



Western Area Committee

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REPORT

SOUTH WILTSHIRE AREA GRANTS SCHEME

Recommendations of the Western Area SWAG Review Panel – First Tranche Grant Applications 2004- 05

In the first tranche for grant applications under the South Wiltshire Area Grants Scheme (SWAG), five applications were received. A summary of these applications, detailing projects for which funds were requested, together with the recommendations of the SWAG Review Panel are set out below.

Please note, if any member would like to see applications in full with supporting papers, these will be available on request from the Area Co-ordinator either before or at the meeting.

1.0 Funds available for distribution in the financial year 2004-2005

The total SWAG Budget for the Western Area Committee in 2004-05 is £24,350.

The Western Area Discretionary Budget for 2004-05 is £7,500. £3,000 of this has been allocated in favour of the Broad Chalke Village Hall Appeal.

If Members are minded to approve the Panel's recommendations, these total £8,070 and would leave a balance of £16,280 for distribution in tranches 2 and 3.

2.0 Summary of Grant Applications received:-

Application No: W001 – 1st Mere Rainbow Guides

Sum Requested:	£500 to purchase craft books and equipment, adult and rainbow uniforms, unit books, e.g. accounts, register, records etc, and activity equipment, e.g. skipping ropes
Technical Officer:	Amber Skyring
Officer Priority Rating	Medium
Parish Council Comments:	Mere Parish Council fully supports the application.

The aims and objectives of the group are to provide a Rainbow Guide Unit in Mere for girls aged 5-7 years from Mere and surrounding areas. It will introduce girls to Guiding UK – of which they will be a part. The Group will meet weekly and do crafts, games, cooking, singing and personal development. It will build self-esteem and self-confidence.

The group has provided a detailed list of quotations for the equipment needed, totaling £500 and in each case, they have opted for the cheapest item.

The Principal Community Development Officer has advised that the only thing that should not be funded by SWAG are the uniforms for individual guide leaders since these are personal items. These items total £130. The Technical Officer has also advised that the Group should work towards developing its own Child Protection Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation: -

- (1) That a grant of £370 be made in favour of the 1st Mere Rainbow Guides.
- (2) That the Group be advised that it should work towards the development of a Child Protection Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. The Community Initiatives Unit can provide advice and templates in relation to these.

Application No: W002 – Chalke Valley Skate Park Committee

Sum Requested:	£5,000 to purchase skate park equipment.
Technical Officer:	Reg Williams
Officer Priority Rating	Medium - High
Parish Council Comments:	Broadchalke Parish Council – no comment received.

Dr Herbert, Chairman of the Chalke Valley Skate Park Committee was in attendance to speak in support of this application.

He informed the Panel that the youths of Broadchalke have made representations to Broadchalke Parish Council to provide a skate park in the Chalke Valley. The young people organised a sponsored event where they approached every house in Broadchalke and requested sponsorship money to clear the village of litter over the course of one weekend.

The response was overwhelming and this event alone raised in excess of £1,000. Other village events, such as a Casino Evening and Summer Flower Show have raised further funds and the total sum of money raised towards the project now stands at £3,048.

The people of Broadchalke and particularly the Parish Council are in full support of this youth initiative and accordingly a small working group has been formed, consisting of parents and young people, to oversee the building of the skate park.

An area of land has been identified with the full permission of the landowner and the skate park will be part of the newly built sports centre.

Current estimates indicate that the project can be completed with £12,000 of funds. This includes surfacing and equipment. The Committee has approached Broadchalke Parish Council to ascertain if any R2 funds could be contributed towards this project, but these funds have already been earmarked for another project. The Committee is in the process of investigating the availability of R2 funding from Bishopstone and Ebbesbourne Wake Parish Councils.

Recommendation

That subject to the availability of R2 funds, a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded to the Chalke Valley Skate Park Project.

Application No: W003 – Semley Music Festival

Sum Requested:	£500 to help fund three events in the newly founded Festival – to cover musician’s fees, publicity for events and equipment hire.
Technical Officer:	Rachel Efemy
Officer Priority Rating	Medium
Parish Meeting Comments:	Semley Parish Council supports the application and feels that the proposed project would be of benefit to the community at large.

The request received from Semley Music Festival is for partial support towards funding of three events in the newly founded Festival – Mistura (Jazz, Samba, Salsa Band), Ensemble Bakhtar (traditional music from Afghanistan) and “Z Unleashed” (late night cabaret).

The total cost of the project is £15,595.

The Festival will take place for the first time between 5 and 8 August 2004 and it is intended that the event will run annually. The Festival is currently being registered as a charity and has been advised informally by the Charities Commission that the Festival qualifies for charity status and that registration should be complete within two months.

