202 funding remaining in the grants budget for the 2013/14 financial year.

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 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	Made in Bradford on Avon Community Interest Company	Expansion into the Vaults at Lamb Yard	£ 5,000

8.1.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13.

8.1.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for the local economy and community

and cultural development.

8.1.2 The enterprise is expanding into a vacant vaults unit in Lamb Yard and will incur costs for essential flooring, lighting, fixtures, fittings and back office costs.

8.1.3 The project will create a meeting place to showcase community art projects, job fairs, events and fundraisers. It will offer opportunities to gather, discuss and be led by the community needs. Wiltshire Council has placed young and vulnerable adults in the retail outlet for the last six months. They have benefitted greatly through work experience, confidence building and exposure to the public. The long term unemployed will be given skills for job applications, educated about social media, offered work experience and will be mentored on discipline and time management. Working closely with the University of the Third Age we will offer workshops on traditional crafts, arts, languages and most importantly offer social gatherings. Local community groups will be able to share ideas and resources, use the space for community gathering and have help organising fundraising events. All local residents as well as visitors to the town will benefit from this project as our intention is to an assortment of daily, weekly and monthly events which will have an appeal for all ages and all tastes. Local shops will benefit through increased footfall to the town. Bradford on Avon will benefit through increased publicity and marketing. Local schools will benefit through the placement of school children for work experience

8.1.4 Comments of Wiltshire Business Support Manager: “I can offer my support without reservation.

MiBoA has since its inception created a memorable impression of the arts and crafts of the area, and its reputation has spread rapidly bringing many visitors from far and wide to the town.

It has brought together a wide range of talents and provided a permanent attractive means of reaching potential customers. The success of the business achieved County wide recognition when Made in Bradford on Avon won the Enterprise Wiltshire award for being the ‘Best Start Up Business’.

It was a brave venture and the imminent move to the new expanded premises clearly demonstrates that the entrepreneurial spirit that has driven the enterprise from the start, is still burning bright. The new space will bring with it new and exciting opportunities that are identified in the bid. The provision of a vibrant meeting/exhibition/event space coupled with educational workshops will be of great benefit to the community.

From an economic standpoint the project will increase footfall in the centre of Bradford on Avon and it is this type of facility that all towns should be looking to support, particularly as traditional retailing is under increasing stress. By attracting people into the retail heart of the town for recreational and educational experiences, the spin off should be seen in the enhanced economic performance of other town centre businesses”.

8.1.5 Comments of Economic Development Officer: “I would welcome the skills based learning aspect of the project which will enable young people and the long term unemployed to gain new skills and enable them to get jobs and maybe start new businesses. This complements the work of Wiltshire Council’s Employment & Skills Team. Job creation also fits with the aspirations of the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise

Partnership.

The project also supports food farming & local markets. Wiltshire Council has recently commissioned a report into the food and drink supply chain in Swindon & Wiltshire. It recognises that there is a need to support this important sector and one of the recommendations is to set up a support initiative. Made in BoA is an organisation that I anticipate the Food and Drink Steering Group will want to work with in the future”.

8.1.6 The applicant has raised significant funding of £15,000 from sponsorship, fundraising and membership fees towards the costs of taking on the new premises as well as contributing proceeds from its successful trading operation. The Area Board has previously supported the applicant with a grant of £ 5,000 awarded in July 2012 towards start up costs and fittings for the retail unit in Lamb Yard.

Officers recommend that £ 5,000 is awarded towards the expansion of Made in Bradford on Avon into the Vaults at Lamb Yard

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust	Enhancement of facilities at Barton Farm	£ 5,000

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2013/14.

8.2.2. The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for the local ownership of assets and to the cultural life of the town.

