

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	23rd January 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Neston and Box Scouts – Consider awarding £5,000 towards a total project cost of £18,177 to refurbish the scout hut. Subject to the balance of funds being in place and compliance with building regulations.
2. Corsham Civic Society – Consider awarding £400 towards a total project cost of £800 to develop an up to date web site.
3. Ashley Boules Club – Consider awarding £496.81 towards a total project cost of £496.81 to purchase new expedition equipment.

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 (5th April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014. [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 emphasis in the Coalition Government's 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. Corsham Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £53,418 for community grants, digital literacy projects, area board operational funding, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2013 / 14 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £500 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs, 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.
- 1.8. 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. Grants of up to £500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.

- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.10. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.11. 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](#).
- 1.12. 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	<p>Corsham Community Area Plan</p> <p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Corsham Joint Strategic Needs Document</p>
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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 further round of funding during 2013/2014. This will take place on;

- 20th 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 Corsham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Corsham Area Board will have a balance of £26,589

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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Neston and Box Scouts	Refurbish Scout Hut	£5,000

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Neston and Box Scouts £5,000 to carry out essential refurbishment of the premises. Subject to the balance of funding being in place and compliance with building regulations.
- 8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2013/2014.
- 8.1.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.

- 8.1.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan. Sustainable communities and places for people to meet.
- 8.1.5. This group is a not for profit group who support the infrastructure and the activities that take place.
- 8.1.6. This application is supported by Wiltshire Village Halls Association and the works are seen as essential to maintaining a vibrant community facility.
- 8.1.7. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Corsham Civic Society	Create a new and up to date web site	£400

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Corsham Civic Society £400 to develop an up to date web site.
- 8.2.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.2.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.
- 8.2.4. This application demonstrates a direct link to the community plan and Wiltshire Council Business plan “bring communities together to enable them to do more for themselves”.
- 8.2.5. This group is a registered charity and do lots of work with various organisations across the community area and county.
- 8.2.6. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Ashley Boules Club	Purchase new equipment	£496.81

- 8.3.1 Officers recommend that members consider awarding Ashley Boules Club £496.81 to purchase new equipment.
- 8.3.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2013/14.
- 8.3.3 This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.
- 8.3.4 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan.” Activities for people” They are trying to recruit new members.
- 8.3.5 This group is a not for profit group set up to run this project.
- 8.3.6 If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Neston and Box Scouts Appendix 2 Grant application – Corsham Civic Society Appendix 3 Grant application – Ashley Boules Club
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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