

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Corsham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday 19 March 2015</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area board funding – community area grants</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

### **Capital:**

To ask the Corsham Area Board to consider 2 applications seeking capital funding from the 2014/15 community area grant scheme:

1. Lacock Parish Council – requesting £4,000 for a community stakeholder consultation for Lacock Sports Pavilion development.
2. Corsham Cricket Club – requesting £3,148 for sports equipment purchase.

The funding applications are available on the following link:

[http://portal.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard\\_grants/grants\\_list.php](http://portal.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard_grants/grants_list.php)

### **Revenue:**

3. The Area Board currently has a revenue balance of £351.65. It is recommended that the Area Board ring-fences this amount to enable the facilitation of 3 rural slipper exchanges and mini health fairs in Colerne, Box and Lacock, and that authority be delegated to the Community Engagement Officer in consultation with the Chairman to allocate funds accordingly in between Area Board meetings. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported at the next available Area Board meeting, and any funds remaining after the 3 events would be re-credited to the Area Board's revenue budget for 2015/16.

### **Special note:**

Area Board members are asked to note paragraph 4.2 of this report, as follows:

**Corsham Area Board has a remaining balance of £6,169.14 in its capital budget for 2014/15. Applications in this report total £7,148, and so if approved, would leave a deficit of £978.86. The Area Board could decide to reward a lesser amount to one or both of the applicants, or defer one of the applications until its next meeting on 21 May 2015.**

## 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 [http://portal.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard\\_grants/grants\\_list.php](http://portal.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard_grants/grants_list.php) 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.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<a href="#">Corsham Community Area Plan</a> <a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2014/15 as approved by delegated decision</a> 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 no further rounds of funding during 2014/15. The next round of funding will be in 2015/16 on 21 May 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. **Corsham Area Board has a remaining balance of £6,169.14 in its capital budget for 2014/15. Applications in this report total £7,148, and so if approved, would leave a deficit of £978.86. The Area Board could decide to reward a lesser amount to one or both of the applicants, or defer one of the applications until its next meeting on 21 May 2015.**

## 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	Lacock Parish Council	Community stakeholder consultation for Lacock Sports Pavilion development	<b>£4,000</b> of a total project cost of £8,000

8.1.1. Lacock Parish Council is requesting the sum of £4,000 to contribute towards a community stakeholder consultation for the proposed redevelopment of Lacock Sports Pavilion.

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. This partnership project led by Lacock Parish Council, supported by the National Trust, aims to engage the Lacock community in the design and development of a Community Sports Centre utilising a semi derelict historical building on its Recreation Ground which currently offers limited facilities and is not deemed fit for purpose.

8.1.5. Lacock Parish Council seeks to refurbish the building as a facility providing sport for all, and to achieve that aim seeks a grant of 50% of the funding needed to produce the design and business plan required to then make capital funding

applications to Sport England and Business sponsors to undertake the building works.

- 8.1.6. The outcome will be a plan for a sensitive building conversion which is financially sustainable, meets contemporary specifications in support of public health, is multi-purpose and inclusive of gender and disability.
- 8.1.7. Lacock Parish Council is committing 50% match funding of £4,000 to this element of the project. Other reserves held are committed to other local projects.
- 8.1.8. The Community Area Grants Criteria states that only one application can be made per project. Therefore, should the Area Board wish to approve this application, it might like to consider awarding the funding on the condition that no further applications for the capital element of the project can be made.
- 8.1.9. If the Area Board wishes to approve this application, it is also recommended that it does so on the condition that the funding requested be returned to the Area Board if the project does not proceed beyond the consultation/feasibility stage.
- 8.1.10. If the Area Board decides not to fund this project, it is at risk of not proceeding in the near future as alternative sources of funding have not been successfully identified.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Corsham Cricket Club	Sports equipment purchase	<b>£3,148</b> of a total project cost of £15,148

- 8.2.1. Corsham Cricket Club is requesting the sum of £3,148 towards the purchase of new sports equipment.
- 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' sections.
- 8.2.4. Corsham Cricket Club seeks to purchase major items of equipment to further the club's development and potential, including upgrading the score box, purchasing wicket covers & renewing the all-weather playing surface.
- 8.2.5. Corsham Cricket Club club is a popular, thriving and inclusive club in the centre of Corsham that operates as an open club for members and social players, adults

and children and both male and female players.

8.2.6. The balance of the project is being funded by grants from Sports England's Small Grants Scheme, and Community First. The club's own reserves are earmarked for other major capital projects within its 5 year development plan.

8.2.7. If the Area Board decides not to fund this project, the club might have to use some of its own reserves which would compromise its plans for development and growth over the next 5 years as detailed in the 5 year plan.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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