8.2.2 Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust is taking over the management of the Tithe Barn as a venue for community events. English Heritage who own the building require that it is carefully protected. Equipment necessary to achieve this and to accommodate audiences needs to be stored nearby. The trust proposes to reinstate the lean to at the northern end of the Grade One Listed building known as The Granary (see plan). Funding is sought for this building and to provide a contribution to the cost of providing protective flooring materials and electrical installations in the Barn to enable its use for a wider variety of community events.

8.2.3 Currently the Tithe Barn is rarely used for community events. The Bradfordians played here two years ago and Barnstorm presented Noyes Flodde last year. It is hoped to increase the number of times it is used for community event to six a year - the maximum that the contract with English Heritage allows.

8.2.4 The Council's Arts Development Officer is supportive of the application and its contribution to the cultural offer of the town. The Council's Senior Estates Officer raises no objection as is not on Council land but on land in the ownership of the Preservation Trust.

8.2.5 The application represents a 10% contribution towards a £ 50,000 project towards which it is hoped the Heritage Lottery Fund will contribute £ 30,000. The Trust is contributing £10,000 from its own funds and Bradford Barnstorm a further £5,000.

Officers recommend that £ 5.000 is awarded towards the enhancement of facilities at Barton Farm, subject to receipt of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle	Installation of a new roof in new clubroom and exhibition area at Holt Tannery	£ 346

8.3.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13. The application has been made jointly to the Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge Area Boards.

8.3.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for the cultural life of the community area.

8.3.3. After 42 years the club has to quit Andil House in Trowbridge by 23rd March 2014. They have found rented space in the former Holt Tannery but to obtain an affordable rent the club has to pay for and undertake the upgrading of the room themselves. The corrugated tin roof needs to be insulated to reduce heat loss and stop condensation. It is planned to install a lattice of 243m of timber to support 48 sheets of celotex insulation.

8.3.4 Club membership is across the two community areas of Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge and the new premises are in Holt. Having previously been on the 5th Floor of a Trowbridge mill the club has only been able to accommodate able bodied people. The new ground floor premises will give access to wheelchairs and other disabled people. It will also allow the club to accept supervised children from the age of 12 and attract new and returning members who found access at the mill too difficult. The club will be open for public exhibitions with the first planned for the May Bank Holiday 2014.

8.3.5 Prior to starting the roof they will be cleaning the premises, installing a hardboard floor covering and decorating throughout. They estimate 240 man-hours of members time and the additional costs will be circa £500. The free reserves held by the club are just under £400 and these funds have to cover both the remaining existing rental (£450), plus the new rental (£1125) and costs relating to the transfer to the new premises and publicity. Prior to the notice to quit we had spent £200 on a new layout. We estimate that our AGM in October we will have a remaining balance of circa £500 if both Area Boards support our grant application. A detailed financial projection through to October 2014 has been submitted.

8.3.6 The project is considered to represent good value for money as funding is being shared across 2 community areas.

Officers recommend that £ 346 is awarded towards the installation of a new roof in new clubroom and exhibition area at Holt Tannery, subject to the application to the Trowbridge Area Board also being accepted.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Bradford on Avon Cricket Club	Mini Cricket Start Up project	£ 480

8.4.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13.

8.4.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through it support for active leisure opportunities for young people.

8.4.3 The project will provide cricket equipment for the 4 to 6 year old age group at the club. Previously players in the age range were mixed in with the Under 9s age group which can be a little daunting, the sessions a little too long and this makes delivering a session suitable for all very challenging. The club wishes to establish a "minis" cricket group, who meet every week from April through to July to have 60 minutes of basic skills and games which are pitched at the appropriate level of ability. To facilitate the learning, we wish to provide a qualified Level 1 coach and equip the group with ECB Cricket Factory Core Skills set to help create a structured environment for the skills work yet maximise fun and player safety. The equipment is highly visual and will attract great interest from the public passing through Culver Close and provides various different stations where children can practice some basic cricketing skills. A grant will enable the club to reduce its fees to the bare minimum thus removing one of the main barriers to sport.

