

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 January 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 7 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding and consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Malmesbury River Valleys Trust – award £875 to purchase an exhibition banner, notice board and restore a flower meadow.
2. Peterborough Arms Cricket Club - award £525 towards the purchase of a wicket mower, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Friends of Athelstan Museum – is not awarded funding towards a community reach out programme with schools and the wider community.
4. Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club – award £1,600 towards the purchase and installation of a storage shed, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
5. Minety Lawn Tennis Club - award £1,183 towards the cost of coaching local primary aged children, conditional on the balance of funding being in place and a guarantee that the applicant and local schools work with the Sports Development Manager to ensure ongoing support and sustainability of this project.
6. Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership is awarded an ‘in principle’ sum of £1,734, towards the cost of installing aerials to improve monitoring of the CCTV cameras in Malmesbury, conditional on Malmesbury Town Council taking on full responsibility of operating CCTV in the town.
7. Charlton Recreation Centre - award £1,500 towards the purchase a replacement gang mower, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place.

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. The Community Grants Pack includes details of the grants process and criteria and may be found either on the Councils website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards or as a paper version through the report author.
- 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. Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of £22,353 to distribute through the Community Area Grants Scheme for 2009/2010. Following awards made at the November meeting the budget remaining for distribution is £7,417.
- 1.6. The demand for funding outstrips the current availability.

Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10• Malmesbury & the Villages Community Area Plan 2005-2015
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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 are 4 rounds of funding opportunities during 2009/10. The third is contained in this report the remaining will take place, assuming funds are available on:
 - 3 March 2010
- 2.3. The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 January 2010 for consideration on 3 March 2010.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1. Consideration has been given to each application and implications are outlined within section 8 of this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Malmesbury Area Board will have spent its budget for 2009/2010.

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	Malmesbury River Valleys Trust	Purchase an exhibition banner, notice board, a replacement gatepost and restore a flower meadow.	£946

- 8.1.1. It is recommended that Malmesbury River Valleys Trust is awarded a grant of £875 to purchase an exhibition banner, notice board and restore a flower meadow.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application only partially meets 2009/10 grant criteria, but does have specific links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005-2010 in respect to river maintenance. The work of the Trust also links to Council priorities in respect to increasing local people in volunteering, involving young people (through its regular summer programme), increasing biodiversity and intergenerational projects.
- 8.1.3. The application for funding applies to a number of small items to improve Conygre Mead Nature Reserve as well as promoting the work of the Trust.
- 8.1.4. The Trust wish to provide a weather proof visitors information board at their main entrance and to purchase a banner to promote the work of the Trust, to be used at their own and other community events. They also want to scrape and reseed an area of wild flower meadow.

- 8.1.5. Officers believe that the replacement of a rotted gatepost should be considered as day to day running costs for the Trust and therefore not funding by the Area Board.
- 8.1.6. Officers are advised that the healthy unrestricted reserves held by the Trust are to enable it to purchase local land should it become available.
- 8.1.7. A decision not to fund this application may result in a delay while the applicant seeks funding from elsewhere; alternatively they may opt to use their own funds.
- 8.1.8. This nature reserve is open to local people and visitors and enhances the enjoyment of the countryside.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Peterborough Arms Cricket Club	Purchase of a wicket mower	£ 525

- 8.2.1. It is recommended that the Peterborough Arms Cricket Club is awarded a grant of £525 towards the purchase of a wicket mower, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. Officers are of the opinion that the application meets 2009/10 grant criteria but there is no specific link to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005-2010. The purchase of the mower will indirectly have a positive impact on local cricket players, both young and old, thereby having a positive impact on their health, a priority of the Council. It also involves local people in volunteering in their community.
- 8.2.3. The current playing membership is 48, 20% of whom live in the parish; the remainder come from surrounding villages, including Great Somerford, Little Somerford and Brinkworth. In addition each year young people in the village are encouraged to get involved, initially for net practice and eventually as team players. The ground is also used by young people in the village on an informal basis including the club making them a pitch, providing nets and bats.
- 8.2.4. The Peterborough Arms Cricket Club provides the only opportunity to play cricket in Dauntsey and the surrounding villages.
- 8.2.5. Officers note that the cost of the mower is only just over £1,000 (the limit for un-matched funding) and the club have managed to find 50% of the total cost from a number of sources including the parish council.
- 8.2.6. The club only holds modest reserves and last year operated at a deficit. Officers suggest that the club review future funding of the club to ensure its sustainability.
- 8.2.7. A decision not to fund this application is likely to result in a delay in the project proceeding while the applicant seeks other sources of funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Friends of Athelstan Museum	Community out-reach	£ 3,500

