

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	28 January 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. **The Greatwood Charity, Marlborough** – requested £5,000 towards the conversion of a building into a new classroom. This project will double the number of places available for education courses for young people with Special Educational Needs. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
2. **Baydon Toddler Group, Baydon** – requested £192 for the purchase of new baby changing facilities at the venue they use; Baydon Young People's Hall. Recommendation: Meets criteria.

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. Links to these electronic documents can be found below.
- 1.5. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£55,422** 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 Marlborough 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. Recipients of grants are also asked to come back to future area board meetings to provide a verbal update on their project to spread good practice and encourage other applicants. 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>Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17</u>
	<u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2011</u>

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£55,422** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, 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 two funding rounds remaining during 2013/14, including this meeting. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:

- **10 March 2014 for consideration on 25 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 Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of **£22,913**

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 and Small 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	Recommendation
8.1.	The Greatwood Charity	Creation of a new classroom	£5,000	Meets Criteria

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that The Greatwood Charity is awarded £5,000 towards the conversion of an existing building into a new classroom.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.3. As a Wiltshire Council Accredited Alternative Provider of Special Educational Needs programmes, Greatwood offers a variety of resources to schools,

teachers, parents, carers and local authorities to meet the needs of vulnerable and 'at risk' children and young people aged 5-24 in the community. These are the very children that do not respond well to conventional educational settings but thrive on the tailored programmes, developed by our specialist teaching staff, to meet every individual need.

- 8.1.4. With the new classroom, Greatwood would be able to double the intake of students from 12 per session to 24. The expansion would also enable them to deliver a new holiday programme; targeted at disadvantaged inner- town children from Wiltshire and their parents/carers, the one day course aims to introduce those that have not experienced a farm environment before, an opportunity to learn about many aspects of the countryside including farming, animal welfare and horticulture.
- 8.1.5. Greatwood currently work with a large number of Wiltshire schools, including St John's Marlborough, St Nicholas' Baydon and Chilton Foliat Primary from the Marlborough Community Area.
- 8.1.6. Funding from this project comes from a range of sources including a substantial figure from the applicant's own funds, showing their commitment to the project. One element of the funding has been applied for from Pewsey Area Board; this is allowed under grant scheme criteria. Pewsey Area Board meets on 10 March when that application will be considered.
- 8.1.7. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including 'support for rural enterprise' (p. 9) through the training in countryside skills Greatwood delivers. 'Mental health issues' (p. 13) through the training and support given to young people with SEN and learning and behavioural difficulties. 'Young people not in employment, education or training' (p.20) through the nationally accredited courses provided at Greatwood. 'Access to the countryside' (p.24) through delivering a new holiday programme bringing town-based children to the Marlborough countryside showing them rural experiences.
- 8.1.8. Marlborough Area Board has previously funded the Greatwood Charity in January 2013. Being in the previous financial year, their current application is eligible.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	Baydon Toddler Group	To purchase new baby changing facilities for the hall	£192	Meets criteria

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Baydon Toddler Group is awarded £192 for the purchase of a new baby changing facility and other toilet-training aids for use at Baydon Young Peoples' Hall.
- 8.2.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

- 8.2.3. Baydon Toddler group meets at Baydon Young Peoples' Hall. There are no baby changing facilities at this venue. Parents currently have to change their children on the toilet floor.
- 8.2.4. With new a baby changing station installed in the hall, parents would be able to change their children in a much more hygienic environment. The applicant expects this would increase the number of parents bringing their children to the toddler group. All these facilities would remain in the hall and be made available to all other hall users, so benefitting the wider community.
- 8.2.5. The figure of £192 is below the threshold of £500 and no match funding is required.
- 8.2.6. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan concerning facilities in the rural communities of the area, providing services for rural communities to prevent the need for travel, especially by private transport and the lack of meeting spaces for small groups.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – The Greatwood Charity Appendix 2 Grant Application – Baydon Toddlers' Group
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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