

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	25th November 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Grants
Purpose of Report	
To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 20013/14 Community Area Grant Funding.	
1. Wiltshire Mind are seeking £494 as a digital literacy grant to purchase a new laptop for the Devizes Peer Support Group Recommended for consideration for approval	
2. Alzheimers Support are seeking £642 towards an awning for the Sidmouth club Recommended for consideration for approval	
3. Nursted Centre are seeking £2,412.89 towards a replacement boiler Recommended for consideration for approval	
4. Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts are seeking £2,166 to purchase new equipment Recommended for consideration for approval	
5. All Cannings Handbells Group are seeking £500 towards a new set of handbells Recommended for consideration for approval	

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.
- 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. Devizes Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of £83,375 for community grants, digital literacy projects, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 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 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.
- 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. The 2013/2014 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>
- 1.12. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2013/14 as presented for delegated decision • Devizes Community Area Plan • Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document
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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 1 further round of funding during 2013/2014.
- 24th 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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Devizes Area Board will

have a balance of £16,497

- 4.3. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other match funding has been confirmed.

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	Wiltshire Mind	Devizes Peer Support Social Group- new laptop	£494

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £494 for the cost of a new laptop including a broadband dongle be considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. Devizes Mind supports those within the area with a range of mental health illnesses and disabilities. The project will benefit approximately 12 people per week mainly through increasing skills, communication and opportunities
- d. Although Wiltshire Mind operates throughout Wiltshire, the laptop will be for the sole use of the Devizes group
- e. As the cost is below £500, the group do not need to provide match funding. Free

uncommitted reserves are not excessive.

f. They are a not for profit community group.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	Alzheimers Support	Listed building awning at Sidmouth Club	£642 towards a project of £1,284

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £642 towards the cost of an awning should be considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. The Sidmouth Club is a highly valued organisation providing important support. There are about 200 or more visitors each month with the office entrance being the only way to leave the building. The office is South facing and can become extremely hot. However the door needs to be kept shut to protect the vulnerable adults in the club. The awning will offer some protection from the heat during the summer months particularly when meeting with carers and family members. Having discussed the issue with the applicant, it is the officer's opinion that this awning would be beneficial.
- d. Alzheimers Support received a small grant for a laptop earlier this financial year. This does not preclude them from applying for this grant which is for a different project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	Devizes & District Association for the Disabled	Replacement boiler at the Nursteed Centre	£2,412.89 towards a project costing £4,825.79

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £2,413 towards the cost of the replacement boiler is considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. The Nursteed Centre is a community centre for the disabled used by various organisations supporting people with all disabilities. These include day clubs for the blind and disabled, support groups for arthritis, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, hard of

hearing and deaf, PHAB, Stroke Association and Contact A Family (children with disabilities).

- d. The project is the replacement of old heating boiler and other works to improve efficiency of the heating system to ensure the heating system is in good order for use by user groups of disabled people and to reduce running costs
- e. The rest of the money is being raised from private donations and reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA)	Equipment for Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts activities	£2,166 towards a project £4,333

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £2,166 towards equipment for DOCA
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project
- c. DOCA run a number of large events each year in the area including the Street Festival, Carnival, Christmas Festival and Lantern Parade. These events are growing and are enjoyed by thousands of people. The organisation contributes in many ways to the community including community cohesion and the economy.
- d. The new equipment includes road signage, gazebos and outdoor cabling as well as a printer for the office.
- e. DOCA are providing the match funding from their own reserves and an Arts Council grant

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	All Cannings Handbells Group	To purchase a new set of handbells	£500 towards a project costing £2,500

- a. It is the officer's recommendation that an award of £500 towards the cost of the handbells is considered for approval.
- b. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project

- c. All Cannings Handbell Group was formed about one year ago and at present uses a set of borrowed bells. These were lent to them temporarily to enable them to learn to use them and to give them time to raise the money to purchase them. They will be playing at local events to raise money for local activities, at care homes to entertain the elderly and forming an after school club at All Cannings school to introduce the children to music and encourage them to play. At present they use 12 bells but the whole set will be 22 bells and they will therefore be able to recruit more members.
- d. The officer was pleased to see that the group has been committed to raising the money through fundraising, grants and donations. Consequently the application is only for £500

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

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