- 8.3.1. It is recommended that Friends of Athelstan Museum is not awarded a grant towards community out-reach with schools and the wider community.
- 8.3.2. Officers are of the opinion that this does meet the 2009/10 grant criteria. The applicant is looking for a contribution of 50% towards this project.
- 8.3.3. This application has only indirect links to Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005-2010, although does link to Wiltshire Council priorities of creating resilient communities, increasing the number of people involved in volunteering and will improve young people's participation in positive activities.
- 8.3.4. The project seeks to engage some 650 people covering all age groups, including children and young adults as well as older people, including those in residential care and those unable to travel to the museum. Twenty volunteers in addition to a paid consultant will deliver the project.
- 8.3.5. The project will include a range of shared history projects linked to museum artefacts and memory boxes and will include the recording of memories in a variety of forms.
- 8.3.6. The application is ambitious and appears to be aimed at all sections of the community. The greatest single cost is a consultant, the aspiration being to train volunteers during the year and thereby making it sustainable thereafter. Wiltshire Council officers within the museum service suggest that similar types of museums within the county operate outreach services without the need of a professional leader.
- 8.3.7. The sustainability of this project appears to rely on obtaining grants and fundraising. Since the museum relies on similar grants for its core running costs, officers question whether the museum should embark on a non-core project at this time of economic instability, when raising funds to cover their core costs is likely to be challenging.
- 8.3.8. Sums amounting to £1,000 for encouraging support and miscellaneous costs seem high. This budget is apparently required to market for volunteers to undertake the project and to hold meetings in the community to get the project off the ground.
- 8.3.9. The Area Board in November 2009 offered the applicant £1,500, however the applicant indicated that a scaled down project was not possible.
- 8.3.10. A decision not to fund this application is likely to result in a delay in the project proceeding while the applicant seeks funding from other sources and/or decides to reconsider the approach.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club	Purchase and installation of a storage shed	£1,600

- 8.4.1. It is recommended Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club is awarded £1,600 towards the cost of purchasing of secure shed for the storage of football equipment, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place.
- 8.4.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. The applicant is seeking less than 50% of the costs and preparation of the site is being undertaken by volunteers.
- 8.4.3. It should be noted that it was only in 2009 that Ashton Keynes joined the Malmebsury Community Area and this application broadly links to, "Northern Community Area Our Community Plan 2005-2015" insomuch that it refers to a lack of youth facilities throughout the Northern Community Area. The project also links to a number of Council priorities such as participation in sport and improving health lifestyle of adults and young people, as well as community volunteering.
- 8.4.4. At present the club uses the club changing area to store equipment, which is proving very unsatisfactory for players and coaches, hence the need to provide a new storage facility.
- 8.4.5. The club has 102 members, including girls and boys aged 5-14 who practice on Saturdays, with support from 18 volunteers. They currently have five teams in the North Wiltshire Youth and Minor Football League and are working towards becoming an FA Chartered Standard Club. The club is also working with the local primary school to encourage more children to get involved.
- 8.4.6. The Council's Sports Development Manager is of the opinion that this rural club should be supported.
- 8.4.7. Officers are disappointed that the applicant has not approached the parish council for a contribution towards this community project, since it appears to benefit considerable numbers of local young people.
- 8.4.8. A decision not to fund this application is likely to result in a delay in the project proceeding while the applicant seeks other sources of funding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Minety Lawn Tennis Club	Towards the cost of coaching local primary aged children	£1,240

- 8.5.1. It is recommended that Minety Lawn Tennis Club is awarded a grant of £1,183 towards the cost of coaching local primary aged children, conditional on the balance of funding being in place and a guarantee that the applicant and local schools work with the Sports Development Manager to ensure ongoing support and sustainability of this project.

