

**REPORT TO THE MALMESBURY AREA (1)
COMMITTEE**

Report No. 6

Date of Meeting	27 SEPTEMBER 2006
Title of Report	Area 1 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/2007
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working – also links to Healthy Lifestyles
Public Report	YES The decisions will have an impact on those people living and working in the Malmesbury Community Area and may contribute towards the delivery of projects identified in the community Plan for Malmesbury & Villages

Summary of Report

This report presents recommendations relating to 8 applications seeking funding from the 2006/2007 Community Area Award Scheme. It links the applications to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan where appropriate and sets out the implications of accepting these recommendations. It also requests that an application for a skateboard facility, planned for Malmesbury, be brought to the January 2007 meeting.

Officer Recommendations

To agree funding distribution of the Area 1 Community Area Awards budget, based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007:

1. **Lea & Cleverton Parish Council – Award £1,938 from the capital budget, towards the provision of additional play equipment at the Jubilee Playing Field, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
2. **Malmesbury Concert Band – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of providing window screens in the room used by the Band**
3. **Malmesbury Community Area Partnership – Award £2,875 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of the pilot Malmesbury & Villages Transport Hub, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
4. **St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council – Award £1,500 from the capital budget, towards the provision of replacement play equipment and safety surface at the Corston Children’s Play Area, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
5. **Somerford Scribes – Award £491 from the revenue budget, towards the production costs of a booklet of writing by local writers.**
6. **North Wiltshire Mediaeval Pond Society - Award £4,000 from the capital budget, towards the restoration of Alderton’s ancient fish pond, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
7. **Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground – Refuse an award of £500 from the revenue grant towards the cost of folding tables**
8. **Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground – Award £1,100 from the capital budget towards the cost of replacing flooring in the toilets and communal area of the village hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place**
9. **To request that a formal application for funding is received from the Malmesbury Skate Board Group for consideration at the January 2007 Area Committee.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report considers 8 applications for 2006/2007 Community Area Award funding; many of which relate directly to issues and priorities identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan. A request is also made to the skateboard applicant to submit a formal application to the January 2007 meeting.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

2.1 Option 1: **Lea & Cleverton Parish Council – Award £1,938 from the capital budget, towards the provision of additional play equipment at the Jubilee Playing Field, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**

- 2.1.1 The application meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and identifies specific links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, which clearly state the need to maintain and improve facilities at the Jubilee playing field.
- 2.1.2 Supporting this application will enable children aged 18 months to 6 years to gain skills and learning through play. It will provide a more inclusive play facility for children in the village, which younger children are largely excluded from.
- 2.1.3 The Parish Council has identified its willingness to contribute over 50% of the total cost of this new piece of equipment
- 2.1.4 It should be noted that during the last three years the applicant has received contributions of £500 towards a bus shelter and £500 towards signs and cricket matting.
- 2.1.5 A decision not to fund this project might deprive young children from accessing educational and fun playground equipment in a local setting. It would also be lost opportunity to support issues identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan

2.2 Option 2: **Malmesbury Concert Band – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of providing window screens in the room used by the Band**

- 2.2.1 The application largely meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and while there are no specific links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, it does address the general need of activities for young people, which are identified within the Plan.
- 2.2.2 The funding criteria enable up to 25% of the budget to be used to support schemes that fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and where a community need is identified. Such a need has been identified through a pilot scheme to encourage young players to join the Band.
- 2.2.3 Recent advice has been given to the applicant that this privacy is important to afford to young people. Support of this application will ensure young people have an opportunity to learn to play in the Band in a comfortable, encouraging and private environment.
- 2.2.4 A decision not to fund this project would deprive young people from a private and comfortable environment in which to develop their abilities and enjoyment of playing in a Band.

