

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Royal Wootton Bassett &amp; Cricklade Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 March 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Investing in Our Community</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect of the following applications for funding from the Area Board's 2013/14 budget:

1. Cricklade Cricket Club – requesting the sum of £5,000 towards new netting and bowling machine.
2. Jubilee Gardens Project – requesting the sum of £5,000 towards alterations to Church Bush Hall.
3. Wootton Bassett Sports Association – requesting the sum of £5,000 towards a tennis practice wall.
4. Lyneham Village Hall – requesting the sum of £500 to purchase and install new radiators.
5. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council – requesting the sum of £1,320 towards a WW1 commemorative community flower festival.
6. Cricklade festival Committee – requesting the sum of £616 towards a new marquee and gazebo.
7. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council – requesting the sum of £3,500 from the 'Legacy of 2012' budget to improve accessibility, usage and enjoyment of the Row de Dow footpath in Royal Wootton Bassett.
8. Councillor-led Project – Dog Fouling, £2,000 requested.
9. Councillor-led Project – Making Our Community 'Dementia-Friendly', £5,000 requested.
10. Councillor-led Project – Community-led Planning workshops, £4,000 requested.

## 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 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 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. [Northern Community Area Plan 2005 - 2015](#)  
[Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment](#)
- 1.5. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a 2013/14 capital budget of **£59,197** for Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, and a separate revenue budget of **£14,984**.
- 1.6. In addition to the capital-based Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor-Led initiative from the revenue budget. This enables Area Boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. The Cabinet has emphasised that it does 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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade 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 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 Community Area Grant 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 upload information and photographs about their project on to their [blogsite](#) Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</a></p> <p><a href="#">Northern Community Area Plan 2005-2015</a></p> <p><a href="#">Royal Wootton Bassett &amp; Cricklade Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a total budget of **£74,181** for 2013/14, made up of a capital budget and revenue budget (see para 1.5) that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy grants, Area Board/Councillor-Led projects and other local 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 2013/14 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. This is the final funding round for 2013/14. Further funding rounds will commence from April 2014, and applicants should contact the Community Area Manager for further information.
- 2.5. On 6 July 2011 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board, to approve expenditure of up to £250 between meetings of the Area Board for the purpose of booking public meeting rooms for Area Board purposes. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported back to the Area Board at the next public meeting.
- 2.6. A budget of **£5,000** was accrued from 2012/13 for the purpose of supporting projects that seek to build a Legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Jubilee celebrations.
- 2.7. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget for 2013/14 of **£23,205**. The CATG will consider appropriate schemes for funding and make appropriate recommendations to the Area Board for approval.
- 2.8. The sum of £945 was returned to the Area Board from Purton Parish Plan Steering Group who no longer required the funds due to saving on printing costs.
- 2.9. Funding awarded to date during 2013/14 totals **£45,395**. This leaves a balance of **£28,786** in the Area Board's main budget.
- 2.10. Legacy funding to date during 2013/14 totals **£1,500**. This leaves a balance of **£3,500** in the Area Board's Legacy budget.

### **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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.

- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board will have a balance of **£350** in the main budget and a balance of **£0** in the Legacy budget.
- 4.3. At the time of writing, it is proposed that any remaining funds unspent by Area Boards in 2013/14 will not be carried forward to 2014/15, but will be transferred into a central 'Community Innovation Fund'. Therefore, it is unlikely that the Area Board will retain its unspent balance of £350.

## 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.	Cricklade Cricket Club	New netting and bowling machine	£5,000

### 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Cricklade Cricket Club is awarded the sum of £5,000 towards new netting and a bowling machine.

8.1.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

8.1.3. The club wishes to upgrade its current nets and to purchase a bowling machine to assist with junior and senior coaching.

- 8.1.4. Cricklade Cricket Club is an active sports club in the local community. It currently has an active adult membership and a growing junior membership.
- 8.1.5. The club is keen to expand its overall membership and particularly its junior membership. The new equipment will enhance the club's ability to attract, retain and coach both new and existing members and players.
- 8.1.6. The club's commitment to getting more adults and children playing cricket builds on Wiltshire Council's and the Area Board's aspirations to create a sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- 8.1.7. The club has worked hard to raise its own funds to put towards this project through a series of social fundraising events. The club is contributing more than 50% of the total project costs via these means which is impressive for a club of its size.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Jubilee Gardens Project	Alterations to Church Bush Hall	£5,000

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that the Jubilee Gardens Project is awarded the sum of £5,000 towards essential alterations to Church Bush Hall.**
- 8.2.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure, and Education & Lifelong Learning.
- 8.2.3. The Jubilee Gardens project is a Purton-based charity that provides learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities, particularly in horticultural skills.
- 8.2.4. The project keeps students involved in practical healthy activities, much of which is outdoors, increasing access to positive activities for disabled people.
- 8.2.5. The project makes a contribution to the local economy by supplying horticultural produce to local restaurants. The project sells all that it produces.

