

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 21 January 2015
Title of Report	Area board funding – community area grants

Purpose of Report

Capital:

To ask the Corsham Area Board to consider 5 applications seeking capital funding from the 2014/15 community area grant scheme:

1. Leafy Lane Playing Fields – requesting £983 to provide an overspill car parking facility at Leafy Lane Playing Fields.
2. Corsham for Walking – requesting £1,000 to create a new website and purchase publicity banners for Corsham Area Walking Festival.
3. Golden Oldies – requesting £360 to help establish a Goldies singing group for older people in the Corsham community area.
4. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – requesting £5,000 to create 2 community gardens for military and civilian families in Corsham and Colerne.
5. Corsham Twirlers – requesting £925 to help establish a new majorette troupe in the Corsham community area.

Revenue:

There is also a request for funding from the Area Board's 2014/15 revenue budget from the Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN) Partnership Officer:

6. CCAN Partnership Officer funding 2014/15 – requesting £4, 314.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve grants under powers delegated to them by the Leader of the Council. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2014/2015. [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 emphasis in the Coalition Government's 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. Corsham Area Board has been allocated a 2014/15 budget of £41,104 for community grants, digital literacy projects, area board operational funding, community area partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2014 / 15 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants. There has also been a total of £5,225 returned to the budget as a result of one project not being able to secure external funding and one project under spending by £255.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (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.
- 1.7. In addition to Community Area 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 has 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. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.9. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council

web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.

- 1.10. New for 2014/15 is 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. 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](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	Corsham Community Area Plan Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2014/15 as approved by delegated decision Corsham Joint Strategic Needs Document
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014/15 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 1 further round of funding during 2014/15. This will take place at the Area Board meeting on Thursday 19 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 Corsham Area Board.
- 4.2. **If Corsham Area Board awards grants in line with those outlined on the first page of this report, the remaining budget for 2014/15 will be £276.03 (revenue).**

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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

8. Applications for consideration

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Leafy Lane Playing Fields	To provide an overspill car parking facility at Leafy Lane Playing Fields	£983 of a total project cost of £983

8.1.1. Leafy Lane Playing Fields association is requesting the sum of £983 to provide an overspill car parking facility at the popular Leafy Lane Playing Fields.

8.1.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2014/15.

8.1.3. This application demonstrates links to the Corsham Community Plan 2012, particularly the Children & Young People 'improve access to local facilities and activities' and the Culture, Recreation & the Arts 'support the need for a wide and varied programme in arts, culture, heritage and leisure' and 'improve the opportunities for late teens and early 20s' sections.

8.1.4. Leafy Lane Playing Fields provides football pitches and changing facilities for both adult and youth teams. The facility is home to local clubs, including the local youth football club; AFC Corsham. This club is a major use of the facilities at Leafy Lane and has grown its membership recently from 175 to 270 players.

8.1.5. The facility is looking to expand over the next few years to include girls football provision, and rugby. This will improve the usage of the facility, and the

requirement for car parking, even further.

- 8.1.6. There are also aspirations to improve and renovate parts of the changing rooms to create more of a 'club house' type facility with a bar and social area.
- 8.1.7. The current car parking facilities are no longer meeting the demand required for this increasingly popular and growing facility.
- 8.1.8. During very busy periods, cars are having to park in an overspill field adjacent to the car park. This field does not have an appropriate surface for cars and can become particularly wet and muddy in the winter, causing surface damage and inconvenience to visitors.
- 8.1.9. The club would intend to use the funds requested to lay a mesh surface to the ground of the overspill car parking area to protect the grass and provide an appropriate, additional car parking area for visitors to the facility when required.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Corsham for Walking	To create a new website and purchase publicity banners for the Corsham Area Walking Festival	£1,000 of a total project cost of £1,000

- 8.2.1. Corsham for Walking is requesting the sum of £1,000 to fund the development of a brand new website and 2 publicity banners for the Corsham Area Walking Festival.
- 8.2.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2014/15.
- 8.2.3. This application demonstrates links to the Corsham Community Plan 2012, particularly Children & Young People 'improve access to local facilities and activities'; the Culture, Recreation & the Arts 'support the need for a wide and varied programme in arts, culture, heritage and leisure' and 'improve the opportunities for late teens and early 20s'; the Environment 'encourage use of open and public space' and the Economy 'promote the benefits of tourism' sections.
- 8.2.4. Corsham for Walking is a volunteer-run community group. In 2014, Corsham for Walking organised the very first Corsham Area Walking Festival, providing various guided local walks over the course of a day during the summer. The festival was such a success that it will be repeated this year over the course of 3 days in June, providing over 20 different walks over the course of the weekend.
- 8.2.5. The Corsham Area Walking Festival promotes a healthy, active lifestyle by encouraging walking. The walks available during the festival vary in length and

difficulty, making them suitable for a range of ages and abilities. The festival also promotes community spirit and socialising.

