

Report to	Pewsey Area Board
Date of Meeting	12 May 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider six applications seeking 2014/15 Community Area Grant funding which are summarised below, and allocation of revenue funding.

1. Bouverie Hall Management Committee is requesting £1,475 towards electrical works to the hall, including a 48 way distribution board.
2. Burbage & Easton Royal Cricket Club is requesting £435 towards the purchase replacement parts for the gang mower.
3. Easton Royal Village Hall Committee is requesting £1,388 towards car park improvements.
4. Wilcot Village Hall is requesting £5,000 towards the purchase of new play equipment.
5. Great Bedwyn Playgroup and Toddlers is requesting £1,450 towards the purchase and installation of an outdoor shelter.
6. Burbage Village Hall Committee is requesting £998 to provide security fencing around the oil tank.
7. To ring fence £5,187 revenue funding for the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP)

It should be noted that numerous organisations approach the community area manager for advice; those that don't meet the criteria are not recommended to submit a full application. Only those that do meet the criteria are put forward for decision. It is for members to decide whether to approve or not, based on the information provided in this report.

Further information about each application and the Officer's comments can be found later in this report

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.
- 1.5. Pewsey Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£36,079** for community area grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. Applications of up to and including £1000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1001 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.8. In 2013/14 a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) was introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.9. 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.
- 1.10. 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.

- 1.11. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 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 \(pewsey.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk\)](http://pewsey.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk). 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 2014/15 as approved by delegated decision</u>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Pewsey Area Board has been allocated a 2014/15 budget of **£36,079** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives and core funding for the CAP.
- 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 2014/2015 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are six funding rounds in 2014/15. This is the first and the remaining five will be held on
 - 7 July 2014
 - 15 September 2014
 - 3 November 2014
 - 12 January 2015
 - 9 March 2015
- 2.5. On 9 May 2011 it was agreed that in respect of urgent matters and exceptional circumstances that may arise from time to time between meetings that the Pewsey Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Councillors of the Pewsey Area Board, be granted delegated authority to approve expenditure not exceeding £500 from the Pewsey Area Board budget. A report explaining any such decision and the reasons why it was considered to be urgent shall be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the Pewsey Area Board.

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 Pewsey Area Board.
- 4.2. If all grants are awarded Pewsey area board will have a capital budget of £18,646 and revenue funding of £5,187 which the board proposes to ring-fenced for the Community Area Partnership.

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.	Bouverie Hall Management Committee	Electrical Upgrade including 48 way distribution board	£1,475

- 8.1.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15. The applicant is the Bouverie Hall Committee, a not for profit organisation.
- 8.1.2. A recent electrical inspection has highlighted the fact that the hall's main electrical supply board must be upgraded to comply with enhanced regulations.

- 8.1.3. The Upgrade is a legal requirement on safety grounds. The hall is available for the whole population of Pewsey and the surrounding villages. The hall is heavily booked for meetings, films, live music, amdrams, keep fit and numerous other local activities.
- 8.1.4. The total project costs are £2976.00, the match funding is coming from the Hall's reserves.
- 8.1.5. The Hall is now 25 years old and substantial cash reserves need to be held to give protection for the many repair and maintenance costs of keeping this large Hall in useable condition. Being a large hall the repair bills can be expected to be substantial.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Burbage and Easton Royal Cricket Club	Repairs to gang mower	£435

- 8.2.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15.
- 8.2.2. The total project costs are £871
- 8.2.3. A set of gang mowers were purchased 3 years ago. Unfortunately the manufacturer is no longer trading, so replacement parts have to be custom made. Have recently acquired land for a new junior pitch adjacent to the home field the gang mowers will have twice the amount of acreage for cutting. Without efficient blades, even established grass is damaged, but new young grass would be torn out with their roots.
- 8.2.4. The project cannot be completely funded from reserves because the Club paid £8000 compensation to the then agricultural tenant for him to accept a notice to quit. It was substantially more than statutory compensation which was circa £1200. Legal fees were also double the estimate given to the Committee. The Club will require significant funding to develop the field. As most awards require match funding, the Club's reserves will be stretched for some time.
- 8.2.5. The main beneficiaries will be the club's groundsman and grounds maintenance volunteers, coaching staff and playing members. Of the 175 playing members over 100 are juniors; boys and girls.
- 8.2.6. The Club has ClubMark accreditation and is also a Focus Club for the development of youth in sport. Any monies saved by not having to purchase new gang mowers would go directly into our youth programme to be spent on coaching and welfare courses, kit and equipment.
- 8.2.7. Red Lion Field requires extensive repairs and reseeding after the wet winter. Without efficient mowers, the players will not have an acceptable surface to play on. The Club's two senior sides play in the West of

England Premier Leagues which sets standards for surfaces that clubs are obliged to meet.

