Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	15 April 2015
Subject	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To consider 9 applications for community area grant funding, totalling **£16,710**

Application (and amount requested)	
Friends of St George's School, Semington St Georges School new adventure trail path	**£4675**
Melksham CAP Bowser	**£994**
Bulkington Village Hall Floor repairs and damp proofing	**£3514**
Melksham Music Festival Electrical equipment for party in the park	**£1584**
The Learning Curve IT equipment for introductory internet courses	**£1000**
Wiltshire Mind New intercom system	**£984**
Adventure Centre Improved drainage for the Melksham Adventure Centre	**£2500**
Melksham CAP Joystick to maximise the effectiveness of Melksham's CCTV	**£960**
Melksham Senior's Forum Equipment for Older persons activities	**£500**

Total requested:	**£16,711**
Prior to consideration of these applications the Area Board's discretionary fund balance stands at:	**£56,673**
If all applications are approved as recommended the Board's balance will be:	**£39,962**

1. Background

1.1. Melksham Area Board has authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to it by the Cabinet Member for Community Services. Under the terms of the delegation Area Boards are required to follow the Community Area Grant guidance and funding criteria.

1.2. In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however, the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.

1.3. 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.

1.4. A decision was made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the applications are all available to view on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies can be made available upon request.

2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded satisfy the criteria set by the Council and are made to projects that can proceed within a year of the award being made.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. Financial provision has been made to cover this expenditure. The Melksham Area Board was allocated a discretionary capital budget for 2015/2016 of £56,673. This is the first meeting of the financial year.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

7.1. Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

8.   Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8	**Friends of St George's School, Semington**	St Georges School new adventure trail path	£4675

8.1.   To construct a path around the perimeter of the schools field to enable play and recreation in the wetter, winter months. The field is regularly used by other groups including a toddler group, messy church and the annual village fete. The path will prove useful to less able bodied and wheelchair users at such events.

8.2.   The PTA, Friends of St Georges school, are an extremely active charity, raising much needed funding for our small village school. Our fundraising usually pays towards trips, books, IT equipment and school reward scheme, such as den building and fire lighting and cook a meal outdoors on a camp fire.

8.3.   This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

8.4.   The total cost of the project is £9350 and they are seeking a grant of £4675 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	**Melksham CAP**	Bowser	£994

9.1   Melksham has been very successful since first entering the South West in Bloom competition two years ago, which has had a very beneficial effect on community spirit. However, Town and Wiltshire Council have indicated that they are at the limit of their resources when it comes to watering the thousands of flowers and hanging baskets that shops and volunteers are distributing around the town.

9.2   MCAP would like to purchase a mobile water bowser which volunteers can use to keep flowers, hanging baskets, new trees etc. watered during dry weather

9.3   This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

9.4   The total cost of the project is £994 and they are seeking a grant of £994 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	**Bulkington Village Hall**	Floor repairs and damp proofing	£3514

10.1 The flooring recently suffered from wet rot requiring approximately £3300 of repairs. The building was constructed in the 19th century has solid walls which are very damp and require specialist damp proofing at an approximate cost of £3,750 to reduce the dampness and prevent further floor and roof damage.

10.2 Bulkington Village Hall is extensively used by our community and surrounding villages. It is used as the village poling station. On Monday AM we have Ladies Exercise Classes, Tuesday AM Choir Practice (non religious), Wednesdays (bi-monthly) Parish Council meetings, Thursdays PM Omni Art Group, Fridays Omni Art Group (all Day), Saturdays West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers (all Day winter only) and Sunday evening Band Practice. We also have occasional Parish Council Planning Meetings as required. We hold private children's parties and charitable fundraising events (Help for Heroes, Macmillan Nurses etc.)in association with the Great Bulkington Railway. Intermittently the hall is used to hold wakes and occasional church events like soup lunches and Harvest Suppers

10.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

10.4 The total cost of the project is £7208 and they are seeking a grant of £3514 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	**Melksham Music Festival**	Electrical equipment for party in the park	£1584

11.1 The group wish to purchase new equipment to help improve the events resources framework. Much needed is new electrical cabling and connectors to enhance and improve the present electrical stock held. Also - two sturdy heavy duty gazebos to enhance the sound crew's mixing desk position and a 'green room' facility on site, and a tarpaulin cover to prevent leakage from the roof of the main stage.