8.2.6. The Corsham Area Walking Festival, being a small and new event, does not hold any free reserves to help pay for promotional materials. Promotional opportunities such as a website and banners will play a vital role in attracting visitors, both locally and nationally, to really put Corsham and the festival on the map and increase tourism to Corsham and the local area.

8.2.7. Corsham for Walking intends to use the funds requested to purchase 2 large promotional banners that would be flexible enough to be re-used in subsequent years. These will greatly assist locally with promoting and advertising the festival.

8.2.8. The funds requested would also be used to commission the build of a brand new website, which would be a portal of information on the festival and all the walks. This would greatly assist both locally and nationally to promote the festival and encourage participants and visitors to the town and surrounding areas. Once built, the ongoing costs of maintaining the website would be met by festival proceeds.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Golden Oldies	To help establish a Goldies singing group for older people in the Corsham community area	£360 of a total project cost of £1,284.80

8.3.1 Golden Oldies is requesting the sum of £360 to help establish a Goldies singing group for older people in the Corsham community area.

8.3.2 This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2014/15.

8.3.3 This application demonstrates links to the Corsham Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) priorities 2014, particularly Health & Wellbeing 'to improve mental and emotional wellbeing to underpin improved overall wellbeing'.

8.3.4 Golden Oldies is a charity that runs regular events and fun monthly singing sessions for older people and people living in isolation. People are encouraged to dance, sing, chat and relax with a cup of tea.

8.3.5 Golden Oldies intends to start-up a new, regular session at The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham. This will offer opportunities for older and sometimes lonely people to make supportive new friendships via attending a regular activity with other participants in similar situations to themselves.

8.3.6 Light movement and exercise is also incorporated into the sessions which can help greatly in improving an older person's overall health and wellbeing.

8.3.7 Golden Oldies intends to use the funding requested to fund an iPod and docking system which will be used for the Corsham sessions only. This forms part of a wider series of costs associated with starting up this new group. Once established, the sessions will be sustainable financially through the small subscriptions paid by the participants.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Food Champions – Forces for Food. To create 2 community gardens in Corsham and Colerne for military and civilian families	£5,000 of a total project cost of £10,715.70

8.4.1 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is requesting the sum of £5,000 to create 2 community gardens; one in Corsham and one in Colerne, under its 'Food Champions – Forces for Food' initiative.

8.4.2 This application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2014/15.

8.4.3 This application demonstrates links to the Corsham Area Plan 2012, particularly under Health and Wellbeing 'to improve education about benefits of healthy eating for both parents and children'.

8.4.4 Under this project, the intention would be to work with the Army Welfare Service to create 2 community gardens in the Corsham community area. One would be located near MOD Corsham and one in Colerne. The gardens would be aimed at both military and civilian families with the aim of bringing them together, and would be located on land accessible to civilian families.

8.5.5 The beginning of the project would see the communities help to create the gardens, with the intention of then using the gardens for the families to grow their own food and use the produce to cook healthy and nutritious meals.

8.5.6 This project seeks to encourage healthy, active lifestyles by encouraging spending more time outdoors undertaking physical activities. The education of growing, using and cooking with healthy, home-grown produce could also help to contribute towards better overall health and a potential reduction in childhood obesity.

8.5.7 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust would intend to use the funds requested to purchase the materials, equipment and tools required to create the gardens, with match funding of just over 50% being committed by the Army Welfare Service. An application relating to the wider costs associated with this project has been made to the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, the decision for which was awaited at time of print.

8.5.8 Over the course of the project term, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust proposes to work with local families and community groups to develop long term ownership of the gardens, making them sustainable into the future once the project ends.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Corsham Twirlers	To help establish a new majorette troupe in the Corsham community area	£925 of a total project cost of £925

8.5.1 Corsham Twirlers is requesting the sum of £925 to help establish a brand new majorette troupe in the Corsham community area.

8.5.2 This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria 2014/15.

8.5.3 This application demonstrates links to the Corsham Community Plan 2012, particularly Children & Young People 'improve access to local facilities and activities'; the Culture, Recreation & the Arts 'support the need for a wide and varied programme in arts, culture, heritage and leisure' and 'improve the opportunities for late teens and early 20s'.

8.5.4 Corsham Twirlers is a brand new community group being set-up in Corsham. The group would be open to any child or adult aged 5 years plus. Being a member of the troupe teaches discipline and confidence, teamwork and gymnastic-based routines with the use of batons and pom poms.

8.5.6 This application seeks to encourage active, healthy lifestyles through a physical activity for all ages and abilities.

8.7.8 Corsham Twirlers, once established, would also perform at local fetes and events, representing the Corsham community area.

8.5.7 The funding requested would be used to assist with start-up costs, particularly to fund a PA, sound system and trailer to help with training and events.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	CCAN	Funding of Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN) Partnership Officer for 2014/15	£4,314 (revenue)

Appendices:	Appendix 1 grant applications Appendix 2 CCAN funding application
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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