This Festival is a new enterprise unlike any other event of its type in the area. It does not perceive itself to be in competition with other larger festivals in the surrounding counties (e.g. Salisbury or Bath). Taking place over three days, the Festival comprises of a wide variety of events centred on the village of Semley. The Festival is international, drawing together professional music makers from around the world in programmes that reflect a diversity of musical cultures and styles. Designed to appeal to the widest possible audience, the Festival will feature music such as Jazz and Salsa from Latin America and Africa, traditional music from Afghanistan and recitals drawing inspiration from the music of Europe and Great Britain.

All age groups will be involved in the Festival, for example the children of a local primary school will produce designs for merchandise used to promote the event.

Local villagers will also be involved. A number of local farmers have agreed to support the Festival with free provision of local produce for all the catering requirements and free accommodation for the performers. A network of private homes and public accommodation will also be made available to encourage visitors to make a weekend visit.

For Members’ information the Festival website is www.semleymusicfestival.co.uk

Recommendation

That a grant of £500 be made in favour of Semley Music Festival.

Application No: W004 – Dinton Village Hall

Sum Requested:	£6,000 to provide stage lighting
Technical Officer:	Katie Griffin
Officer Priority Rating	Medium
Parish Council comments	Dinton Parish Council supports the project

Mr Glover, Vice-Chair/Secretary of Dinton Village Hall was in attendance to speak in support of the application. He explained that the local drama group has merged with Wilton Drama Group – Wilton needed a new venue and Dinton needed new members. The drama group needs suitable lighting to put on performances in the village hall and under the Health and Safety Regulations, it is not feasible to hire equipment. The lighting needs to be permanently installed.

The total cost of the proposed lighting is £6,000 towards which Dinton Drama group has raised £200.

The Principal Arts Officer advised the Panel and the applicant that funding of up to £5,000 could be sought from “Awards for All”.

Recommendation

That the applicant be advised to seek the maximum funding from “Awards for All” in the first instance (£5,000) and this sum be topped up to £6,000 from SWAG to ensure that a full lighting scheme can be installed.

(NOTE: Should the Awards for All grant fail in its entirety, the Panel has recommended that a grant of £3,700 be made from SWAG to enable a basic lighting scheme to be installed).

Application No: W005– Bishopstone Parish Council

Sum Requested:	£2,800 to provide a new bus shelter
Technical Officer:	Geoff Hobbs
Officer Priority Rating	Medium
Parish Council comments	N/A

Mrs Shepherd, Chairman of Bishopstone Parish Council was in attendance to speak in support of the application. She informed the Panel that the previous wooden bus shelter was razed to the ground by fire in October 2003 and the Parish Council now wished to replace the bus shelter. The Parish Council’s preference is to install a brick shelter in order to minimize maintenance costs and provide an attractive appearance.

The Transportation Planner has advised that the Parish Council’s ability to deliver the project depends on the ability to find a source of funding for the balance of the cost of a shelter. The total cost of the shelter is £3,500, towards which the Parish Council has £750 from the insurers of the previous bus shelter. This therefore leaves a balance of £2,750 to be found. Wiltshire County Council, through its Parish Shelter Assistance Grant Scheme can provide the Parish with 50% of the cost of purchase and installation (£1,750), which leaves a shortfall of £1,000.

Despite the Parish Council’s preference for a brick built replacement shelter, in order to receive funding through the Parish Shelter Assistance Grant, WCC would require a metal-framed glass bus shelter to be installed, since these are easier for the owning Parish to maintain and their greater transparency makes them less visible in the countryside and also less susceptible to graffiti and other forms of vandalism.

The Technical Officer has advised that if the Committee is minded to grant SWAG funds towards this project it should insist that the shelter be a metal-framed glass shelter. The Queensberry Shelters Ltd range of metal-framed glass bus shelters are considered to be good value and a number of these have already been installed successfully in locations across Wiltshire.

Recommendation

That a grant of £1,000 be made in favour of Bishopstone Parish Council to purchase a new bus shelter, provided the Parish Council opts for a bus shelter from the Queensberry range as recommended by the Technical Officer

Background Papers:

Completed South Wiltshire Area Grant Applications

Implications:

- **Financial:** As set out in report.
- **Legal:** None, other than compliance with SWAG criteria by SWAG applicants where grants have been successful.
- **Personnel:** None.
- **Community Safety:** None.
- **Council's Core Values:** Excellent Service, supporting the disadvantaged, protecting the environment.
- **Ward(s) Affected:** Wards within the Western Area of Salisbury District.
- **Consultation Undertaken:** District Councillors of the Western Area Grants Review Panel and Parish Councils.