11.2 The gazebos will be shared with Melksham Food and River Festival.

11.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

11.4 The total cost of the project is £3167 and they are seeking a grant of £1584 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	**The Learning Curve**	IT equipment for introductory internet courses	£1000

12.1   The Learning Curve have recently found that many people are more likely to want to learn to access the internet via tablets or smartphones than computers and would like to update our equipment to be able to give learners the chance to find out how to use current technology to get online.

12.2   We would also use the digital devices to set up a new IT literacy training programme following our recent pilot session with the Melksham Over 55s Forum and Selwood Housing residents – this would be targeted to 60 new learners in Melksham. We would also aim to replicate this service in other parts of Wiltshire, targeting 200 new older learners over the coming year. We are also aiming to increase our digital volunteers to provide valuable peer support and work-related experience to local people.

12.3   This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

12.4   The total cost of the project is £1000 and they are seeking a grant of £1000 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
13	**Wiltshire Mind**	New intercom system	£984

13.1   Wiltshire Mind - a local mental health charity require a Wireless Video intercom system to improve our office security. This will enable after-hours access for counseling clients and thus enable people suffering mental distress to access our counselling service outside their normal working hours.

13.2   The project helps meet local priorities, for example the project meets one of the aims of the Melksham Community Area Action Plan 2012 which is to improve Mental Health. The intercom will help protect staff who may be working in a lone capacity after hours and only clients with appointments will be able to access the premises after business hours by using the intercom system.

13.3   This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

13.4   The total cost of the project is £984 and they are seeking a grant of £984 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
14	**Adventure Centre**	Improved drainage for the Melksham Adventure Centre	£2500

14.1 The aim of the project is to upgrade and modernise the Melksham Adventure Centre building, improving the facility for all users. Over the last few years the building has been modernised internally, which has allowed us to increase its usage and its sustainability, which of course puts pressure on an ageing drainage system.

14.2 At present the drains will become blocked two to three times a year, which will limit the use of the building with fairly unpleasant consequences. Modernising the drainage system of the building will remove this problem and allow us to make further improvements to the showers and changing room facilities, again increasing the buildings appeal to the local community.

14.3 To undertake the work they believe they would need agreement from the Council and Environment Agency.

14.4 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

14.5 The total cost of the project is £5032 and they are seeking a grant of £2500 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
15	**Melksham CAP**	Joystick to maximise the effectiveness of Melksham's CCTV	£960

15.1 Addition of a joystick to the new CCTV system in Melksham to enable full use to be made of the system. Several volunteer monitors (14) have come forward following an appeal and training is commencing soon. A joystick is the recommended way to control CCTV cameras most effectively and at least two volunteers have experience of public space CCTV.

15.2 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

15.3 The total cost of the project is £960 and they are seeking a grant of £960 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
16	**Melksham Senior's Forum**	Equipment for older persons activities	£500

16.1 The group is looking to purchase equipment and health activity games for their regular activity meetings. The project is aimed at improving the quality of lives of Seniors in the

Melksham Community area. Working in partnership with Selwood Housing, Mi Homecare, Age UK, Learning Curve, Wiltshire Online, Community Transport we aim to provide monthly sessions to reduce social isolation and promote active ageing. Hopefully as a pilot project following out across other Area Boards to upport older people ageing better. We currently borrow some equipment from Age UK, however, this is becoming increasingly difficult due to their increasing demand on resource and difficulty in transporting equipment.

16.2   We can store this equipment at the Forest Community Centre for our monthly activities. The equipment will be used to enable activities such as Line Dancing, Skittles, Bowls, Ball games, Indoor Curling, Board/ table games and for sing along Karaoke.

16.3   This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

16.4   The total cost of the project is £800 and they are seeking a grant of £500 from the Board.

Background papers:	Grant Application – Friends of St George School Grant Application – Melksham CAP Grant Application – Bulkington Village Hall Grant Application – Melksham Music Festival Grant Application – The Learning Curve Grant Application – Wiltshire Mind Grant Application – Adventure Centre Grant Application – Melksham CAP Grant Application – Melksham Senior's Forum

Report Author	Abbi Gutierrez, Melksham Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718443 abbi.gutierrez@wiltshire.gov.uk