

Report to	DRAFT Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	19 August 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 20010/11 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Coombe Bissett Parish Council, resurfacing of Shutts Lane, £4,711
2. Winterslow Village Design Statement Steering Group, Production of the Village Design Statement, £500
3. Downton Junior Netball Club, Start up costs for club, £982
4. Landford Parish Council, Protective mesh to toilet block and pavilion windows, £600
5. Wessex Community Action, Recruitment and start up costs, to provide a bank of CRB checked volunteers, £3,567

To ask Councillors to consider 1 application for endorsement for the Performance Reward Grants scheme

1. FOC Energy Monitors in all Libraries – £12,556 for the county-wide project

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 Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4. We can signpost groups to the Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. CIB work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Southern Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £41,087 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £628. This leaves a total budget of £41,715 for the 2010/2011 budget. The amount spent so far this year is £16,715 leaving £25,000 up to March 2011.
- 1.7. A decision has been made that in 2010/2011 and thereafter paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.8. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 20010/11• Southern Area Community Plan 2004 - 09
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2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

2.2. There will be at least 4 more rounds of funding during 2010/11, including this meeting. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;

- 14 October 2010
- 16 December 2010
- 3 February 2011

The deadline for submitting applications to the Community Area Manager is about 4 weeks prior to the meeting. For the actual date see:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/southernwiltshireareaboard

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will 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 Southern Wiltshire Area Board. Grant applications totalling **£10,360** have been received for this meeting. If all were to be approved there would be **£14,640** remaining.

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 give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

8. Grants

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
SW025/ 10	Coombe Bissett Parish Council	Resurfacing of Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett	£4,711

8.1.1. **Officer recommendation: Approval subject to adoption after resurfacing**

8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.3. Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan 2004 - 09

8.1.4. This project will effectively benefit a wide range of local people as the village hall and school site will benefit from the improved and safer access for people arriving both by car and on foot. The Parish Council and local community have shown their commitment to this through their agreement to increase the precept for 2 years which means they will have raised £16,000 by the end of this financial year. Once resurfaced the Council will adopt the road. Graham Axtell confirmed that: "the road when it is surfaced and kerbed as agreed will be maintained as part of the Public Highway as far as the turning to the village hall. It will be added to the inspection regime. We will notify the parish of this when works have been completed to our satisfaction."

Matters to consider:

- Suitability of grants budget for resurfacing a road - this application should be taken on its own merit as potentially there are a number of unadopted roads or car parks which could benefit from resurfacing in our rural areas.

8.1.5. If the Board does not fund this project the Parish Council will continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
SW033/ 10	Winterslow Village Design Statement Steering Group	Production of a Village Design Statement as actioned in the Parish Plan.	£500

8.1.6. Officer Recommendation: **Pending discussion of members**

8.1.7. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.8. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan 2004 -09

8.1.9. Winterslow have decided to produce a Village Design Statement after completing a parish plan. They see it as a practical tool to help influence decisions on design

and development in their area. A steering group will produce the plan. Shortfall in funding will be made up with fundraising events in the parish.

Matters to consider:

- Shortfall between amount of money raised and the amount requested – members should satisfy themselves that this funding gap will be covered.

8.1.10. If the Board does not fund this project the group will continue to fundraise.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
SW034/10	Downton Junior Netball Club	Equipment to start up the club	£982

8.1.11. Officer Recommendation: **Part approve – grant costs of 10 balls and bibs totalling £210**

8.1.12. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.13. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan 2004 – 09 as improves access to recreation.

8.1.14. This is a start up of a new youth netball team in the community area as there is currently not a netball team. It would make netball more accessible to the young people of the area.

Matters to consider:

- The Board has already funded the adult netball team for this area.
- This is a start-up therefore do they need all the equipment listed up front. Would it be better to determine demand first.
- Contributions from parish councils or other funders?

8.1.15. If funding is not provided by the board the applicant will continue to fundraise.

8.1.16. Downton PC: In support

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
SW035/10	Landford Parish Council	Protective mesh to toilet block and pavilion windows	£600

8.1.17. Officer Recommendation: **Refuse due to amount of money held in free reserves**

8.1.18. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.19. Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan 2004 – 2009

8.1.20. This is a grant to provide protective mesh over the windows of the toilet block and pavilion at the Recreation Ground. The mesh will replace the current boarding which is unsightly and restricts light. It will make the Pavillion more attractive for use as a base for children's parties as well as football and cricket.

Matters to consider:

- Amount of money parish holds in free reserves
- Wider community benefit

8.1.21. If funding is not provided by the board the applicant will reluctantly fund the project from the precept.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
SW036/10	Wessex Community Action	Recruitment and start up costs, to provide a bank of CRB checked volunteers	£3,567

8.1.22. Officer Recommendation:

1. In the light of the advice received from the Head of Strategy, Community and Voluntary Sector Support, Wiltshire Council, it is recommended that this application is refused as Wiltshire Council has already awarded a contract to provide a very similar service.

2. In view of this advice, any decision to award the funding would appear to conflict with the approach previously agreed by Wiltshire Council and may require further consideration/approval.

3. Wessex Community Action is advised to contact Grow to examine how its proposals may be accommodated within the Wiltshire Volunteer Service.

8.1.23. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.24. Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the Community Plan 2004 – 2009 but does demonstrate a link to the newly developing Community Plan 2010 as the steering group are looking to increase knowledge of volunteering opportunities.

8.1.25. This project looks to address the rapidly increasing need for volunteers by creating and managing a bank of local people who would be CRB checked and trained and available to undertake appropriate voluntary work for organisations. However, since receiving advice from the Head of Strategy for Community and Voluntary Sector Support, Wiltshire Council, it is the case that Wiltshire Council is already funding a similar new county wide service, delivered by Grow.

This application is one of 4 applications submitted to south Wiltshire area boards. Salisbury Area Board refused this application on 22 July 2010 for the reasons given above. Since this meeting I have spoken to the applicant who confirmed to me that WCA believe this is an additional service and not duplicating a contract already awarded. However, with GROW being granted the contract to produce a similar volunteer service it would be premature to look at funding gaps at this stage if they do exist.

Matters to consider:

- Advice given by Head of Strategy, Community and Voluntary Sector Support, Wiltshire Council.

8.1.26. If funding is not provided by the board the organisation would continue to look for funders to support the project.

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