

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of Meeting	5th October 2009
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Arts Together - Phoenix Marlborough – seeking £930 towards the cost of recruiting and training volunteers to support an arts project for older people.
2. We Love Marlborough – seeking £4,904 towards the cost of providing a Christmas community event in the town.

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. Marlborough Area Board was allocated for 2009/10 a budget of £34,121. After the deduction of 20% of this budget to core fund the Community Area Partnership, a total of £25,022 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• 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan
--	--

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 is contained in this report; the remaining rounds will take place on:
 - 7 December 2009
 - 8 February 2010
- 2.3. Community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils are encouraged to submit funding applications to the 7 December Area Board. Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 October 2009.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1. There are no specific environmental implications related to this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Marlborough Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Marlborough Area Board will have a balance of £21,592.

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 and 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.	Arts Together - Phoenix Marlborough	Recruitment and training of volunteers to support an Arts Together project for older people.	£ 930

- 8.1.1. It is recommended that Arts Together – Phoenix Marlborough is awarded a grant of £930 to enable them to recruit and train a small group of volunteers, who will help identify older people to participate in the programme and seek funding to ensure the sustainability of the programme across the Marlborough Community Area.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that while this application does not directly provide the art activities for older people, it does meet 2009/10 grant criteria.
- 8.1.3. This application has direct and indirect links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan (pp 21) in so much that is “encourages opportunities to involve people with disabilities in cultural activities”. Likewise it helps to fill a gap where there is a lack of local facilities, especially in rural areas.
- 8.1.4. The project relates directly to Wiltshire Councils priorities to increase the number of local people involved in volunteering and helping to build resilient communities. Indirectly this project is also likely to have a positive impact on the health of people who are involved in the arts programme.

- 8.1.5. The arts programme is provided to approximately 12 older people from the Marlborough community, on a weekly basis enabling physically and socially isolated older people to come together and work with professional artists on a range of projects. The future provision of this programme is dependent upon raising the profile of the project within the community and fundraising, which is at the centre of this application.
- 8.1.6. A decision not to fund this application will result in a delay in setting up the volunteer programme until funds are sought elsewhere.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	We Love Marlborough	We Love Christmas – community event in Marlborough town centre.	£ 4,904

- 8.2.1. It is recommended that We Love Marlborough is awarded a grant of £2,500 towards the We Love Christmas community event, conditional that it is used to fund the concert and street performers.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria.
- 8.2.3. This application has specific links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan, primarily linked to Culture, but also to Economy. The event will seek to help to raise the profile of artists and makers and will use culture and leisure activities to engage young people who may not have a sense of belonging or pride of place. It also links to the need to encourage events that create a sense of pride and well-being.
- 8.2.4. The application links to the Council priorities of engaging the community in local activities, including through volunteering, supporting local businesses and involving young people in positive activities.
- 8.2.5. This community event is linked to the switch on of the Christmas lights in the town and key purpose being to support the local businesses in the town at the beginning of the Christmas period, while providing a range of entertainments, the majority of which will be confined to the evening and which will include a disco for young people and Christmas concert.
- 8.2.6. It is understood that this is a pump-priming project in the hope that in future years it will become self funded. It is disappointing to note, however, that the Town Council has not felt able to contribute funding to this event and without such support officers question whether such an event could become sustainable.
- 8.2.7. Officers note that a significant proportion of project costs are related to management fees. In view of the fact that Community Area Grant funding criteria state they will not support running costs, any award must allocated towards the costs of activities.

8.2.8. A decision not to fully fund this application is unlikely to stop the event from fulfilling its aims, but will probably result in the applicant underwriting any losses.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Community Area Grant Pack Appendix 2 Grant application – Phoenix Marlborough Appendix 2 Grant application – We Love Christmas
--------------------	---

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Miranda Gilmour, Community Area Manager Tel: 01672 515742 Mobile: 07990 505882 E-mail: miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	--