- 8.2.6. People of all generations in the local community support the project and its open days and sales of fruit, plants and vegetables are well supported and bring in an income for the project.
- 8.2.7. Church Bush Hall is the main building in which the teaching, workroom and toilets are located and is in much need of internal renovation to meet current health and safety requirements, and to ensure the sustainability of the project.
- 8.2.8. The majority of the costs of this project are being met by the project's own fundraising, reserves, donations and volunteer time. Other free reserves held by the project are being retained to purchase a new vehicle and to cover core operating costs.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Wootton Bassett Sports Association	Tennis practice wall	£5,000

**8.3.1. Officers recommend that Wootton Bassett Sports Association is awarded the sum of £5,000 towards a tennis practice wall.**

8.3.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

8.3.3. This project is part of the wider project to relocate the Wootton Bassett Sports Association from its current site to the new Gerard Buxton Sports Hub. As part of the project, eight new floodlit tennis courts are being provided.

8.3.4. This project is to construct a tennis practice wall to complement the tennis court facilities.

8.3.5. The wall can be used for professional tennis coaching, as well as fun activities and games. The main aims are to enhance the tennis practice facilities and to encourage more people to play tennis for fitness and leisure purposes.

8.3.6. The club is keen to get more people, particularly young people and disabled people, engaged in sport and physical activities, and the club has an extensive strategy for achieving this which is detailed in their supporting application.

8.3.7. This project will bring in a range of partners such as local sports clubs and schools to engage and encourage more people to get

active through sport.

8.3.8. This application build's on the Council's and the Area Board's aspirations to build a sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

8.3.9. The club is committing 50% of its own limited reserves to the delivery of this project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Lyneham Village Hall	Additional radiators	£500

**8.4.1. Officers recommend that Lyneham Village Hall is awarded the sum of £500 to purchase and install additional radiators in the hall.**

8.4.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

8.4.3. Lyneham Village Hall is run by a management committee as an independent charity.

8.4.4. The hall is an important community facility and is used by a wide number of local clubs and groups such as the WI, exercise clubs, art groups and youth activity clubs, as well as members of the public.

8.4.5. The hall currently has four radiators which do not provide sufficient heat to keep the hall at a comfortable temperature. This could be affecting the hall's ability to attract hirers.

8.4.6. This project is to re-position two of the current radiators and purchase and install two additional radiators, which will provide a more effective heating system for the hall and make it much more comfortable to use all year round.

8.4.7. With the recent closure of RAF Lyneham and the loss of the related facilities, community facilities such as the village hall provide a valuable service to the community and will only become more important as more service personnel and their families move into Lyneham as the new Defence College of Technical Training becomes operational.



Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council	WW1 commemorative community flower festival	£1,320

**8.5.1. Officers recommend that Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council is awarded the sum of £1,320 towards a community flower festival to commemorate WW1.**

8.5.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

8.5.3. 2014 marks the centenary of the start of World War One, and both Wiltshire Council and the Area Board are keen to encourage and support communities to come together to mark this occasion appropriately.

8.5.4. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council is working with the community of Royal Wootton Bassett to coordinate a weekend-long flower festival that will bring the entire community together to commemorate WW1.

8.5.5. The project will involve support from 5 of the town's churches, the Ladies Guild, Business Association, Flower club, 3 Junior Schools and the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy. It will provide a venue for Wootton Brass Band to perform a concert and they hope to combine this with Wiltshire Council Poetry reading at the Wootton Bassett Library.

8.5.6. This event will be an occasion to bring the community, High Street shops, public houses, schools, local groups and surrounding parishes together, to show respect to all fallen soldiers.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Cricklade Festival Committee	Marquee and gazebo	£616

**8.6.1. Officers recommend that Cricklade Festival Committee is awarded the sum of £616 towards a marquee and gazebo.**

8.6.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan

2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure.

- 8.6.3. Cricklade Festival is an annual, free, community festival that has been running successfully since 2000 and attracts a large number of visitors to the town every year.
- 8.6.4. The festival takes place on Cricklade High Street and provides entertainment for all the family, activities and opportunities for Cricklade's groups and businesses to promote the town.
- 8.6.5. The festival actively encourages volunteering and is organised by a committee of 10 volunteers with a reputation for being well organised and professional. It is funded by sponsorship, fundraisers, donations and charging stallholders. All monies generated are reinvested in the next year's festival to ensure continuity and growth.
- 8.6.6. The festival organisers are looking to purchase a marquee and gazebo that can be used to enhance the all-weather facilities and activities that are currently on offer, for example crafts and activities for children as well as changing and first aid areas.
- 8.6.7. The festival committee is keen that the local community should have the opportunity to benefit from the equipment too, and already has a number of local organisations that would be interesting in making use of the gazebo and marquee for their own local events.
- 8.6.8. The committee re-invests all profits from each year's festival and so does not hold any reserves to be able to pay for this type of capital investment. However, a local donation has enabled the committee to be able to fund over 50% of the cost of this equipment.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7.	Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council	Row de Dow footpath project	£3,500

- 8.7.1. Officers recommend that Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council is awarded the sum of £3,500 towards the Row de Dow footpath project.**
- 8.7.2. The application demonstrates a link to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Culture & Leisure, and Environment, Land-Based Issues and Countryside.
- 8.7.3. The application meets the criteria agreed by the Area Board under

the specified 'Legacy of 2012' funding that was set aside by the Area Board from its 2012/13 budget.

