

Report to	Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting	16th December 2009
Title of Report	Community Area Grants
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To ask Councillors to consider 10 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Melksham and District French Twinning Association have applied for a grant of £970 towards the cost of promotional material to advertise events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning of the association. The recommendation is for the councillors to consider this application. Seend Parish Council have applied for a grant of £1250 towards the cost of a speed indication device (SID) to reduce speeding through their village. The recommendation is to postpone the decision until the parish council can ensure the board that all options have been considered, and that a permanent VAS would offer the best solution. Melksham Trust have applied for a grant of £1000 to plant 9 large specimen trees in town centre sites. The recommendation is to award the funding. Melksham Forrest Activity Centre Group have applied for a grant of £5000 for the widening of a road leading to a new community building in Melksham Forrest. The recommendation is to award the funding. Wiltshire School of Gymnastics have applied for a grant of £4800 for the training and qualification of gymnastics staff as coaches and judges. The recommendation is to award the funding. Seend Trust and Community Centre have applied for a grant of £1,200 for the refurbishment of the stage area and replacement of fire escape doors. The recommendation is to award the funding. Semington Parish Council have applied for a grant of £249 for the purchase and installation of a litter bin in Littlemarsh. The recommendation is for the councillors to consider this application. Atworth Village Hall and Recreation Ground have applied for a grant of £928.22 for the purchase and installation of 2 junior and 2 senior football goals. The recommendation is to award the funding. Keevil Parish Council have applied for a grant of £1,369 for the purchase and installation of a baby swing on the Banfield Recreation Ground. The recommendation is to award the funding. Melksham Area Community Safety Group have applied for a grant of £500 for raffle prizes and refreshments for Bluz n Zuz, a social event for 12 to 16 year olds organised by Melksham Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team. The recommendation is to award the funding. 	

1. **Background**

- 1.1 A single and simple application process was accepted by the Implementation Executive on 13th 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 (13th 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10• Melksham Area Community Strategy (2004-2012)
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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 projects that can realistically proceed before 31st March 2010.
- 2.2. There will be 3 further rounds of funding during 2009/10. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on
 - 3rd February 2010
 - 31st March 2010

3. **Environmental & Community Implications**

Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and well-being 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 Melksham Area Board.
- 4.2. If all grants are awarded the Melksham Area Board will have a balance of £9836.
- 4.3. If all grants are awarded except Seend Parish Council the Melksham Area Board

will have a balance of £11,086

- 4.4. If all grants are awarded except Melksham and District French Twinning Association, Seend Parish Council and Semington Parish Council the Melksham Area Board will have a balance of £12,305.

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 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 recommendation”.

8. **Officer recommendations**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Melksham and District French Twinning Association	Towards the cost of promotional material to advertise the events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning of the association.	£970

- 8.1.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. As this application does not demonstrate a link to either the community plan or Wiltshire Council priorities the recommendation is that this should not be a priority for community area grant funding.

- 8.1.2 Application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

- 8.1.3 Application does not demonstrate a link to Wiltshire Council priorities.

- 8.1.4 The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.

8.1.5 The overall project is using the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between Melksham and Avon (France) as an opportunity for the Twinning Association and Melksham Town Council to raise the profile of the town. In doing so, we hope that it will bring together people from different cultural backgrounds to exchange experiences, opinions and values. The group will be working with all the schools within the Area Board's boundary to develop publicity material that will encourage businesses, local statutory and voluntary organisations and civic society in general to promote and foster friendship between the two towns.

8.1.6 No equality and inclusion issues will be addressed by the project.

8.1.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be significantly smaller and affect fewer residents.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Seend Parish Council	Provision of a Speed Indication Devices	£1,125

8.2.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The Council is in the process of applying for funding to set up a scheme to provide SIDs for use on sites within parishes where excessive speed has been identified. The number of signs to be purchased is proportionate to the resources available to service the equipment. It must also be noted that SIDs are most effective when used on a temporary basis. The parish council may like to consider a request to the Council to investigate alternative permanent options to reduce the risk of collisions such as a permanent Vehicle Activated Sign 'oncoming vehicles in middle of road'. The recommendation is to postpone the decision until the parish council can ensure the board that all options have been considered, and that a permanent SID would offer the best solution.