8.2.8. The Club is very much part of the community and actively promotes social cohesion.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Easton Royal Village Hall Committee	Replace the village hall car park	£1,388

8.3.1 This application meets grant criteria 2014/15

8.3.2 The total project costs are £2,796, match funding is being provided from reserves.

8.3.3 The existing car park is no longer fit for purpose. it comprises plastic mesh embedded in the field surface. The car park is not able to be used for over half the year, and there is no other safe parking area available in the village. The proposal is to dig out the mesh, and replace it with a geotextile membrane, sub base, and top off with road planings, to create a free draining, all year round useable facility.

8.3.4 The results of this project will enable the village hall to be accessible to all, in all weather conditions. It will relieve very serious congestion outside the village hall, as currently vehicles have to park on either The Street, Ram Alley or the B3087. As the hall is located on the junction of the B3087 and The Street, congestion near to the junction creates a serious safety hazard. There are no footpaths in The Street. Neighbouring properties will no longer have vehicles parked outside, and have the benefit of safer access to their own drives. The road is narrow. The Provision of an all weather car park will enable more lettings of the hall, which will improve income generation, and reduce the need for future grant applications.

8.3.5 The committee does not have sizeable reserves, and out of them £1124 has been spent on replacing 40 year old tables, £1003 on hall insurance, and electrical repairs of £400. The outside of the wooden building has to be painted this year, and before that at least two of the window frames have to be replaced. The current estimates for this work are c £1500 .

Ref	Applicant	Project Proposal	Funding Requested
8.4	Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall	New play equipment	£5000

8.4.1 This application meets grant criteria 2014/15

- 8.4.2 The total project costs are £24,485 – the remainder of the funds is sought from fundraising, reserves, an application to Awards4All and Landfill Tax Credits. At the time of publication £16,643 is unconfirmed, and any grant offered should be on the condition that match is in place before funds are released
- 8.4.3 The applicant is Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall, a not for profit organisation
- 8.4.4 The existing play equipment (climbing frame) is becoming unsafe (a recent insurance report has highlighted weaknesses, is a potential risk to users and needs replacing). The swings are old (they date from between 1947 - 1964) and have now been served an Advisory Notice by the manufacturer instructing that it should be taken out of service immediately . The play park is an integral part of the village green and so replacement is required as soon as possible.
- 8.4.5 The project will benefit the children and parents in the community and surrounding villages. The pre-school nursery who use the village hall regularly to hold their sessions only currently have a small outside area and would utilise the new play area once risks are removed making this a more attractive proposition to parents and potentially growing the nursery and the activities for the children. Visitors to the area (caravans and camping behind the public house). Village fetes and local school events are regularly held on the green and the play area becomes a focal point at these event for the attending children (and therefore needs to be fully compliant and modernised for these events)

Ref	Applicant	Project Proposal	Funding Requested
8.5	Great Bedwyn Playgroup and Toddlers	Outdoor canopy and renovation of storage, repainting etc	£1,450

- 8.5.1 This application meets grant criteria 2014/15
- 8.5.2 The total project costs are £2,900. Match funding has not quite yet been achieved. At the time of publication, the group has raised £900, with £550 still to be sought. Any grant offered should be on the condition that match is in place before funds are released.
- 8.5.3 The project is to improve the outdoor space by building a permanent shelter over the patio area in the garden. Children could then play outside safely in all weathers. Temporary canopies have been used for years and these have to be replaced regularly. The patio space directly links the indoor area to the garden. There is room for riding bikes, playing games and exploring the outside environment. At the same time the group would like to renovate the wooden storage sheds, re-paint the racing track design onto the patio floor, creosote the fences and replace the sandpit frame.

8.5.4 This project will benefit the 40 children attending this OFSTED outstanding Pre-school and the 25 families who regularly attend the weekly toddler and parent sessions. It will enable the group to enhance the development and education of children under school age. It will allow the group to offer excellent outside play and education facilities. By investing in the facilities services will become more sustainable. The local community will benefit by having access to invaluable support for new parents and by having pre-school services that encourage social cohesion across all sections of our community. It will help to alleviate rural isolation by providing a quality service locally. The main beneficiaries would be the children who would be able to access our outside play area and equipment safely in all weathers.

Ref	Applicant	Project Proposal	Funding Requested
8.6	Burbage Village Hall Committee	Fence for Oil Tank	£998

8.6.1 This application meets grant criteria 2014/15

8.6.2 The total project costs are £998

8.6.3 An increase in thefts of oil in the area has led to the local Community Police officer advising the committee to take measures to reduce the risk of this type of theft occurring, especially after a 2013 theft of diesel oil from a commercial vehicle parked in the car park. The oil tank is in a secluded position behind the village hall in the car park. Various security measures have been evaluated and a security fence around the tank has been deemed to be the best option. The village hall committee has already put in place a minimum oil order policy.

8.6.4 An application has been made to the Pewsey Area Board rather than use the reserves. £15,000 of funds is held within a reserves policy for closure costs and unforeseen expenditure. There is also one other high cost maintenance outlay to fund in the next few months to cover for electrical work required. Further maintenance issues have been identified including an outstanding roof repair project assessed in 2010 to cost approximately £35000. So funds have to be kept to cover urgent repairs to the roof. Annual income varies and usually just about covers regular running costs. There is no accruals policy within the accounts.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Applications –
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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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