- 2.3 **Option 3: Malmesbury Community Area Partnership – Award £2,875 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of the pilot Malmesbury & Villages Transport Hub, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
- 2.3.1 The application meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and while there are no specific links to establishing a Transport Hub within the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, transport needs are clearly an issue in a predominately rural area.
- 2.3.2 The applicant, the Malmesbury & Village Community Area Partnership have been working with a number of local partners, including Community First and Malmesbury Town Council to establish a pilot project which will map need and advise local people about the availability of local transport.
- 2.3.3 This scheme plans to engage with the Primary Care Trust to help address some of the transport issues arising from the temporary closure of Malmesbury Community Hospital during the re-building work.
- 2.3.4 A decision not to fund this project would indicate to the applicant that members of the Area 1 Committee were unwilling to help pilot a project to map local transport services, with an expectation that this could lead to some practical gapping of provision tailor made to local need.
- 2.4 **Option 4: St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council – Award £1,500 from the capital budget, towards the provision of replacement play equipment and safety surface at the Corston Children’s Play Area, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
- 2.4.1 The application meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and identifies specific links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, which clearly state the need to maintain and improve recreation facilities provided and maintained by the parish council.
- 2.4.2 Supporting this application will enable younger children to have a safe range of playground equipment plus the necessary safety surface. It will also contribute towards the provision of replacement seats and swings for use by older children.
- 2.4.3 The Parish Council has identified its willingness to match the contribution requested from the Committee with additional funding coming from elsewhere.
- 2.4.4 It should be noted that this Committee last supported the applicant in 2005, when £500 was awarded towards the cost of a Nature Reserve Notice Board.
- 2.4.5 It is questionable as to whether Members should contribute towards the costs of the replacement of the seats and the chains for the older children’s area since this could be considered as a maintenance (revenue) cost for which the applicant should be responsible.
- 2.4.6 A decision not to fund this project might deprive young children from accessing educational and fun playground equipment in a local setting. It would also be lost opportunity to support issues identified in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan

- 2.5 **Option 5: Somerford Scribes – Award £491 from the revenue budget, towards the production costs of a booklet of writing by local writers.**
- 2.5.1 This application largely meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and while there are no specific links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan, it does refer to a need to increase the number, frequency and variety of events relating to rural arts.
- 2.5.2 Funding criteria enable up to 25% of the budget to be used to support schemes that fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and where a community need is identified. There is evidence that this group is going from strength to strength, following its establishment just over a year ago.
- 2.5.3 Funding this initiative will enable local people of all ages to engage in an instructive and creative hobby, which will also include the opportunity to work together with a local art group, with a view to some collaborative working, thus developing further community cohesion.
- 2.5.4 Financial contributions will be invited for the first time for this collection of writing. By supporting this application Members will enable the group to use this funding to help fund a poetry event to be held in Great Somerford and to support other local projects.
- 2.5.5 A decision not to fund this application is likely to delay or stop the publication of any work this writing group, produce.
- 2.6 **Option 6: North Wiltshire Mediaeval Pond Society - Award £4,000 from the capital budget, towards the restoration of Alderton's ancient fish pond, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place**
- 2.6.1 This application largely meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria, however there are no links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan. The criteria enable up to 25% of the budget to be used to support schemes that fall outside the Community Plan, but remain important for local people and, or where a community need is identified.
- 2.6.2 Funding this project will support the aspirations of a local group of enthusiasts to conserve a local historical feature and enhancing the area will bring enjoyment and interest to a much wider group of people, both locally and from further a field.
- 2.6.3 The applicant is seeking funding from a number of sources to make up 50% of the funding for this project and is obtaining considerable voluntary help to undertake and thereafter maintain these local improvements.
- 2.6.4 Failure to support this project or to reduce the level of funding would be likely to lead to a delay in this conservation work be undertaken.
- 2.7 **Option 7: Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground – Refuse an award of £500 from the revenue grant towards the cost of folding tables**
- 2.7.1 The application to some degree meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan does refer to the fact that the Crudwell community values its village hall.
- 2.7.2 The funding criteria states however that applicants can only make one application per project. Since the applicant received funding for new tables in January 2006, albeit from the 2005/2006 budget, it should be noted that second awards to the same project are against the award criteria