8.2.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) in working towards improved road safety.

8.2.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of increasing the number of local people who feel safe in their community and reducing deaths through accidents.

8.2.4 The applicant is a parish council.

8.2.5 A reduction in traffic speed in locations around Seend, Seend Cleeve and Sells Green will benefit a significant proportion of the parishioners of the village.

8.2.6 No Equality and Inclusion issues will be addressed by the project

8.2.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project the parish council can have shared access to SIDs via the Wiltshire-wide Community Speed Watch scheme.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Melksham Trust	Planting of large specimen trees in King St and Union St car parks.	£1000

8.3.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is that the board award funding of £1000.

8.3.2 There is no direct link the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.3.3 There are some possible links to Wiltshire Council priorities if Melksham Trust engages residents and young people in decisions about where trees would be planted and uses local volunteers to help plant the trees. They could also use the opportunity to raise issues of climate change with residents.

8.3.4 The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.

8.3.5 This proposed tree planting continues a scheme started in 1978 of establishing large specimen trees on town centre sites. The proposal replaces trees lost over the years through town development and over mature specimens. Trees add to everyone's enjoyment of the town environment, they soften the hard built landscape, they improve air quality and store co2, they provide shade and cooling in summer, they provide habitat for bird and other wildlife. The sites chosen for the tree plantings are the car parks in King St and Union St.

8.3.6 No Equality and Inclusion issues will be addressed by the project

8.3.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Melksham Forrest Activity Centre Group	Widening of road	£5000

- 8.4.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is that the board award funding of £5000.
- 8.4.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure events and facilities for young people, in particular teenagers.
- 8.4.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of encouraging people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family, improve adult participation in sport, improve young people's participation in positive activities, reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour.
- 8.4.4 The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.
- 8.4.5 This application forms part of a large project to enhance community facilities in Melksham Forrest. By widening the access road to the football field this will allow better access and also meet the criteria of the planning permission for a community centre to be built on the site.
- 8.4.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none
- 10.4.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Wiltshire School of Gymnastics	Training and qualification of gymnastics staff (mainly teenagers) as coaches and judges	£4,800

- 8.5.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is that the board award funding of £4,800.
- 8.5.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure events and facilities for young people, in particular teenagers.
- 8.5.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of encouraging people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family, improve adult participation in sport, improve young people's participation in positive activities, reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour.

8.5.4 The applicant is a charity run non profit making organisation.

8.5.5 Funding of coach and judging courses will allow WSG the additional capability to take on additional gymnasts, who are currently unable to benefit from the facility, and who may be on our 6 month (+) waiting list. It will also offer a very worthwhile qualification and superb experience for those who become coaches (normally teenagers), allowing them to take on the responsibilities that paid employment like this brings them. In a similar vein those that become qualified Judges will have the privilege to use their decision making and analytical skills to help more competitions be run. The differences this will make will be shown in the reduction of the number of public on our waiting list, the increase in the numbers of people getting involved in sport around Wiltshire, the increase levels of activity taking place at the club, and the firmer base of qualified staff we have available to employ and train to higher levels. Hundreds of children will get the benefit from a healthy activity and many teenagers will be qualified and experience responsibility and employment.

8.5.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.5.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project less children and young people will be able to benefit from what the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics has to offer.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6	Seend Trust and Community Centre	Refurbishment of stage area and replacement of fire escape doors	£1,200

8.6.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. The recommendation is that the board award funding of £1,200.

8.6.2 Application does not demonstrate a direct link to the current Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy), although if the venue was used by young people it could be linked to providing venues for youth activities.

8.6.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of engaging local people to find out their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions and could improve young people's participation in positive activities.