- 8.7.4. The year of 2012 was an exciting and inspiring year for the country, the county of Wiltshire and for our local community. The Olympic and Paralympic Games and the torch relay through Royal Wootton Bassett really brought the community together and brought sporting activities and achievements into our local communities.
- 8.7.5. Wiltshire Council and the Area Board were keen to build on this legacy by encouraging and supporting local projects and initiatives that encouraged more people to get more active through a range of sporting and leisure activities, as well as projects that sought to bring communities together and promote volunteering.
- 8.7.6. The Row de Dow is an ancient right of way that connects Royal Wootton Bassett town centre to the north of the town out towards Jubilee Lake.
- 8.7.7. The Row de Dow in its current state is overgrown and impassable in places, and so is not utilised to its full potential.
- 8.7.8. Royal Wootton Bassett has recently undertaken extensive community consultation as part of the development of a community-led plan, and the Row de Dow was highlighted by local residents as an important local facility that they would like to see brought back into full use.
- 8.7.9. Clearance and reinstatement of the path to a usable and pleasant condition would encourage leisure activities and healthy travel choices by creating a sustainable link between the town centre and the Jubilee Lake, Rugby Club and new Wootton Bassett Sports Association sporting facilities to the north of the town.
- 8.7.10. This project also links to Wiltshire Council's Local Transport Plan, in particular the recently approved sub-document that focuses on accessibility, cycling, powered two-wheelers and smarter choices.
- 8.7.11. It is proposed that the Town Council will lead on this project in partnership with the Area Board and a number of other local groups and organisations. Volunteering activities will also be investigated and encouraged as the project develops.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.8.	Councillor-led Project	Dog fouling	£2,000

- 8.8.1. This application has been submitted by Councillor Jacqui Lay as a councillor-led project, in accordance with the Cabinet member's scheme of delegation for Area Board funding.
- 8.8.2. In response to local concern regarding the issue of dog fouling, the Area Board set-up a Dog Fouling Task Group which has been working hard over the past 18 months to gather information, consult with the public and put together a set of potential actions that could be taken to address the issue.
- 8.8.3. The Dog Fouling Task Group, at its most recent meeting in February 2014, reviewed all progress to date and decided that a programme of education throughout the community area would be the most effective way to commence action against the issue of dog fouling.
- 8.8.4. It is proposed that the sum of £2,000 from the Area Board's budget should be ring fenced to kick-start this initiative, which could include posters, leaflets and promotional materials, as well as new dog waste bins.
- 8.8.5. If approved by the Area Board, officers and members of the Task Group will work with key stakeholders to develop and deliver this educational campaign.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.9.	Councillor-led Project	Making Our Community Dementia-Friendly	£5,000

- 8.9.1. This application has been submitted by Councillor Jacqui Lay as a councillor-led project, in accordance with the Cabinet member's scheme of delegation for Area Board funding.
- 8.9.2. This application comes following the recent launch of the Wiltshire Voices film 'Living with Dementia' which was initiated and supported by the Area Board when the Wiltshire Voices project was launched.
- 8.9.3. The Area Board is keen to respond to the issues raised by the film and to work towards making the community area 'dementia-friendly'. This will be done via the formation of a community-led steering group as well as with support from Wiltshire Council by way of a community toolkit.
- 8.9.4. It is proposed that the sum of £5,000 from the Area Board's budget should be ring fenced to support this project and its activities.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.10.	Councillor-led Project	Community-led Planning Workshops	£4,000

8.10.1. This application has been submitted by Councillor Allison Bucknell as a councillor-led project, in accordance with the Cabinet member's scheme of delegation for Area Board funding.

8.10.2. The Area Board has maintained a commitment to support the development of community-led plans across the community area.

8.10.3. We have now reached the stage where a lot of community-led plans are either completed, or nearing completion, and it is proposed that a series of workshops should be held to assist groups in the implementation and influencing stages of their plans.

8.10.4. The workshops will be managed and facilitated by Community First who have extensive expertise in both the development and implementation of community-led plans.

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – grant applications and supporting details (available online or on request from the report author)
-------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

<b>Report Author</b>	Penny Bell, Community Area Manager Tel: 01249 706613 Mobile: 07810 500368 E-mail: penny.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------