

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM NO. 13(a)

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	8th December 2009
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £18,073

Recommendation

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| 1. Orcheston Parish Council – seeking £2,128 to contribute towards the costs of upgrading the existing play area in Orcheston. | <i>Approve</i> |
| 2. Durrington Town Council – seeking £4,995 to contribute towards the cost of providing a Multi Use Games Area in Larkhill. | <i>Approve</i> |
| 3. 2 nd Bulford St Leonard's Scout Group – seeking £5,000 to contribute to the costs of demolishing the existing scout hut and replacing it with a new building suitable for the scouts and other community groups. | <i>Defer</i> |
| 4. Amesbury Town Council – seeking £5,000 to contribute to the costs of providing teenage play equipment at Harvard Park. | <i>Approve</i> |
| 5. Home-Start South Wiltshire – seeking £950 to contribute to the costs of purchasing new office equipment to support an expansion to Home-Start's service in the Amesbury Area. | <i>Approve</i> |

1. Background

- 1.1. A single and simple application process was accepted by the Implementation Executive on 13 May 2009 for use during 2009/10. [Appendix 1](#) contains the Community Area Grants Pack, which has been developed and includes details of the grants process and criteria.
- 1.2. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to the Area Boards by the Leader of the Council (13 May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation Area Boards must operate within the policies set by the Leader and /or the Council. The Council has adopted an Area Grants policy, with funding criteria, to which the Area Boards must adhere.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that was contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 1.4. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting until 31 March 2010.
- 1.5. Amesbury Area Board was allocated for 2009/10 a budget of £37,897. After the deduction of 20% of this budget to core fund the Community Area Partnership, a total of £27,791 remains to distribute through the Community Area Grants Scheme.

Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10 • The Scout Association – Constitution • Home-Start South Wiltshire Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09 and Memorandum of Association
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2009/10 year are made to applicants where projects can realistically proceed before 31 March 2010.
- 2.2. There will be 3 rounds of funding during 2009/10. The first was contained in a report to the 13th October board meeting. The second is detailed in this report to the 8th December board meeting. The third and final round will be considered at the 11th February 2010 meeting.
- 2.3. Community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils are encouraged to submit funding applications to the 11 February 2010 meeting (closing date for receipt of applications is the 30 Dec 2009).

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1. There are no specific or direct environmental implications arising from this report.

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 this report's recommendations, Amesbury Area Board will have a remaining balance of £5,660.

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. Wiltshire Council is committed to equality and inclusion. 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. Consideration has been given to each application and implications are outlined within section 8 of this report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Orcheston Parish Council	To upgrade the existing play area in Orcheston.	£ 2,128

8.1.1. It is recommended that Orcheston Parish Council is awarded a grant of £2,128 as a contribution towards the cost of upgrading the existing play area in Orcheston.

8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.

8.1.3. This application relates to a number of the council's priorities, including:

- (a) Encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their families
- (b) Improve adult participation in sport
- (c) Improve young people's participation in positive activities

8.1.4. Orcheston Parish Council would like to replace the swings in the play area, which currently do not meet health and safety standards, as specified in a recent ROSPA inspection. Additionally, the parish council would like to provide a basketball goal to provide a facility for teenagers and adults, thus increasing the number of people within the village who have access to recreation facilities.

8.1.5. Play Areas are a priority in the current Community Plan.

8.1.6 This is a one-off grant request, as ongoing maintenance of the play area is met from the parish precept.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Durrington Town Council	To provide a Multi Use Games Area in Larkhill.	£4,995

8.2.1. It is recommended that Durrington Town Council is awarded a grant of £4,995 as a contribution towards the costs associated with providing a Multi Use Games Area in Larkhill.

8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2009/10 grant criteria and that such schemes should be encouraged, particularly as this will be carried out in partnership with the Larkhill Community Partnership and Larkhill Garrison, and therefore will facilitate military and civilian integration, especially amongst young people and their families.

8.2.3. This application relates to a number of the council's priorities, including:

- (a) Engage with local people to find out their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions
- (b) Encourage people to make healthy lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family
- (c) Improve adult participation in sport
- (d) Improve young people's participation in positive activities
- (e) Reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour

- 8.2.4. This is a joint project, involving the Larkhill Community Partnership, Durrington Town Council and HQ Larkhill Garrison. The MUGA will be located near to the New Community Centre. The planning of this sports and recreational project started in 2005 and was originally planned on a much larger scale but funding became a stumbling block. The overall project has been scaled down so that it can be implemented in bite size chunks and this is the first stage. The MUGA will be the catalyst for a series of other recreational facilities such as youth shelters, outdoor crèche facility and an I-Play system. This project is actively seeking to promote wellbeing and fitness amongst young people and adults. The aim is to increase the quantity and quality of physical facilities available and to improve the after school activities provisions within Larkhill. Young people from surrounding towns and villages will be invited to use the MUGA, and the hope is that this new facility will help towards integrating military families with civilian families. The success of this project will be measured by the increased sense of wellbeing, the reduction of antisocial behaviour, and positive comments to surveys conducted by the Community Partnership.
- 8.2.5 This is a one-off grant request for £4,995, ongoing costs will be met by HQ Larkhill Garrison, Project Allenby Connaught.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	2 nd Bulford St Leonard's Scout Group	To demolish the existing scout hut and replace it with a new building suitable for the scouts and other community groups.	£5,000

