

<b>Report to</b>	<b>South West Wiltshire Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>3 June 2015</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

**Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to;

**Community Area Grants (all conditional on the balance of funding being in place):**

1. Fovant Village Hall Management Committee - £2,575 towards flood prevention works.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. South West Wiltshire Area Board was originally allocated a 2015/2016 budget of **£62,541** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, area board/councillor led initiatives and revenue costs.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. In support of the ongoing Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2015/16 the South West Wiltshire 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.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. There is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process can be found [here](#).
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. The decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire councillors on the area board.

- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 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.

<p><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p>	<p>South West Wiltshire Area Board Projects and Priorities 2015/16</p> <p><a href="#">Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p>
---	---

## **2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2015/2016 budget of **£62,541** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy 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.

## **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 South West Wiltshire Area Board.

## 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 Report" of the funding report.

## 8. Officer Report

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Fovant Village Hall Management Committee	Flood prevention works	£2,575

8.1.1. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.1.2. This project is to carry out flood prevention works, following flooding in December 2014 that forced the closure of the hall. Works planned include constructing a new soakaway, changing location of path and fitting new pipes/gullies.

8.1.3. Alternative sources of funding for flood prevention works are being explored at the time of writing this report. The applicant has also been asked to approach the Parish Council for a local contribution towards the project.

8.1.4. Community First's Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor has written to support this work, but has recommended that the applicant contact the Environment Agency and Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for alternative funding options before an Area Board grant is considered. The applicant has been asked to do this ahead of the Area Board meeting on 3 June 2015.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Grant application
--------------------	-------------------

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

<b>Report Author</b>	Steve Harris, Community Area Manager Tel: 01722 434211 Mobile: 07584 274055 E-mail: <a href="mailto:stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk">stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
----------------------	---