

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Pewsey Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>7 July 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider two applications seeking 2014/15 Community Area Grant funding which are summarised below.

1. Sunflowers Pre-school, Grafton requesting £5,000 towards upgrading and developing the garden area at the Nursery to include fencing, access gates, access doors shaded areas and play areas.
2. Great Bedwyn Cricket Club requesting £3,738 towards the purchase of a new motor roller.

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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b>	<u><a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2014/15 as approved by delegated decision</a></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 five more funding rounds in 2014/15. This is the second and the remaining four (as long as funding is available) will be held on
  - 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 £9,908 and revenue funding of £5,187 which the board has 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 Comments**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Sunflowers Pre-School, Grafton	Upgrade, renew and develop and structural elements of the garden area including fencing, external access gates, access doors from the nursery room to the garden, installation of fixed shade/structures and play stations	£5,000

- 8.1.1. This application meets the grant criteria 2014/15.
- 8.1.2. The applicant is the Sunflowers Pre-school, a registered charity.
- 8.1.3. The total project costs are given as £10,000 – match funding is coming from fundraising and donations £3,500, and in kind support (site preparation and materials). A number of quotations have been provided.
- 8.1.4. Pewsey area board have provided funding in the past - £3,987 in 2011 for works to the building and marketing activities, and £981 in 2010 for play equipment. (this is before it took over the whole school building)
- 8.1.5. Sunflowers opened in the school on 31st October 2011. The organisation has developed to be run as a registered charity by Trustees with support from parents and local community members. Together, and throughout the year, fundraising events are organised, the proceeds of which are used to further enhance the childcare and learning environment.
- 8.1.6. The Sunflowers at Grafton Garden Project will benefit two specific groups of people – the children and the wider community.
- 8.1.7. The wider Community will have the opportunity to take advantage of the gardens and play areas as a result of their Considerate Community Access policy. The organisation has adopted sustainable business practices where it has created business opportunities in a very rural area with few local employers.
- 8.1.8. The Sunflowers at Grafton Garden Project is intended to continue to build on providing a beautiful natural surrounding that offers a warm and nurturing environment for all who make use of it. From safe and secure areas of play to growing of vegetables, the feeding of the resident chickens and rabbits, the children are able to experience on a daily basis many different activities. The enhancement of the garden will extend the learning and activity time that the children can have in the outside environment.
- 8.1.9. The provision of shaded & sheltered outside space, upgrading of static and fixed play stations – e.g. sand pits, mud kitchens, totem poles and water stations – and the expansion of existing and creation of new age specific outside areas will greatly improve the overall facilities available, whatever the weather or time of year.
- 8.1.10. Sunflowers at Grafton currently employs 20 people all of whom live either in Grafton Parish or neighbouring parishes. Included in the staff team is an apprentice. The environment we offer ensures the all-round development of staff across many different settings for nursery and pre-school childcare, and improves job satisfaction.
- 8.1.11. There is a Friends of Sunflowers Group. These people have over the

years volunteered their time and expertise to take help improve aspects of Sunflowers. This includes work in the garden, the nursery, our out of school clubs and undertaking the role of Trustee.

8.1.12. Since it opened, the numbers of children have grown in number as follows:-

Numbers of children	
October 2011	24
October 2012	48
October 2013	58
June 2014	74

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Great Bedwyn Cricket Club	Purchase of new motor roller	£3,738

8.2.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15.

8.2.2. The total project costs are £7,476. Match funding is coming from club reserves.

8.2.3. The Club's very old motor roller has broken down beyond repair. It is essential for pitch preparation; no roller, no cricket, no club. The club has been renting a roller to allow the club to start this season.

8.2.4. The club has significant reserves. The reserve is largely needed to fund the difference between an applied for Sport England Grant and the estimated cost of a planned new pavilion, without which the Club cannot run women's and youth teams.

<b>Appendices</b>	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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