

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Marlborough Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>27 January 2015</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

- 1. Mildenhall Village Hall** – requested £4,752 towards new fuel efficient boiler and heating system. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
- 2. Avebury Parish Council** – requested £625 as contribution towards analysis of finds from an archaeological dig at The Avenue, Avebury in summer 2015. Recommendation: Meets criteria

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Each area board will receive delegated funding as determined from time to time by the Leader. Area boards will allocate their delegated funds in accordance with any rules and guidance issued by the Leader
- 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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b>	<a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</a> <a href="#">Marlborough Community Area Plan, 2012-17</a> <a href="#">Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Marlborough, 2013</a>
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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 two 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:

- **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 **£4,752** in Capital costs and **£625** in Revenue costs. The area board will need to be aware that if all applications are awarded at this meeting, it will have £13,192.08 of Capital funding and £3,981.49 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.	Mildenhall Village Hall	To install new energy-efficient boiler and heating system	£4,752.00	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. Mildenhall Village Hall management committee has decided on a programme of improvements to the hall to make it more attractive to hirers to use. This includes a new heating system that will be more efficient than the previous one, which was around 40 years old. The new system includes a new energy-efficient combi-boiler that will provide users with on-demand hot water. The new heating system will provide a warmer environment, more quickly, making the hall more pleasant to use.
- 8.1.3. This project to improve the facilities for hirers and users at the hall 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 Mildenhall Village Hall in the financial year 2013/14. That application was also part of the improvement programme, when the area board awarded funding towards new front doors. The applicant has requested 50% of the costs of this project, which is within the criteria of this scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	Avebury Parish Council	Contribution towards analyses costs of archaeological finds	£625.00	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. Summer 2015 will be the third and final year of a study into Neolithic settlements on The Avenue, Avebury. Whilst most studies look at the obvious features of standing stones, this has found evidence of how stone-age man lived in the Avebury area. The funding requested from Marlborough Area Board will fund a number of analyses of finds from the dig. These are required as part of the Scheduled Monument Consent needed to undertake the dig.
- 8.2.3. The cost of the whole summer's work is over £25,000. Avebury Parish Council has done considerable work in raising most of the £2,500 needed for the analyses through a large number of small funders. Funding from the area

board will complete the target and ensure the dig goes ahead.

- 8.2.4. There will be many opportunities for the community to benefit from the archaeology happening at The Avenue, with many residents visiting the site and some taking part in excavations themselves. There will be talks given in the village by academics leading on the dig and local school children will learn about their village's past.
- 8.2.5. This project will create lots of opportunities for all sorts of local people to take part in archaeological work and to learn about their area's history. It will also help improve tourism to the area by shedding new light on early settlements in the area and improve the understanding of the ~300,000 visitors to Avebury each year.
- 8.2.6. This application meets priorities that were raised by the JSA document and discussions from March 2014. These include "Protect, enliven and promote access to the historic landscape and natural environment beyond the World Heritage Site" and "Develop events and cultural programs to enliven the whole community".
- 8.2.7. Avebury Parish Council is already committing its own funding to this project as part of the "consortium" of funders contributing towards the project. Marlborough Area Board's contribution represents around 25% of the costs of these analyses and just 2.5% of the overall cost of the summer's dig.

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Kennet Valley Hall Appendix 2 Grant Application – Avebury Parish Council
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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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