

ITEM 14

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	21 October 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report	
To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £3,889	<u><i>Recommendation</i></u>
1. Cholderton Village Hall committee – seeking £2,500 to contribute towards the cost of replacement lighting and associated works to the main hall.	<i>Approve</i>
2. Durrington Town Council – seeking £489 to contribute towards the costs of 200 bicycle locks/chains for distribution as part of a series of Bike Roadshows	<i>Approve</i>
3. Amesbury Town Council – seeking £900 to contribute towards the project costs of the Amesbury Information Shop	<i>Approve</i>

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. The Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £50,529 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget was £7,200 (including returned funds from the Stonehenge Community Area Partnership). This gave a total budget of £57,729 for the 2010/2011 budget. £7,308.08 of this was allocated in community grants at the 29th April 2010 meeting, a further £3,744.50 allocated in community grants at the 1st July meeting, and a further £1,230 allocated at the 2nd September meeting leaving a remaining total of £45,446.42.
- 1.6. A decision has been 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 application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.7. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically 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 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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Amesbury Area Board will have a remaining balance of £41,557.42.

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, town and parish councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Cholderton Village Hall Committee	To carry out replacement lighting and associated works to the main hall	£2,500

8.1.1. It is recommended that the Cholderton Village Hall Committee is awarded a grant of £2,500 to assist with the cost of replacement lighting for the main hall and associated works of cleaning/repainting, once the lights to the ceiling and walls have been fitted.

8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.1.3. Cholderton Village Hall was very badly damaged by recent flooding twice over and it has taken some considerable time and effort to repair and refurbish the hall to make it an attractive venue for community groups and others to use.

8.1.4. The new lighting will help to increase the hall’s appeal to a greater number of users and generally improve the overall offer and appearance of the hall.

8.1.5. The village hall committee is fortunate to have a team of reliable volunteers who have helped to repair and refurbish the hall following the floods and who are committed to continue to other smaller tasks and maintenance projects, including the cleaning and repainting that will be required following the lighting works.

8.1.6. The committee is very keen to complete all refurbishment works to the hall as soon as possible, in time for the hall’s 100th birthday in 2012.

8.1.7. The Cholderton Parish Meeting has confirmed strong support for this application.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Durrington Town Council	To purchase 200 bicycle locks/chains for distribution as part of a series of Bike Roadshows to raise awareness of cycle safety/security	£489

8.2.1 It is recommended that Durrington Town Council is awarded a grant of £489 to assist with the cost of purchasing 200 bicycle locks and chains for distribution as part of a series of Bike Roadshows in Durrington and Larkhill to raise the awareness of the need for improved cycle safety.

8.2.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.2.3 There have been a series of cycle thefts in Durrington and Larkhill recently, and in partnership with the local neighbourhood police team and the MOD police in Larkhill, the town council has arranged roadshows to take place in October and November.

8.2.4 In addition to raising awareness about cycle safety and security issues, the roadshows will provide maintenance advice and free MOTs for participants.

8.2.5 The roadshow in Larkhill will take place at the start of the Larkhill MOD sponsored cycle ride to raise funds for a Multi Use Games Area. This partnership working demonstrates commitment to the town's ongoing strong relations with the Larkhill Garrison and the objectives of military / civilian integration.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Amesbury Town Council	Amesbury Community Information Shop project costs for the next 12 months	£900

8.3.1 It is recommended that Amesbury Town Council is awarded a grant of £900 to assist with the project costs of the Amesbury Community Information Shop over the next 12 months.

8.3.2 This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11, with the exception to the rule that the scheme would not normally fund the running costs of community projects.

8.3.3 In this instance, the exception to the rule is justified on the following grounds:

(a) the Area Board agrees funding for 12 months only, and will not award funding for running costs in subsequent years

(b) if the shop ceases to operate as a Community Information Shop during the 12 month period (from the time the funding is released), remaining funds from the award should be returned to the Area Board

(c) the town council works with the Charities Information Bureau and Wiltshire Council's Central Bidding Unit to explore other funding avenues for the ongoing running and further development of the shop

(d) the Area Board recognises that the Community Information Shop is providing a unique service of community wide benefit, and therefore is of the view that this application warrants non-compliance with this particular aspect of the Community Area Grant scheme criteria.

8.3.4 The shop is currently based in the vacant premises of the former Old Forge Shop, Stonehenge Walk, Amesbury and Amesbury Town Council has the agreement of the owners to use it whilst it is being marketed. The shop currently provides a range of community and voluntary services to residents, visitors and businesses of Amesbury. It is contributing to the regeneration of the town, by occupying one of the larger redundant business premises, with the overall remit of providing wide community benefit to Amesbury and the outlying villages.

8.3.5 Over the past 12 months, the shop has evolved to include the following services and information:

- a local access point for a range of public and community services, including job advice, access to ICT, health advice, volunteer group information, a small meeting place for community groups and information on public consultations
- the sale of art and other hand crafted materials from local people
- the sale of merchandise for Help the Heroes and the Amesbury Carnival
- Stonehenge Chamber of Commerce initiatives and schemes for local businesses
- a venue for charitable events and fundraising activities
- information on the history of Amesbury
- a hub for the Amesbury Community Partnership
- information on the Amesbury Area Board

8.3.6 The shop is run as a multi-functional facility, helping to promote and build a stronger, more sustainable community. As well as improving the appearance of the empty shops, the shop will continue to be run with volunteer support from interested groups and individuals.

8.3.7 The information shop has support from a wide range of local groups and organisations, i.e. the Neighbourhood Policing Team who use it for surgeries, the Stonehenge Chamber of Trade, Army Welfare Services, Amesbury Visual Arts, Help for Heroes, the Amesbury Youth Council and many others.

8.3.8 In confirming its decision on this application, one suggestion the Area Board might like to put to the town council, is that it look to raise the profile of the shop through notices and suitable promotional material placed around the town.

Appendices – available online only	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Cholderton Village Hall Committee Appendix 2 Grant Application – Durrington Town Council Appendix 3 Grant Application – Amesbury Town Council
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