

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	19 May 2015
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to:

- 1. Aldbourne Community Heritage Group** – requested £997 towards new digital equipment to help archive and record local heritage artefacts. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
- 2. Manton in Bloom** – requested £1,000 towards new planters and plants to help improve the village and as part of the entry for South West in Bloom. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
- 3. Marlborough in Bloom** – requested £1,500 towards different types of planters throughout the town and for plants as part of a project to build community pride, volunteering and as part of the town's entry for South West in Bloom. Recommendation: Meets criteria.
- 4. Friends of Broad Hinton School** – requested £4,250 to upgrade and refresh the surface of their outdoor learning space within the village primary school. Recommendation: Defer until later meeting.

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 2015/2016 budget of **£50,563** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, 11-19 Youth funding (revenue) and area board/councillor led initiatives. This figure is higher than in the previous year.
- 1.6. This figure is made up of £43,818 of Capital funding, £1,500 of digital literacy grant funding and £5,425 of revenue funds for 11-19 youth activities. Grants awarded during 2015/16 will be allocated to one of these funding streams.
- 1.7. Marlborough Local Youth Network (LYN) has a further £17,933 of revenue funding available to distribute towards activities for 13-19 year olds. These funds are to be allocated by the LYN Management group and ratified by Marlborough Area Board, so are not under the direct control of the area board.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs, digital literacy and youth 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.
- 1.9. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2015/16 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.
- 1.10. Applications for projects costing 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.

- 1.11. 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](#).
- 1.12. 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.
- 1.13. 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.
- 1.14. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.15. 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 2015/2016 budget of **£50,563** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants, 11-19 Youth Grants and 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 2015/2016 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There will be six funding rounds during 2015/16. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications to be considered at future area board meetings are as follows:
 - **4 May 2015 for consideration on 19 May 2015**
 - **6 July 2015 for consideration on 21 July 2015**
 - **14 September 2015 for consideration on 29 September 2015**
 - **9 November 2015 for consideration on 24 November 2015**
 - **11 January 2016 for consideration on 26 January 2016**
 - **7 March 2016 for consideration on 22 March 2016**

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 **£7,747** in Capital costs. The area board will need to be aware that if all applications are awarded at this meeting, it will have £36,071 of Capital funding remaining for the rest of the financial year. The other funding streams will remain unaffected.

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.	Aldbourn Community Heritage Group	Heritage Centre Digital Infrastructure	£997.00	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. The Aldbourne Community Heritage Centre has been established only two years following interest from local residents. It has already created a small but significant collection of locally relevant artefacts. These are held both physically at the Centre or copies / images are archived electronically. Up until now all administration and archiving for the Centre has been done by volunteers using their own equipment (computers, software, digital cameras, etc).

8.1.3. The next stage of development of the Heritage Centre is to be able to purchase their own equipment so no longer having to rely on volunteers’, availability of which can come and go. This application also includes purchase of “Modes” software which is a specialist museum application that will allow Aldbourne Heritage Centre to be accredited with the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

8.1.4. This application allows Aldbourne Heritage Centre to progress from being a purely volunteer-led organisation to a fully accredited one that has the equipment it needs to carry out its role to document and preserve the local area’s heritage.

8.1.5. This project meets several of the aims set out in the Community Area Plan 2012-17 including: “encouragement and support for tourism businesses” (p. 9) and “lack of local entertainment and cultural facilities” (p. 18). The JSA 2013-2015 quotes a key issue as “The cultural venues have established a network to support the development of the sector though further work is required to make this network an efficient system for drawing investment into the area.”

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.2.	Manton in Bloom	New planters and plants	£1,000.00	Meets Criteria

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

- 8.2.2. Residents of Manton wish to take part in Marlborough’s entry to the South West in Bloom competition through the “It’s Your Neighbourhood” element which helps to showcase specific parts of a town as part of the entry. In order to make the most of this entry, Manton in Bloom wish to buy new planters to position throughout the village to fill with flowers and improve the area.
- 8.2.3. The new planters will be managed and looked after by local volunteers who will water and care for the plants daily. There are volunteer clean-up days planned that will not only make the village look better in the short term but will help to foster a greater sense of community that will last longer than just this competition.
- 8.2.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the Community Area Plan 2012-17, including “retaining the natural beauty of the community area” (p.23). The JSA 2013-2015 quotes “Culture and the arts support the wellbeing of both individuals and the whole community. Participating in cultural activities is important for both physical and mental wellbeing. Culture provides vital opportunities for communities to come together and share unique experiences that build community identity”.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.3.	Marlborough in Bloom	Different styles of planters and plants	£1,500.00	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. Marlborough in Bloom aims to foster a sense of community and increased local pride in the town. By using volunteers and donations from local businesses, the High Street and adjacent areas will be transformed with planters, hanging baskets and window boxes.
- 8.3.3. Marlborough in Bloom is making every effort to include and secure community involvement by organising regular litter-picking days, fund-raising events and using volunteers to weed and water the tubs and hanging baskets around the town. They will foster an awareness that residents should actively engage in the improvement of local heritage and green spaces in and around the town. Marlborough in Bloom also aims to help build safer environments for the enjoyment of local people and in the process gain positive effects for the local economy and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- 8.3.4. This application meets priorities that were raised by the Community Area Plan 2012-17, including “retaining the natural beauty of the community area” (p.23) and “tackling anti-social behaviour” (p.26). The JSA 2013-2015 quotes “Culture and the arts support the wellbeing of both individuals and the whole community. Participating in cultural activities is important for both physical and mental wellbeing. Culture provides vital opportunities for communities to

come together and share unique experiences that build community identity”.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested	Recommendation
8.4.	Friends of Broad Hinton School	New surfacing for the school's outdoor learning area	£4,250.00	Defer until later meeting

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

8.4.2. This application has been deferred until a later meeting so that more information about the project and the situation within the parish can be confirmed.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Aldbourne Community Heritage Group Appendix 2 Grant Application – Manton in Bloom Appendix 3 Grant Application – Marlborough in Bloom Appendix 4 Grant Application – Friends of Broad Hinton School
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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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