8.4.4 The Cricket Club rent the use of Culver Close from Wiltshire Council every year. They spent £3,266 in 2013 to recover the pitch from football played on top of it and estimate they will need the same amount again for 2014. The Club also require a further £1,050 in other costs every year for insurances, league fees, website, etc. Therefore free reserves are only sufficient for the year ahead and the principle reason for the youth drive to expand the Club and its long term profitability.

8.4.5 The Club is aiming to attract at least 20 children to this age group. They had 6 in the age group in 2013 and this reflects the feedback received from parents. Boys & girls from 4 to 6 years old will benefit from this by providing the opportunity for them to take part in a summer team sport, to enjoy learn the basics of cricket, to respect players, officials and opponents and most importantly to have fun. Other objectives

are: to further establish an enduring Cricket Youth section at Bradford on Avon CC; to provide safe and effective coaching in a wonderful environment; to provide parents with a genuine option for their children to learn sport in a warm and friendly environment.

8.4.3 Comments of Sports Development Manager: “I am happy to support this application and recognise the issues the club aims to address through this work, namely too broad an age/ability range as part of their existing sessions. It is possible that potential players are not currently involved as parents might worry about this issue. Specifically targeted sessions for younger children therefore could lead to increased participation in the sport however it would be good if there was some evidence to support this, eg feedback from parents of none-players. I would also suggest that any coach delivering these sessions should be level 2 cricket qualified and should also be registered with RightCoach. I would make this a stipulation of any grant. <http://www.rightcoach.org.uk/#activeTab=0> Costings all appear realistic and my experience with the club is that they are pro-active and well thought of by the ECB”.

Officers recommend that £ 480 is awarded towards the Mini Cricket Start Up project at Bradford on Avon Cricket Club, subject to the use of a fully qualified cricket coach

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Staverton Parish Council	Replacement bus shelter in the village	£ 1,500

8.4.6 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13.

8.4.7 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its contribution to village services and safer communities.

8.4.8 The existing bus shelter is in poor condition and being in a prominent place on the main through-road gives the village a poor outlook. The bus shelter is also situated in the older part of the village on an old established bus route, that has not benefitted by the investment of new bus shelters generated by the new housing on the marina development. The old shelter that has weathered badly is used a lot by the elderly people in the village and mothers with babies in pushchairs as well as children on route to school. The shelter has fallen into disrepair and although can be refurbished would need regular maintenance which would equate to a sum greater than a new shelter. A new shelter would be more resistance to weather damage and rustproofed and would need very little maintenance.

8.4.9 The new shelter will be used by the elderly residents of the village as it is located next to the social housing bungalows, by school children and by visitors to the restaurant at the Old Bear Inn that wish to use public transport rather than drive. The site is exposed as it is on a small incline and thus passengers need protection from the weather whilst waiting for the bus.

8.4.10 The Parish Council will contribute more than 50 % of costs. The Parish Council cannot fund this from reserves as they are still catching up from building work on the sports pavilion to make it suitable for the entire community use rather than just football players. If they had to fund this from precept they would have to significantly raise the precept next year, something they do not wish to do in this current economic climate.

8.4.11 The Council’s Bus Network Manager comments “The bus shelter in question is served by approximately 10 buses per weekday. This service has only recently been retendered so I am reasonably confident that it will continue. I agree that the shelter looks a bit run down although I have seen worse. However if it is replaced it would be helpful if a raised "Kassel" curb could be installed at the same time to assist wheelchair users”.

Officers recommend that £ 1, 500 is awarded towards a replacement bus shelter in Staverton village

Appendices:	<p>Grant applications from: Made in Bradford on Avon Community Interest Company Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle Bradford on Avon Cricket Club Staverton Parish Council</p> <p>Comments from: Economic Development Officer Wiltshire Business Support Service Senior Estates Officer Sports Development Manager Bus Network Manager</p>
--------------------	--

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	<p>Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 713060 E-mail peter.dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk</p>
----------------------	---