- 8.3.1. It is recommended that the Amesbury Area Board defer its decision on this grant application until the details of the lease have been confirmed in writing, and written confirmation of three pre-conditions attached to the planning permission requiring action prior to the development commencing, has been received by the planning authority.
- 8.3.2. Officers are of the opinion that whilst this application meets most of the 2009/10 grant criteria, regrettably it has yet to satisfy point number 15 – “If your project requires planning permission, building regulations or any other form of licence or approval, this must be obtained before submitting your application (funding will be conditional on approvals being received)”.
- 8.3.3. This application relates to a number of the council's priorities, including:
- (a) Increase number of local people involved in regular volunteering
 - (b) Improve young people's participation in positive activities
 - (c) Improve local area through intergenerational activities such as street clean ups and community events
 - (d) Reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour
- 8.3.4. The project is intended to provide new premises for the scout group to meet, but also to benefit the wider community. The scout group gives the children of the local area a safe environment within which to socialise and learn new life skills. This is intended to benefit the wider community by keeping children off the streets and to teach them the importance of community. The new scout hut would also allow the group to set up a new explorer scout unit which will cater for children who are too old to be members of scouts, but too young to become leaders. The new scout hut, when not needed for scouting, will be made available for community use. Currently, having vacated the current scout hut because of health and safety grounds, the scout unit is

based at Brigmerston. However, this temporary accommodation, especially the outside space, is not big enough for the scout group's activities, and this has led to a reduction in scout membership.

- 8.3.5 A number of concerns regarding this application have been raised by Bulford Parish Council particularly relating to the intention to extend the use of the scout hut for community use, but also in relation to scouting activities which have on occasion caused disturbance to nearby residents. Despite these concerns, the Parish Council has confirmed its continuing support for scouting and the Scout Association's aims and objectives.
- 8.3.6 This is a one-off grant request for £5,000 to contribute towards total project costs of £57,500. Whilst planning permission has been granted for the works proposed, written confirmation from the applicant has not been received by the Planning Office that three pre-conditions attached to the permission (requiring action prior to the development commencing) will be complied with. Additionally, as a lease on which the new scout hut is to be built is a 'form of licence or approval' as in point 15 of the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria (see paragraph 8.3.2 above), the recommendation is to defer this grant request until the details of the lease have been confirmed in writing, and written confirmation of the three pre-conditions attached to the planning permission has been received by the planning authority.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Amesbury Town Council	To provide teenage play equipment at Harvard Park, Amesbury.	£5,000

- 8.4.1. It is recommended that Amesbury Town Council is awarded a grant of £5,000 as a contribution towards the costs associated with providing teenage play equipment at Harvard Park, Amesbury.
- 8.4.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2009/10 grant criteria and that such projects should be encouraged.
- 8.4.3. This application relates to a number of the council's priorities, including:
- (a) Encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family
 - (b) Improve adult participation in sport
 - (c) Improve young people's participation in positive activities
 - (d) Increase the number of people who feel safe in their community
 - (e) Improve the local area through intergenerational activities such as street clean ups and community events
 - (f) Reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour
- 8.4.4. The play facility at Harvard Park will be used by a wide range of children, young people and carers. The area is very open and easily accessed, and although the equipment for which funds are requested in this application will be primarily for teenagers, the intention is to create a pleasant and inviting space for all ages. Young people using the park will be from the surrounding housing developments and do not have easy access to the existing play area at the western end of the town, which is over a mile and half away. On completion of the scheme, the town council will encourage local schools and youth groups to use the park to help enhance and diversify their learning opportunities.

- 8.4.5 Plans for the play area have been shared with a number of groups, including a local school, youth groups, community groups and councillors. Consultation on the play area plans will also be carried out with the relevant Housing Association and community support groups. A steering group for the scheme and following its completion will be established, involving representatives from appropriate partners and interested parties. This steering group will continue to ensure that the play area is meeting expectations and that any issues or concerns are addressed.
- 8.4.6 This is a one-off grant request for £5,000 to contribute towards the costs of teenage play equipment at Harvard Park, Amesbury. Amesbury Town Council is responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs and upkeep associated with the play area.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Home-Start South West	To purchase new office equipment to support an expansion to Home-Start's service in the Amesbury Area.	£950

- 8.5.1. It is recommended that Home-Start South West is awarded a grant of £950 as a contribution towards the costs of purchasing new office equipment to support an expansion to its service in the Amesbury Area.
- 8.5.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2009/10 grant criteria and that such projects should be encouraged, particularly bearing in mind the benefits this provides to many families in the community area.
- 8.5.3. This application relates to a number of the council's priorities, including:
- (a) Engage with local people to find out their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions
 - (b) Increase number of local people involved in regular volunteering
 - (c) Encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family
 - (d) Improve young people's participation in positive activities
 - (e) Improve the local area through intergenerational activities such as street clean ups and community events
- 8.5.4. Home-Start recruits and trains volunteers to work with families with children under the age of 5 years. It supports families during difficult times with the aim of preventing family breakdown, reducing family isolation, increasing social support networks and strengthening parent-child relationships. Home-Start South West has received 28 referrals and supported 11 families in the Amesbury Area so far this financial year. Home-Start South West maintains a shop front in Salisbury Street in Amesbury ensuring the service's accessibility to the local community, and received referrals from the Children's Centre in Amesbury and other local referrers.
- 8.5.5 Home-Start South Wiltshire currently receives funding from Wiltshire Council specifically to support 23 families in South Wiltshire. During this financial year, Home-Start South Wiltshire (as at the end of October 2009) has supported 34 families – 11 of which are from the Amesbury Area. This grant request is to support an expansion to the service in the Amesbury Area by providing funding to purchase office equipment. Plain Action has been asked to provide funding to support the expansion of the service by a further 6-8 volunteers.
- 8.5.6 This is a one-off grant request for £950 to contribute towards the costs of purchasing new office equipment to support an expansion to its service in the Amesbury Area.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Community Area Grant Pack Appendix 2 Grant applications – Orcheston Parish Council, Durrington Town Council, 2nd Bulford St Leonard's Scout Group, Amesbury Town Council and Home-Start South West
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