- 2.7.3 Approving this award would contravene the funding criteria and a decision to do so should be referred to the Executive.
- 2.8 **Option 8: Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground – Award £1,100 from the capital budget towards the cost of replacing flooring in the toilets and communal area of the village hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place**
- 2.8.1 The application meets the 2006/2007 funding criteria and the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan does refer to the fact that the Crudwell community values its village hall.
- 2.8.2 The applicant is willing to contribute 50% of the project costs, while undertaking this work will enhance the appearance of the hall for all users; additional reasons why this scheme should be funded
- 2.8.3 A decision not to fund this scheme would possibly result in delayed upgrading of the hall or diversion of other funds. It could also result in less usage by individuals and organisations outside the village, which might reduce revenue streams
- 2.8.4 Members may however wish to emphasise to the applicant that a more strategic approach to upgrading the village hall needs to be adopted. This might include the setting of higher rental charges to enable on-going maintenance and upgrading of this valued facility to be realised.
- 2.8.5 The applicant needs to be encouraged to seek support from funding bodies other than the District Council and local sources, to ensure that it can meet future aspirations for updating the hall
- 2.9 **Option 9: To request that a formal application for funding is received from the Malmesbury Skate Board Group for consideration at the January 2007 Area Committee.**
- 2.9.1 To date a funding application has still not been received from the Malmesbury Skater and Riders Action Group. Without a formal application, containing noise survey reports and planning consent, this Committee is not in a position to make a funding award.
- 2.9.2 Members have made an 'in principle' award totalling of £16,191 towards this scheme (from their capital budget) subject to the consideration of a full application being received. Part of this award was made as early as January 2005. If the applicant is not ready or able to proceed with the project, Members of this Committee may wish to consider whether it might be better to reallocate this funding to other projects.
- 2.9.3 Provision of a skateboard facility has been a long held aspiration held by young people in Malmesbury and was identified as a continuing priority in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan by people aged between 14 and 18 years of age.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Funding criteria for 2006/07 were reviewed by a Working Party, which included representatives of all five Area Committees. The Executive Committee subsequently approved the revised policy and procedures, on 2 February 2006. Should Members wish to act in contravention of this policy, the matter will need to be referred to the Executive.

- 3.2 The funding criteria require that at least 75% of the Community Area Award budget would be allocated to applications that demonstrate explicit links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Plan. The remaining 25% would be available for those schemes that fell outside the Community Plan, but remained important for local people and were able to demonstrate that they meet a community-identified need.
- 3.3 In 2006/07 all funding applications will be considered under the same Community Area Award criteria. Those schemes requesting £500 or less will not require any matched funding, while those requesting more than £500 will not be awarded more than 50% of the total cost of their project.
- 3.4 The virement of £1,000 from the Area 1 Committee Community Area Award revenue budget to the District-wide Scheme (approved on 24 May 2006), has been returned as a result of all Area Committees being unable to agree to this request.
- 3.5 Following the funding recommendations made on the 24th May 2006 and the return of the virement, Area 1 Committee has a community capital balance of £23,621 and a revenue balance of £6,017 available for distribution for the remainder of the year.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 provides details of the 2005/06 geographical distribution of awards to across Area 1, while Appendix 2 illustrates 2006/2007 geographical distribution of awards to date. It is hoped that these will assist Members when making their decisions.
- 3.7 Member's attention is drawn to the fact that there are three funding rounds during 2006/07. The second is contained in this report, and the last remaining one will take place on 24th January 2007. The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered for the January Committee meeting is 8th December 2007.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Distribution of awards must fall within the Community Awards budget allocated to Area 1 Committee as outlined in section 3 of this report
- 4.2 If Members make awards in line with officer recommendations, members will have a capital balance of £15,083 and a revenue balance of £2,151.

5. Community and Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The majority of the awards can be directly linked to priority themes and aspirations laid out in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Plan. Where this is not the case the applicant can provide evidence that either local consultation or pilot projects to identify a community need have been undertaken.
- 5.2 Awards made by Area Committee to successful applicants will contribute to the continuance and /or the improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being in the Community Area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent on the individual project.

6. Equality & Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Community Area Awards give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Area Awards has been undertaken and copies may be made available on request.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 Failure to make awards would have a moderate impact on applicants and their associated community projects. Since this is considered to be unlikely, the overall risk is considered low.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 Area 1 2005/2006 geographical distribution of Community Area Awards • Appendix 2 Area 1 2006/2007 geographical distribution of Community Area Awards • Appendix 3 Application - Lea & Cleverton Parish Council • Appendix 4 Application – Malmesbury Concert Band • Appendix 5 Application – Malmesbury Community Area Partnership • Appendix 6 Application –St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council • Appendix 7 Application – Somerford Scribes • Appendix 8 Application – North Wiltshire Mediaeval Pond Society • Appendix 9 Application – Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground • Appendix 10 Application - Crudwell Village Hall & Recreational Ground
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Award Funding Criteria

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
None		