

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	30 September 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

1. **Kennet Valley Hall** – requested £900 towards new floor maintenance equipment. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
2. **Greatwood Charity** – requested £845 towards costs of training for staff in de-escalating conflict. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
3. **Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society** – requested £952.46 towards new microphones and sound equipment. Recommendation – Meets criteria.
4. **We Love Marlborough** – requested £2,149.07 towards the costs of staging the 2014 Christmas light switch on and lantern parade. Recommendation – Meets criteria.
5. **Marlborough Allotment Association** – requested £997.23 towards new notice boards, additional security and improved drainage at their allotment sites. Recommendation – Partly 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 2014/2015 budget of **£41,691.57** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. This figure is lower than in previous years.
- 1.6. This figure is made up of £35,437.57 of Capital funding and £6,254 of Revenue funding. Grants awarded during 2014/15 will be allocated either Capital or Revenue funding.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2014/15 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.
- 1.9. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,001 - £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.

- 1.10. There will still be 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](#).
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. 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. This recommendation will be to confirm if the application meets the criteria of the grant scheme or not.
- 1.13. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.14. 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	Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2013
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Marlborough Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£41,691.57** 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 2014/2015 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There four funding rounds remaining during 2014/15, including this meeting. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:
- **15 September 2014 for consideration on 30 September 2014**
 - **10 November 2014 for consideration on 25 November 2014**
 - **12 January 2015 for consideration on 27 January 2015**
 - **9 March 2015 for consideration on 24 March 2015**

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. For this meeting, Marlborough Area Board has received applications for projects totalling **£3,097.49** in Capital costs and **£2,746.27** of Revenue costs. The area board will need to be aware that if all applications are awarded at this meeting, it will have £18,358.08 of Capital funding and £2,757.73 of Revenue funding remaining for the rest of the financial year.

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	Recommendation
8.1.	Kennet Valley Hall	To purchase new floor maintenance equipment	£900	Meets Criteria

- 8.1.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.2. Kennet Valley Hall management committee currently pay a floor cleaning contractor to come and clear the hall's floor once per month. This is sometimes not enough to keep the hall at the high standard of cleanliness that users require. By having their own equipment, the committee will no longer need to pay a contractor and will be able to clean the floor as and when the committee and users feel it is necessary. This will help to maintain the floor, keep it looking better for longer and help make the hall more sustainable.
- 8.1.3. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including 'recreation facilities and amenities for young people' and 'provision of safe social facilities for young people' (p. 11) and 'lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities' (p. 18).
- 8.1.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include "develop events and cultural programs to enliven the *whole* community, particularly cinema and other highly inclusive activities".
- 8.1.5. Marlborough Area Board has previously funded Kennet Valley Hall. The applicant has requested just under 50% of the costs of this project, which is within the criteria of this scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	The Greatwood Charity	De-Escalating Conflict Training for key staff	£845	Meets Criteria

- 8.2.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a Revenue project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.2.2. Greatwood works with young people with a variety of SEN ranging, but not limited to: autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, Global Development Delay, Attachment Disorder, Asperger Syndrome as well as social, emotional and

behavioural difficulties. Greatwood aims to help those who are, or have previously struggled in mainstream education. Guidelines released by the Department of Education suggest that “De-escalating Conflict Training” is of paramount importance in promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all pupils and staff.

8.2.3. The Great Charity currently works with over 40 young people from local school including St John’s Marlborough, as well as receiving referrals from other local organisations such as the integrated youth service and the Prince’s Trust.

8.2.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Marlborough Community Plan, 2012-17, p19 “Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)”.

8.2.5. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include “Peer Mentoring –Match making/joining together with the right people”

8.2.6. Marlborough Area Board has previously funded Greatwood Charity. The amount requested by the applicant falls under the threshold for needing any match-funding and therefore meets the criteria for the scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.3.	Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society	New microphones and sound equipment	£952.46	Meets Criteria

8.3.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.3.2. Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society (KVADS) is a new organisation and has resurrected the village’s traditional panto. Previously they have been able to borrow microphones and sound equipment to put on their performances. This increases the enjoyment of both audience and performers. That equipment is no longer available to them and KVADS would like the buy their own to be able to grow as an organisation and put on high quality performances.