- 8.5.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. The applicant is contributing 50% of the cost of this project.
- 8.5.3. This application has specific links to Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005-2010, in respect to providing more sports facilities within the villages. It also links to improving young people's participation in positive activities and lifestyle changes which are likely to have a positive impact on their health.
- 8.5.4. The project to provide coaching in 4 local primary schools (Brinkworth, Minety, Oaksey and Crudwell), would start in January with the bulk of the programme delivered (using club funds) in April.
- 8.5.5. The Council's Sports Development Manger highlights the value of developing club to school links to ensure an effective pathway for young people to move from school to club in a sport that they enjoy. This approach is a high priority within sports development and is supported by the Council. The only concern relates to the sustainability (including financial) of the project and it is recommended that the Club/schools start to address this now.
- 8.5.6. A decision not to fully fund this application was made because of the lack of sufficient Area Board funds. It was made on the basis that of projects exceeding £1,000 contained in this report, the applicant had only offered 50% matched funding and held healthy reserves. The reduction in the level of funding was considered unlikely to result in a delay in the project proceeding.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership	Installation of aerials to improve monitoring of the CCTV cameras in Malmesbury	£1,734

- 8.6.1. It is recommended that Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership is awarded an 'in principle' sum of £1,734 towards the cost of installing aerials to improve monitoring of the CCTV cameras in Malmesbury, conditional on Malmesbury Town Council taking on full responsibility of operating CCTV in the town.
- 8.6.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. The applicant is requesting less than 50% of the total cost of the project.
- 8.6.3. This application has direct links to Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005-2011 and links to Wiltshire Council's priorities of creating resilient communities, increasing the number of people involved in volunteering, increasing the number of people who feel safe within their community and reducing anti-social behaviour
- 8.6.4. The project seeks to install 2 aerials on the town hall and Malmesbury police station to improve the monitoring of the town CCTV system enabling operation of the equipment to be undertaken by trained and CRB checked volunteers. This would enable the cameras to be monitored in real time which should allow for a speedier and appropriate response to any incident within the field of the CCTV equipment.
- 8.6.5. Officers of the Council and the Police are of the opinion that the CCTV system should be owned and operated by a statutory authority, namely the Town Council (who were the original purchasers of the equipment), rather than a voluntary organisation and

that the Area Board should encourage Malmesbury Town Council to take on this responsibility.

- 8.6.6. A decision not to fund this application is likely to result in a delay in the project proceeding, however should this delay result in the Town Council assuming responsibility for the CCTV system, then this would be of overall benefit to the community.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.7.	Charlton Recreation Centre	Purchase of a reconditioned gang mower	£1,500

8.7.1. It is recommended that Charlton Recreation Centre is awarded a grant of £1,500 towards the purchase a replacement gang mower to cut grass in the village playing field, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place.

8.7.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. The applicant is seeking less than 50% of the total cost of the mower.

8.7.3. This application links indirectly to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2005 - 2010 in terms of contributing to the provision of village facilities. Maintenance of the Charlton playing field ensures that a range of community events can take place throughout the year and ensures that young people and adults improve their health through sports and recreational activities, all of which link to Council priorities.

8.7.4. The new mower will replace the 40-50 year old mower which is no longer serviceable.

8.7.5. The 6.5 acre site is used to play cricket and rugby by local people and visiting clubs. It is used widely by individuals and community groups from Charlton, Hankerton and Garsdon, who share these facilities, amounting to over 1,000 people, excluding visitors who also use the enjoy use of the playing field.

8.7.6. A decision not to fund this application is likely to result in a delay in the project proceeding while the applicant seeks funding from other sources.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Malmesbury River Valleys Trust Appendix 2 Grant application – Peterborough Arms Cricket Club Appendix 3 Grant application – Friends of Athelstan Museum Appendix 4 Grant application – Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club Appendix 5 Grant application – Minety Lawn Tennis Club Appendix 6 Grant application – Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership Appendix 7 Grant application – Charlton Recreation Centre
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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