8.6.4 The applicant is a community trust.

8.6.5 The overall project is to enhance the facilities of the community centre for productions by groups such as Rural Arts Wiltshire, Village Theatre Group, visiting performers, bands etc. Benefits will be felt by all attending productions and other events. Improved facilities will enhance the ability of the Trust to hire out the hall thus making the group more financially sustainable.

8.6.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.6.7 If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed until alternative funding is secured.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7	Semington Parish Council	Purchase and installation of litter bin in Littleton	£249

8.7.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. As this application does not demonstrate a link to either the community plan or Wiltshire Council priorities the recommendation is that this should not be a priority for community area grant funding.

8.7.2 Application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy).

8.7.3 Application does not meet Wiltshire Council priorities.

8.7.4 The applicant is a parish council.

8.7.5 Residents of Littleton have requested a litter bin due to create a clearer environment.

8.7.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.7.7 If the area board does not grant funding the parish council will have to seek funding from alternative sources.

8.8	Atworth Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Purchase and installation of 2 junior and 2 senior football goals	£928.22
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8.8.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. Recommendation is to award funding of £928.22.

8.8.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure events and facilities for young people, in particular teenagers

8.8.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of encouraging people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family, improve adult participation in sport, improve young people's participation in positive activities, reduce perceptions of antisocial behaviour.

8.8.4 The applicant is a community group.

8.8.5 The current goal posts are old and rusty and are used frequently by approximately 50 adults and 50 children each week.

8.8.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.8.7 If the area board does not grant funding the parish council will have to seek funding from alternative sources.

8.9	Keevil Parish Council	Purchase and installation of a baby swing on the Banfield Recreation Ground	£1,369
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8.9.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. Recommendation is to award funding of £1,369.

8.9.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure facilities for young people.

8.9.3 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of engaging with local people to find out their priorities and work with them to deliver solutions and encouraging people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family.

8.9.4 The applicant is a parish council.

8.9.5 The recreation ground has a number of items of play equipment and football pitch. The equipment is mostly for children aged 5+ and there is nothing for younger children, babies or toddlers. Keevil has a number of young families as well as visiting grandchildren of older residents.

8.9.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none

8.9.7 If the area board does not grant funding the parish council will have to seek funding from alternative sources.

8.9	Melksham Area Community Safety Group	Raffle prizes and refreshments for Bluz n Zuz.	£500
<p>8.9.1 Application meets grant criteria 2009/10. Recommendation is to award funding of £500.</p> <p>8.9.2 Application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan (Melksham Area Community Strategy) which states it aims to provide more social and leisure activities for young people and improve community safety.</p> <p>8.9.4 Application meets Wiltshire Council priorities in terms of improving young people’s participation in positive activities, increasing the number of people who feel safe in their community, and reducing the perceptions of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>8.9.4 The applicant is a community group.</p> <p>8.9.5 Bluz n Zuz is a social event for 12 to 16 year olds organised by Melksham Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team. This event will help to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour in the town by providing something for young people to do in a safe environment where they can enjoy themselves. It will also help build relationships between young people and PCSOs. The raffle prizes and refreshments will help attract more young people to the event.</p> <p>8.9.6 Equality and Inclusion that will be addressed by the project: none</p> <p>8.9.7 If the area board does not grant funding the group will have to seek funding from alternative sources.</p>			
Appendices:		Appendix 1 Grant application – Melksham & District French Twinning Association Appendix 2 Grant application - Seend parish council Appendix 3: Grant application - Melksham Trust Appendix 4: Grant application – Melksham Forest activity centre group Appendix 5: Grant application – Wiltshire School of Gymnastics Appendix 6: Grant application – Seend Trust and Community Centre Appendix 7: : Grant application – Semington Parish Council Appendix 8 Grant application – Atworth Village Hall and Recreation Ground Appendix 9: Grant application – Keevil Parish Council Appendix 10: Grant application – Melksham Area Community Safety Group	
Report Author		Abbi Gutierrez, Melksham Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 718443, E-mail abbi.gutierrez@gmail.com	