8.3.3. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including access to safe social facilities for young people, provision of after-school activities (p.11) and lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities (p. 18).

8.3.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include “Develop events and cultural programs to enliven the whole community, particularly cinema and other highly inclusive activities”.

8.3.5. Marlborough Area Board has not previously funded KVADS. The amount requested by the applicant falls under the threshold for needing any match-funding and therefore meets the criteria for the scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.4.	We Love Marlborough	Marlborough Christmas Lights Night	£2149.07	Meets Criteria

8.4.1. This application meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as having both capital elements (£247.80) and revenue elements (£1,901.27) by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.4.2. We Love Marlborough is working in partnership with Marlborough Town Council and other cultural and artistic groups to develop the Marlborough Christmas lights switch on into a popular local events for the wider community. Building on the success of previous years, this year's event will involve a lantern parade, free family craft activities, and professional staging and lighting for local groups to perform on.

8.4.3. The event will also benefit local traders by including the Marlborough Communities Market as well as making the High Street a vibrant place for shoppers. The event is expected to attract approx. 3,500 visitors.

8.4.4. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including support for new and small businesses, support for rural businesses and encouragement and support for tourism businesses (p. 9) maintaining a vibrant and healthy High Street (p. 17) and improving inadequate co-ordinated promotion of events (p. 18).

8.4.5. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include "Develop events and cultural programs to enliven the whole community, particularly cinema and other highly inclusive activities" and "Co-ordinate and grow the number of events and activities that use the Historic High Street".

8.4.6. Marlborough Area Board has previously funded We Love Marlborough to provide a community Christmas event in 2009. A considerable proportion of the funding for this project overall comes from the partners' own funds, showing their commitment to it.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.5.	Marlborough Allotment Association	Improvements to three allotments sites within Marlborough	£997.23	Partly Meets Criteria

8.5.1. This application partly meets grant criteria 2014/15 and has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

- 8.5.2. As a new organisation just setting up, the Marlborough Allotment Association has identified three priorities for the organisation and its members: to provide an effective means of communication for all members; to improve security at Elcot Lane site and to alleviate flooding problems at Stonebridge Lane site.
- 8.5.3. Their project will provide: 3 notice boards for use at Elcot Lane, Stonebridge Lane and St John's Close allotment sites to allow members to communicate between themselves and pass on ideas, etc; 3 locks for gates at Elcot Lane site in order to improve security at the site and 200 m of land drainage piping and bedding gravel to improve the drainage of the Stonebridge Lane site.
- 8.5.4. This project meets several issues raised through the Marlborough area plan including lack of funding for environmental projects and growing dependence of large food-mile products (p. 24). There are other themes within the plan that might not cover allotments or food production but concern community facilities, communication and sense of community which the Allotment Association and this project covers
- 8.5.5. A criteria of the Community Area Grant scheme is that all necessary permissions for building or other work are in place before a grant can be awarded. The land at Stonebridge Lane, where the drainage improvements are planned is owned by a third party, who leases it to Marlborough TC, who in turn leases it to the Allotment Association. Action for River Kennet (ARK) also has an interest in this land and although ARK's ideas on ways to drain this land have been given, apparently they cannot be implemented. The Community Area Manager has not heard that the third party landowner has given their permission for this work to go ahead although this will be checked.
- 8.5.6. Until the Community Area Manager gets confirmation of this agreement, the drainage improvement element of this project does not meet the scheme's criteria and cannot be considered at this meeting. The other two elements (three notice boards and improvements to security at Elcot Lane) do meet criteria and may be considered by area board members.
- 8.5.7. If agreement by the landowner for this drainage work to go ahead can be given and if a suitable method of implementing the drainage can be agreed with ARK, Marlborough Allotment Association will be perfectly able to re-apply for funding for this element of their project.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Kennet Valley Hall Appendix 2 Grant Application – Greatwood Charity Appendix 3 Grant Application – Kennet Valley Amateur Dramatic Society Appendix 3 Grant Application – We Love Marlborough Appendix 3 Grant Application – Marlborough Allotment Association
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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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